NEWS OF THE WEST.

A Small Boy, A Box of Matches and an Empty Whisky Barrel.

A TOURNAMENT OF SHOOTERS.

Boring for Water at Gila Bend, Arizona.—The Cultivation of Red Clover, Etc.

The Phoenix (Ariz.) *Gazette* is urging the establishment of a new and improved race track at that city.

A tournament of the shooters of the entire northwest is advertised to take place at Hot Springs, South Dakota, the last three days in August.

The rainy season has set in all over Arizona, and the people are getting rather in consequence. All along the line to Agua Caliente and out towards Harqua Hala engine whistles have been blowing the last few days and the grass is springing up everywhere.

Over two hundred carcasses sculps were officially examined and burned by the board of supervisors at Fresno, Cal., on Friday. There is a bounty of $5 on each scalp, but the state appropriation being exhausted many of the warrants will be sold for $1.50.

The tomato crop in the Arkansas valley is said to be looking splendidly. The tomatoes are making a rapid growth and the amount of this staple vegetable which will be put up in Rocky Ford this summer promises to more than double the output of the canning factory any previous year.

A report just issued from the Pueblo, Colo., land office shows that there are yet in Las Animas county 1,587,164 acres subject to entry. Of course a considerable portion of this is of no particular use aside from grazing purposes, yet there are many good claims awaiting homesteaders.

Ranchmen in the Big Horn Basin, remarks the Cheyenne (Wyo.) *Leader*, state that several distinct earthquake shocks were felt in the session a few days ago. Glass in the windows was broken and other slight damage done. The shocks were accompanied by low rumbling sounds.

Jupiter Pluvius is puzzling New Mexicans by his distribution of watery favors. Southwestern New Mexico is badly in need of rain while southeastern New Mexico, where Lake City can be mentioned as a resort and Roswell as twenty-one flowing wells, has been drenched for a week.—*Prospector.*

The Rocky Mountain Coal and Iron company, says the Evanston (Wyo.) *News-Register*, has posted notices at Red Canyon notifying the miners who have had no work since the strike began, that the mine will not open for some time and when it does it is probable there will not be work for the full force and they are advised, therefore, to take work if it offers and not wait for No. 7 to open again.

A nine-year-old boy named Keeling, of Poatello, Idaho, says the *Tribune* of that place, picked up a pocketful of matches the other day and rolling an empty whisky barrel out into the back yard dropped a match into the bung hole. In an instant there was a tremendous explosion and the boy went sailing skywards. When he came down he had an awful gash in his head but a doctor sewed it up and he is getting along nicely now.

The Astonite (Colo.) *Ledger* says that fish dynamiting is being carried on to a greater extent this season than ever before. Dead fish are frequent in all the deep holes between Conejos and Platora. The county commissioners have been prompted to offer a reward of $200 for the conviction of any dynamiter; the state has a standing reward of $50 and private parties have increased the purse another $50, thus making a total of $300. Here is a considerable inducement for someone to make an effort to apprehend the offenders.

Prof. Ballman killed an elk last Friday under somewhat unusual circumstances, says the Saratoga (Wyo.) *Sun*. He was at work in the corral near his house in Crawford's addition and, upon looking up, saw several elk but a short distance away. He made quick time in getting his rifle and succeeded in killing one of the noble animals. It is seldom that they come so near town, but the flies and mosquitoes are very numerous in the mountains this year and have driven them down.

A. D. Best, of Rocky Ford, Colo., has given much attention to red clover. Last year Mr. Best threshed a seed crop which paid him splendidly, and last week threshed the seed from four acres, just harvested. The yield was twenty bushels, an average of five bushels per acre. The crop of last year brought him from $5.40 to $6 per bushel. Should the lower price be realized this year Mr. Best will have a gross income of $27 per acre for the first crop of seed, saying nothing of the second crop he expects to harvest this year, and the untitrious threshed hay, of which he will have a large amount.

The Grand Junction (Colo.) *News-Star* says: Very close to $1,500 worth of fruit is being shipped out of this valley today, and these figures will probably increase as other varieties of peaches reach the shipping stage. A walk through the older orchards is necessary to impress on one the vast quantities of fruit on the trees and the unusual size that peaches, pears and apples have attained. There is no doubt that this season's big crop will create a still larger demand for Grand valley fruit lands and this fall and next spring will see great activity in the real estate market.

There is much curiosity prevalent in Arizona, says the Phoenix *Gazette*, as to the result of the Southern Pacific company boring for water at Gila Bend. The company began boring early in May and is still hammering away night and day on the column. The company is desirous of securing sufficient flow of water to supply the railroad and also the town. Quicksand was encountered to a depth of 400 feet; at this depth the station became so great that the 10-inch casing had to be abandoned and 8-inch substituted. Red clay was encountered, then clover seed sand. At a depth of 608 feet a terrific flush of water came into the well and attained a depth of 168 feet, or within 140 of the surface. The well is now down about 1,020 feet and boring in red clay. When hardpan is reached work will be stopped and the water utilized for town and railroad purposes.

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