

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Robert Peel, a grandson of Sir Robert Peel, the great English statesman, is a student in Boone's Academy in Berkeley, Cal., and will enter the college of mining of the state university next year with the class of 1902. Young Peel was a student at Eton before going to Berkeley and has two brothers in the British army.

News was received at Santa Rosa, Cal., Tuesday evening of the narrow escape from death of Charles Stoetz near Occidental. He was driving along on a high grade when his team became frightened and ran off the grade, leaving Stoetz pinned between the wagon and a big tree and dangling twenty feet from the ground.

At Denver the Union Pacific has made the announcement that the rates that were cancelled some months ago, when the freight war was inaugurated via the Oregon Short Line from Colorado to Utah, Idaho, Montana and Washington, will be reinstated on January 1, the date set for the going up of the rates from the East.

The police of San Jose, Cal., express the belief that Albert Hoff, held by the police of San Francisco for the murder of Mrs. Mary C. Clute is the murderer of Emma Hawkins, a woman of the half-world, who was found in her room with her throat cut April 23, 1896. A description of the man last seen in her company tallies well with that of Hoff.

Richard Phelan, who killed Daniel O'Connor on the Leary wagon road near Sierra City, Cal., on October 19th, was, early Tuesday morning, after a trial lasting eight days, found guilty of murder in the second degree, the jury recommending the prisoner to the mercy of the court. He will be sentenced next Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

John L. Hergot of San Francisco, better known as young Mitchell, went to Oakland, Cal., Friday evening to see Lavigne about his coming fight with Griffin, and the advisability of pulling off the match in Oakland, but he was informed that Lavigne and his brother had departed for the East on the evening train. Mitchell is of the opinion that Lavigne will return to Oakland in time to fight.

The friends of Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Atwood, quartermaster of the department of the Colorado, Denver, have started a vigorous campaign to secure for Col. Atwood the office of quartermaster-general of the army, which will be made vacant by the retirement of Gen. Wilkes early in February. Col. Atwood is at present in the East on leave, and it is said that the object of his trip was to prepare the way for his promotion.

The dispatch sent out from Butte, Mont., Monday, to the effect that W. A. Clark had sold his Butte properties to the Colusa Parrot Mining and Smelting company of Spokane, is incorrect. The Clark properties, mines and smelters, have simply been consolidated into one company, known as the Colusa Parrot Mining and Smelting company. It is a Butte corporation, and Mr. Clark has all his original interest.

Charles H. Plum, a veteran furniture manufacturer and one of the best known of the California pioneers, is dead. Mr. Plum died Tuesday morning at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Edwin Joy, 207 Fell street, San Francisco. He had been ill with pneumonia only since Thursday last. Indeed, he was at work in his store on that day, and his death was sudden, as he had always been accounted a robust man.

Had he lived until the last day of the year he would have been 70 years old.

A fatal fire occurred near Corona, Cal., fourteen miles from Riverside, Tuesday evening. The house occupied by the Morego family caught fire in some unaccountable manner, and before the flames were discovered the roof of the house was in a blaze. Eleven members of the family escaped, but a little girl, 13 years of age, was suffocated by the smoke and failed to make her escape. A desperate attempt was made to rescue her by the other members of the family, but without avail, and the little sufferer perished in the flames.

It is learned at Phoenix, Ariz., that Chauncey M. Depew and a number of other New Yorkers, broadly known in railroad circles, will visit the Pacific coast within the next fortnight with the especial intention of inspecting the new Randsburg railroad, in which Mr. Depew is financially interested. In Arizona it is understood the party will accept the hospitality of President Murphy of the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix R. R., and will spend several days in Phoenix.

Advices from Ensenada, Cal., are that Jose De Luna, a miner who recently arrived there from Santo Domingo, tells of a quarrel between a number of men at Los Angeles Bay which resulted fatally for one. He says that enemies of his hired an Indian to throw a stick of dynamite at him, but the Indian missed him, and a man named Romero was so badly injured by the explosion that he has since died. The Indian and two of the conspirators were arrested.

A special car dispatched by the Alaska Trade committee of San Francisco is now on its way East. It contains an exhibit of Alaskan products and Arctic costumes and is accompanied by Secretary Carmen, ex-Gov. Shaekey and Charles R. Taylor, who will speak to the people en route regarding the recent gold discoveries and the advantages of San Francisco as a point of departure for the Klondike. John E. Bennett, a writer and lecturer of Berkeley, Cal., will leave in a few days on a similar mission.

William Broad, 69 years old, and a native of Holland, cut his throat in the alms-house, San Francisco, late Saturday night, and died of the wounds Sunday. He had previously attempted suicide by stabbing himself with a pocket-knife thirty-five or forty times in the region of the heart. These wounds are supposed to have been inflicted while Broad was an inmate of the city prison, where he was detained on Friday, before being sent to the alms-house. He was out of work and had no friends in that city.

Advices from Mexico state that the Mexican government boat, Democrata, and the sloop of schooner Don Teofilo Garcia sailed from Mazatlan Dec. 7 for Clipperton Island on an important mission for the government. This mission is to reassert Mexican authority over the islands and to claim the island against any occupants who might be found. As it is understood that an English man-of-war placed a few people on the islands some time ago virtually taking possession of the island as British soil, the importage of the Democrata's trip is evident.

Recently James Woods, a former member of the fire department, Sacramento, Cal., was arrested on a charge of arson. His wife procured bail for him pending his trial, and Sunday he got drunk and attempted to kill her because she would not give him money

to buy liquor. He assaulted her with a pistol, but she grappled with him and shrieked for help. A passer-by ran in and assisted Mrs. Woods in disarming her husband. He also threatened some of the witnesses for the prosecution with violence should they testify against him.

Sylvan Bordes was out on the range near Livermore, Cal., rounding up cattle on Saturday night when his fox hounds began baying before a cabin. He could neither quiet them nor drive them away. Finally he opened the door and found a man lying on the damp floor almost lifeless. He placed the man on his horse and hastened to the nearest farm house. A doctor was summoned who pronounced the invalid to be in the last stages of pneumonia. He died on Monday and his body has been identified as that of Charles Martinez once a prominent merchant.

A dispatch from San Francisco says that Theodore Durrant's attorneys will at once battle for his life. They intend to lay the foundation for another appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. In all probability one of the lawyers for the defense will proceed to Washington to make the final technical fight based on the question of federal and state law. The time for action is short, however, and even the defense doubts the success of its new venture. Mrs. Durrant visited her son Tuesday afternoon. Both were downcast and seemed to realize that the end was near.

The Idaho supreme court has decided against Bannock county in the case brought against it by Bingham county, wherein the latter sought to collect its proportion of debt due by Bingham to Alturas, now Blaine county. The court says: "Bannock county having been carved out of territory theretofore belonging to Bingham county must be supposed to have been conversant with the financial condition of the county; must have been aware of the obligation of Bingham to Alturas county, and consequently of its, Bannock's, obligation to Bingham county predicated thereon and ought not to be allowed to avoid a just liability by a resort to mere technicalities."

The remains of a man who had evidently been dead for nearly three months were found Tuesday afternoon hanging to a tree near the cemetery in the Presidio, San Francisco, by two boys. There was nothing by which the remains could be identified. It was evidently a case of suicide, the man, whoever he was, having hanged himself by a piece of window cord. He had sought a secluded spot, distant from any road or trail and thickly grown with underbrush. As well as could be determined, owing to the extreme stage of decomposition, the body was that of a man about fifty years of age, five feet seven inches in height. He wore a gray sack suit, nearly new, a white shirt, black bow tie, black Fedora hat, Congress shoes and had an ordinary red bandana handkerchief tied loosely around his mouth. His hair was black, thickly sprinkled with gray. He probably weighed in life about 160 pounds.

The Democrat of Baker City, Or., says: It seems now fully ascertained that La Grande will have a beet sugar factory. The final effort in the way of securing the required subsidy was made at the mass meeting of citizens held Saturday night. Just four days previous the subsidy was \$20,000 short. Twenty thousand dollars had been raised up to Saturday evening, and when the call for subscriptions was made nearly \$6,500 was added to the list. At this juncture Mr. J. M. Church stated that arrangements had been made whereby the balance would be provided