Pulse of Western Progress.

In consequence of the general agitation for the beet sugar industry, the production of an article not exactly kindred to sugar beets, yet commonly found in soils favorable to the growth of the latter, has been brought to the public attention. This article is chicory, says the Oregonian. "If Oregon can grow sugar beets, it can produce chicory also," is the verdict of experienced men, and only last week a representative of the largest chicory manufacturing concern in the world was making inquiries of the prospects for establishing a factory in the northwest. The unsavory reputation of chicory among consumers of coffee has probably obscured the real worth of the plant. The fact that the United States imported 14,650,000 pounds of chicory during the first seven months of the present fiscal year will give some idea of the local market for this article and enable farmers to draw a conclusion as to the inducements chicory production offers. From three-fourths to seven-eighths of this importation comes from Germany and Belgium, being raised in the beet sugar districts. Occasionally samples of Oregon chicory have been noticed, but no particular attention has been given the subject. Last week Mr. Michaelis, representing the firm of Heinsich, Franck & Soehne of Germany, while in Portland, was shown by Mr. Devers some chicory grown near Alpha, Wash. The quality of the chicory impressed Mr. Michaelis as being good, and he made many inquiries concerning its growth in the state. Later he told Mr. Devers that he had instructions from his firm to look for a good location for a chicory factory, and he was making tests to ascertain what districts of the west were most suitable. His concern has ten different chicory factories in Germany, and factories also in France, Belgium, Roumania, Italy, England, and in recent years erected a factory at Flushing, N. Y. Mr. Michaelis said the factory his company proposed building in the west would mean the employment of 500 men in the manufacturing and drying processes, besides the sum that would be expended among farmers for the raw root. Mr. Devers feels much interested in this new industry. "Under the Wilson bill," said he, "a duty was put on the finished product to encourage the manufacture of chicory, and the dried root was allowed to come in free. The Dingley bill, however, to help the farmer, puts a duty on the root, which has given a great impetus to the production of chicory in the United States. It is now being successfully grown in Nebraska, and I feel that we certainly ought to produce it here if it is a success there. I have collected several samples of domestic chicory root, which I sent to the management of the factory at Flushing. It seems to me that there is the possibility of inaugurating a new industry here which is of sufficient importance to enlist the careful attention of the people of our community." The industry in Nebraska is assuming goodly proportions since the enactment of the Dingley tariff. Growth of the plant was commenced there over five years ago, and with the first crop a small factory was established at O'Neill, Holt county. In 1895 the American Chicory company was organized to succeed the German Chicory company. The manufacturing and drying plants were enlarged and increased, and last year the company contracted for 1,200 acres, that being the first year of general operations in the state. The farmers were paid $7.50 a ton for the roots, and the estimate is made that an average yield per acre is six tons. Great interest is shown by Nebraska farmers in the new industry, as it seems to be even more certain of returns than beet sugar.

PACIFIC COAST POTATOES.

This year, roughly speaking, 19,000 acres in Oregon were planted to potatoes. The yield is given as 1,890,000 bushels, an increase of 590,000 bushels over last year and 99,000 bushels more than in 1895. In Washington the acreage in 1896 was 18,000, and this year 19,000; 2,280,000 bushels were raised this year, which is 380,000 more bushels than in 1896, and a few bushels less than in 1895. The potato crop in the United States this year is about 174,116,000 bushels, as compared with 245,480,000 in 1896 and 286,350,000 in 1895. Canada has fallen from 68,042,000 bushels in 1895 and 56,280,000 bushels in 1896 to 50,276,000 bushels this year. These are figures of the Orange Judd Farmer newspaper syndicate, whose crop statistics are as trustworthy as any. The showing is far from gratifying. Not since 1892 has the potato crop of the United States proved so nearly a failure, the aggregate yield being the smallest in the last five years. Compared with the liberal crop of 1896 there is an apparent falling off of nearly 36 per cent in tonnage, and the quality, as a whole, is greatly deficient. The low prices of last fall and winter which attended the full crop of 1896 did not tend to stimulate seeding. Yet potatoes form such a staple in almost every state that, after all, a fairly full acreage was put in the ground last spring. The principal food product of modern nations is the potato—a fact that the average person is singularly ignorant of. A full world's production of potatoes is about 4,000,000,000 bushels, of wheat 2,500,000,000, of corn 2,500,000,000, of rye about 1,300,000,000 and of barley not quite 750,000,000 bushels. Europe produces nearly two and one-half times as many bushels of potatoes in a full year as she does wheat. Of late years about 30,000,000 acres on the average have been officially reported as being devoted to potatoes yearly throughout the world, of which Europe, including the United Kingdom, has about 26,000,000 acres and the United States about 3,000,000. The full crops in Oregon and Washington this year and the shortage elsewhere emphasize the need of the Nicaragua canal, which would enable the farmers to put their potatoes on the market at such a profit as is impossible under present transportation conditions. This is only a special instance. A similar need is felt in almost every other department of Pacific coast industries.

GILSONITE FOR SHIP PROTECTION.

The discovery that gilsonite, which has been found on the Indian lands in Utah, will protect a ship's bottom from seaweed and corrosion, says the Mining and Scientific Press, is likely to end the attempts of speculators to induce the government to open these lands to entry. If the government owns the only gilsonite deposit known it will hardly consent to make it an article of commerce available for use to foreign navies. A monopoly will enable our war vessels to keep the sea indefinitely, while foreign ships are obliged to seek port at short intervals to be scraped and cleaned. It would be worth millions of dollars to this country in a war to always have the best speed of its cruisers available. At present a cruiser long in service that made twenty knots on her trial trip only makes fourteen or fifteen, because of her foul bottom; but, with the hull painted with gilsonite, twenty knots could be run, if the stories about the new asphaltum are true, by a vessel which has not been docked in years, always providing that no accident should intervene. The probability that piles could be protected from the teredo by this new substance is not great, but it would bear looking into. At present, however, the chief advantage of its use is naval, and this is enough to warrant the government in guarding it with jealous care. Inventions may be copied, naval plans stolen and engines and ships duplicated; but, if we have all the gilsonite there is, and that on government land, we can keep it for our own use, no matter what the anxiety of foreign naval officers may be to get some of it for theirs.

WYOMING NICKEL MINES.

Great interest is being taken throughout northern Wyoming in the operations on Piney creek, near Sheridan, of the Nickel Refining company. On Monday last the company received a carload of fine mining machinery which is being freighted to the mines and will be put in operation at once. The machinery consists of drills, air compressor, dynamos, etc. Mr. G. Frank McLaughlin, manager of the company, states that a contract has been let for 100,000 feet of lumber, with which flumes will be built to carry water to run the dynamos, which will generate electricity to operate the mining machinery. The Nickel Refining company is composed of wealthy eastern men, who have had experts examine the ore which is being mined and have had mill tests made which have demonstrated its value beyond doubt. Nickel is found in the ore, but not in sufficient quantity to justify the erection of a large plant. It is believed, however, that as the vein is gone down on this ore will increase in value and if this theory proves to be correct a large establishment will be put up at the mines. The product of the mine is used in nickel-plating establishments in the east and there is an immense demand for it.

MICA AT CRIPPLE CREEK.

For the second time what seems to be a mica mine has been opened up in the Cripple Creek district, says the Cripple Creek Herald. October 1 Whalen & Ash opened a vein of mica at only a foot below the surface. At this point it measured a foot in thickness. Its permanence, of course, cannot yet be determined. The vein was found on the placer in West Cripple Creek at the foot of Signal hill. A few years ago a mica mine was opened up on Mt. Pisgah and paid well for a short time. After a few months, however, the mica was encountered in quantities too small to be used for commercial purposes and work was discontinued on the property. Mica has been found in abundance on almost every claim between Cripple Creek and the Bare hills, but with the exception of the one at Mt. Pisgah mine and possibly the discovery made by Whalen & Ash, it has always been too badly broken up to have value. Mica schist has been found in connection with almost every formation encountered in the district, but, of course, is without value.

ARIZONA'S BIG COPPER PLANT.

The city of Clifton, hidden away as it is among the mountains of Arizona, is little known to the outer world, and yet there is in running operation the largest as well as most succesful copper plant in the world. The company is a Scotch concern, all of the directors living in that country. Sixteen years ago copper ore was found there and developed by the Mexicans and brought by them into El Paso, Tex., on burros. The tailings are used up now by the magnificent new smelter and pan out wonderfully well. Whole mountains of ore are found. To the Metcalf and Longfellow mines the Arizona Copper company operates a twenty-inch narrow gauge railway to carry ore to Clifton, where the main plant is in blast. The company also owns the line of railway running from Clifton to Lordsburg, N. M., a distance of seventy-one miles, where connection is made with the Southern Pacific. Nearly the entire male population of Clifton are employes of the Arizona Copper company. The company store is a mammoth establishment. What surprises most copper knowing people when they come here is the acid rooms of the chemical laboratory. The building is entirely lined with sheet lead and cost a small fortune. Great care must be used to prevent a total collapse of this necessary structure. The chemist makes nearly all of the chemicals from material found adjacent to Clifton, thus saving the outlay for those necessities. There is a complete gas works and an electric light plant on the ground, all built by the company. Soon a new library building will be built for the employes.

WYOMING GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

Gradually interest is being awakened in the mines of the Grand Encampment district, which is just over the line in Wyoming close to the main range. Grand Encampment is associated with the comparatively new districts in Routt county. There are several camps in that section which deserve attention and that promise to develop into good producers. Although to the general public little known the country lying near and on either side of the Wyoming-Colorado line from North Park westward is one of great natural resources. It is doubtful if there is any other part of the United States which is both so little known and so full of promise. Its mineral resources are extensive and varied, consisting not alone of silver and gold, but also of copper, iron and coal. It is probable that development will some day show that oil should be included in a list of the resources of that section. It is found farther north in Wyoming and there are strong indications of its presence immediately south in Colorado. There has not been much of a test of the agricultural possibilities of the country under consideration, but the Yampa valley in Routt county contains a large area of land that could be easily irrigated and for most farm products the climate is favorable. What that section greatly needs is better rail connection. The nearest road is the Union Pacific, but it is something like fifty miles from Grand Encampment and, of course, it is much farther from Hahn's Peak and the Yampa valley. With all the talk about building a road it would seem that something must come out of it. Such a road would certainly get a large traffic. Health and pleasure seekers would go to Steamboat Springs, and that traffic alone would be considerable. In the extreme western part of Routt county Hayden's map shows a geological formation of silurian lime which may be found to contain mineral. The locality has been but little prospected, if at all. It is referred to here simply as suggestive of what might be developed in connection with the other resources of that part of the country.

SUPERIORITY OF SPEARFISH CREEK.

Without a question the finest stream of water in the Black Hills is Spearfish creek. The people of the large mining camps, such as Deadwood and Lead, have been covetous of the beautiful stream for years, and now a step is about to be taken by the citizens of those towns to bring a portion of the water to the towns. At a joint meeting of the water committees of the two cities, which have been appointed to look up the matter of new water systems, it was proposed to condemn 200 inches of the water from the creek and bring it in pipes to the cities. They have measured the volume of water in the creek and find it is 2,300 inches, which, they say, is more than can be used by the Spearfish people. The Spearfish people claim that there are water rights held by the people in the city and by those living along the creek for irrigating purposes amounting to 5,000 inches, and that there is not nearly enough water even for the present needs. Deadwood and Lead are much in need of a new supply of water. There is not enough even for fire protection, and the quality is questionable. There will be trouble if an attempt is made to carry out the present plans of the water committees. If water cannot be gotten from this source it is a serious question where a suitable supply can be obtained.

THE DAKOTAS.

The government is again advertising for bids for carrying the mail between Spearfish and Deadwood.

The several cases of typhoid fever in Spearfish are all improving very fast, and the doctors say they are all past the danger point.

The rich cyritic ore of the Hardin strike has now been sunk into nearly twenty-five feet without touching the bottom, and it is keeping up its enormous richness. A large amount of machinery for the mine has just arrived.

A dividend of $31,000 was paid by the Homestake last week. The company is extending its railroad to the Jim Creek country to a large belt of timber, and has 200 men at work. The road is for the purpose of supplying timber for the Homestake mines.

Gloomy reports are coming from Eureka respecting the proportions and spread of diphtheria in and about that place. Five mothers and a whole colony of children came down from the stricken town last night, four families going on to points east and one to Faulkton, all to escape the impending danger.

A fine deposit of onyx is being developed on ground near Pringle. Tests made in Philadelphia have shown the stone far superior to that usually secured, and shipments will be made to that city for further examination. If satisfactory a large quantity will be taken out this winter, and the ground thoroughly developed.

D. W. Hines, well known as the originator of the plan for a farmer's railroad, has been recaptured at Hannah and taken back to the state insane asylum, from which he escaped two weeks ago. He had printed and posted in Langdon some bills announcing that a lecture would be given by Farmer Hines on the "Dark and Bright Sides of an Insane Asylum."

Farmers at Hudson are beginning to husk and crib their corn. The oldest farmers say they do not remember a year when corn was so nearly matured and dry this early in the season. While most of the crop is light, it is very sound, and of better quality than last season. What is most peculiar about the early ripening of the grain is the fact of the extreme backwardness and coldness of the spring and summer season.

Presho county and the state have locked horns over a claim of the former for about $1,500 for costs of cases arising in Presho county, which is unorganized. The circuit court allowed the claim, but the state auditor refused to pay it. The county commissioners have therefore authorized the commencement of proceedings to recover the amount from the state. It is doubtful, however, if the state auditor has power to pay the amount of the claim until the legislature appropriates the sum necessary to do so.

There is all kinds of trouble between Manager Garrett of the Northwestern Telephone exchange and Proprietor Cole of the Metropole hotel, at Fargo. Saturday, it is alleged, Cole swore at the girls in the central office and the 'phone was taken out of the hotel, but afterward replaced on request of Manager Mathews. Later Cole went to the central office and is alleged to have struck Garrett twice with a cane, after which he drew a pistol on the manager. He will be arrested on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

The city council of Grand Forks will probably have considerable controversy over a public electric light plant before the citizens enjoy that luxury, although there is not a citizen but is in favor of the city using electricity for lighting purposes. The present company has made a proposition to light the city for $125 per light. An expert claims that the city can maintain the lights at $79.20 each. Mayor Dinnie is enthusiastic over the prospects of a municipal plant. There is some opposition to the plan, however, and it would not be surprising should an injunction form a part of the proceedings.

WYOMING.

Old Chief Washakie, nearly 100 years of age, was photographed at Evanston on a bicycle the other day. The photo could very truthfully be exhibited as an original picture of an aboriginal century rider.

One of the big steam shovels which has been at work in the now famous Sherman gravel pits has quit work. The operations of the shovel were stopped Sunday night and the machine will be taken to Cheyenne and stored in the shops.

The fact speaks well for Wyoming that, so Colonel S. W. Downey says, there are on file with the State Land board applications for the lease of more than 200,000 acres of state land, but that the state has only about 40,000 acres at its disposal.

The work on the four-pocket coal chute at Red Buttes is progressing rapidly. The trench for the pipe bringing water from the springs two miles east of the station is half completed. It is understood that the company will build a new tank at Red Buttes in the spring.

There is a rumor in circulation at Sheridan that the government inspector has made some startling discoveries regarding a discrepancy in the amount of cattle pastured and the amount paid to the Indians on the Crow reservation. It is stated that a close investigation of the matter will be made at once.

Quite a number of Natrona county hunters are contemplating a wolf round-up in the near future. They propose to have Converse county enter into an agreement to appoint a day for the hunt and each county furnish a given number of hunters and the county getting the most wolves shall have a dance and supper from the proceeds of the bounty on the wolves which will be killed in both counties.

Crook county is particularly prosperous this year. The farmers have raised large crops and the live stock interests are in a very prosperous condition. Crook county is largely settled with small stockraisers who have from twenty-five to 200 head of stock apiece. They are building up pleasant homes through all sections of the county. The population has nearly doubled during the past three years.

Colonel E. P. Snow, the mining engineer, has returned to Laramie from Cooper hill, where he was sent by a Paris syndicate to procure samples of ores in that vicinity reported to carry platinum and its associate metals, and also to obtain bond and lease upon the properties. He obtained samples of ore from the different claims, but found it impossible to negotiate for bond and lease, the owners stating that they would not sell.

Stockmen around Lander are selling their cattle and buying sheep. There are two reasons for this. First, cattle are bringing high figures, and, secondly, stockmen have lost so much by thieves that the business is considered undesirable. During the last five years more than $50,000 worth of cattle have been stolen from stockmen of Fremont county. It is estimated that Fremont county will have 300,000 sheep on the ranges next season.

A. E. Minium is said to have discovered on Casper mountain a well-defined fissure of white and blue gold-bearing quartz, between granite walls, sixty feet wide and traced over 5,000 feet. At places it shows an iron-stain auriferous quartz and is situated thirteen miles east of Casper, near Hot Six canyon. It is free milling and a pan test from a surface sample gave in the neighborhood of $4. The claim is made of a million tons in sight.

COLORADO.

Track laying is in progress on the Colorado Northwestern railway.

The First National bank of Grand Junction will soon become a state bank.

The Colorado Federation of Woman's clubs held its annual convention in Pueblo last week.

Apple growers about Boulder and Canon City fear damage to the crop from the big storm.

B. Clark Wheeler of Aspen announces that he will lead an exploring party into Alaska in the spring.

The Colorado Presbyterian synod has established a chair of ethics at the Colorado university, Boulder.

The Bank of Montrose will resume. The stockholders have waived all right to release from responsibility.

It is reported that the Conqueror group of ten claims in the Empire district has been sold for $100,000 to St. Louis men.

W. E. Renshaw, operating the Newton under lease in the Idaho Springs district, struck some $800 ore in a level 400 feet from the shaft.

Damage to hundreds of acres of potatoes yet in the ground about Eaton is feared from the big storm.

A trainload of 7,500 sheep was stopped by the sheriff at Grand Junction Saturday because their owner could not show an inspection certificate.

Colorado Springs will issue $100,000 of fifteen-year 4½ per cent bonds to refund bonds now outstanding and to improve and extend her water works.

Clerk Taughenbaugh of Garfield county has been arrested on the charge of discriminating against the silver republican ticket in preparing the official ballot.

The Poudre Power company has been incorporated with a capital of $50,000, to construct ditches, reservoirs and power plants on the Cache la Poudre river.

Claes Arnell, southwest of Alamaso, will have about 5,000 bushels of grain this year. This will amount in cash to over three times the price he paid for his land.

There seems to be a tacit agreement between the burglars and footpads now operating in Denver to do their work in alternate weeks. Last week was the burglars' week and five people were robbed by them Friday night, including a Mormon elder. But little money was secured from any of the victims.

J. B. Livingstone, fine foreman of the Colorado Telephone company at Colorado Springs, has mysteriously disappeared, taking his money and leaving his family.

Creede camp has continued a regular daily shipment of from twenty to thirty cars of ore since early in the spring. The principal shipper has been the Commodore, which is paying big dividends.

Aside from the tremendous inconvenience caused to the public and to private interests, the storm of last Tuesday wrought an intrinsic damage to the city of Denver and its suburbs that is conservatively estimated to be in excess of $100,000.

The Moon Anchor line at Cripple Creek has 140 tons of ore for shipment from the sampling works, representing two week's output. The Anchoria-Leland sent out 175 tons last week which averaged over $40 per ton. A strike of $90 ore has been made in a new drift in the Orphan Belle at a depth of 268 feet in the shaft, the vein being four feet wide.

The Golden Fleece at Lake City has a new strike of very rich ore. The company is now exploring the strike by the aid of diamond drills. At the last annual meeting held in July the receipts from the mine were $98,000. The disbursements were $52,000 for operating expenses and $6,000 in dividends, leaving about $60,000 in the treasury with which to pay the purchase price of the Governor Pitkin mine adjoining, which was bought for $55,000.

All of the coal miners of Boulder county are out on a strike. It is said that at one of the mines in Lafayette the managers reduced the wages of the machine men 10 cents a ton. Word was sent to all the mines in the district to close down and the order was implicitly obeyed. The strike is said to affect about 1,000 miners. A number of the gold and silver mines in the mountains will have to close down on account of the strike. An effort will be made to have the matter compromised as soon as possible.

UTAH.

The farmers who have wheat are holding the grain in expectation of a rise—an example set them by the people of Cache and Box Elder counties.

Rich strikes are reported from the Ajax and Grand Central in the Tintic district. In the former the ore is high grade copper and in the latter gold quartz.

The opposition to H. N. McGrew's induction into the office of register of the land office has not diminished the appointee's confidence in his winning qualities.

The Bear River canal people have now at work, directly and indirectly, about 100 men, and much of the earnings of these reach this little burg, materially adducing to the prosperity of the place.

Superintendent Chambers of the Ontario and Daly announces that operations will not be resumed on an extensive scale at the properties of the companies named until silver is back to at least 70 cents per ounce.

The decline in the price of lead, which occurred on Saturday last, was a new blow to the mining industry. The maintenance of the price of that metal has been of the greatest benefit since silver went under the 65-cent mark.

The final clean-up for the season has been made at the Niagara cyanide plant in Bingham. Superintendent Heffron brought in sixty pounds of gold-silver bullion as a result. The mill cannot operate in cold weather on account of the nature of the ores.

The Marsac mill on tailings was so satisfactory that it is reported to be the intention of the company to get the mill in shape during the winter to put throught the tailings dumps as soon in the spring as the weather will allow. This work will, however, depend greatly on the price of silver.

Without being at all on the boom, Corinne enjoys a steady business. The Malad people seem to have a great many friends among the merchants here, and the farmers are pretty sure to get full market price for everything they bring in, and are not charged exorbitant figures for any goods that they desire to take back home with them.

MONTANA.

The Stray Horse mine shipped forty cars of gold ore last month.

The Volunteers of America propose to establish a rescue home for fallen women at Butte.

S. Andriffet took 119 ounces of gold from California gulch, at Virginia City, this season.

The most important Masonic gathering that has ever convened in Butte was in session last week.

An important strike has been made in the Gold Cup at Red Bluff. Some of the ore assayed $180.

George B. McLaughlin, who was appointed Blackfoot Indian agent last June, has resigned his position.

The United States mineral land commissioners are at work examining and classifying lands on the upper Yellowstone.

B. F. Forbes of Helena has secured a year's bond on the property of the Montana Gold Bar Mining company at Diamond.

The Kalispell Industrial company, with a capital of $50,000, will build a flour mill and engage in other enterprises at Kalispell.

There is a scarcity of building material of all kinds, and as a result work on the numerous buildings now in course of construction in Dillon is greatly delayed.

Consignments of mining machinery arrive at the Dillon station nearly every day. This shows a renewed activity in the different mining camps adjacent to Dillon.

The machinery of the Polaris company's ten-stamp mill arrived at Dillon last week. Manager Townsend is superintending its shipment to the company's grounds.

As there are no known heirs of Orin G. Robie, the mountain hermit, the public administrator at Great Falls will sell his ranch of 160 acres. The estate is valued at $2,000.

A mining section which has sprung into prominence within the last few months is Red Top, about six miles north of Sylvanite, in Flathead county. Some remarkable strikes have been made of large ledges highly mineralized. Gold is the main metal, but there is some silver and copper.

John W. Coughlin, cashier of the Anaconda Mining company in Butte, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement, the amount of his peculations being several thousand dollars.

IDAHO.

The Gibbonsville Miner says there are about seventy-five cases of typhoid fever in town.

M. McKlim of Big Lost river sold 800 cows last week to Mr. Wood of Idaho Falls, who will ship them east. Prices from $22 to $22.50.

George Degitz is pushing an electric light enterprise for Weiser. Nearly all the business men have signed an agreement to patronize him.

Charles Sattler has closed a deal by which he receives land upon which to erect a tannery at Kendrick. There are plenty of hides in that vicinity.

In the face of the Hecla tunnel at Burke there is quite a sprinkling of galena, and the owners are quite hopeful of a good chute of ore a few feet further in.

George Speed, an old-time vaquero and known to Idaho cattlemen as a famous roper, was killed near De La Mar in a runaway. He was thrown and his skull was crushed.

There are rumors of a large sawmill to be put up on the banks of the Weiser near town. It is said the parties are contracting for 1,500,000 of saw logs to be brought down the river in the spring.

A bold holdup occurred Friday night about dark at the old dam, just above the reservation. Arthur Thompson and a man named Hedges were the victims. The highwaymen secured about $70.

The promoters of the Fort Steele road have raised sufficient funds to put the road through and a force of men is being gathered up to commence the work. The Kootenai Herald says it means much for Bonner's Ferry.

The Argus, near Murray, has taken out 100 tons of rock and will have it milled at the Yosemite mill. Should it yield as expected a mill will be put upon the property, as there is development work done until thousands of tons of ore are in sight.

Ranchers living on Willow and Elk creeks cut down the timber in the adjacent mountains into cordwood, for which they got $4.50 delivered on the Gold belt. Although they haul the wood fifteen or twenty miles they say they make a living at the business.

The troubles of the American Falls and People's Canal companies are not yet ended. Of the 9,600 acres that the state has been asked to release under the terms of the recent compromise, it is discovered that 7,600 acres have never been withdrawn by the government.

CALIFORNIA.

A prisoner named Varasca, under reprieve at San Quentin, has struck. He says he was sent there to be hanged and not to work.

The workingmen of San Francisco are strongly opposed to the annexation of Hawaii and the resultant influx of a large number of coolies.

Someone left fully 100 dynamite cartridges scattered along the railroad track near Fresno. Alfred Carr, son of L. L. Carr, a prominent citizen, found the cartridges and struck one with a hammer. The cartridge exploded, blowing away one of Young Carr's fingers and a thumb, besides otherwise seriously injuring him.

It is reported by whalers arriving in San Francisco that eight men from the crews of the various ships of the winter fleet have been frozen to death in the Arctic.

The Oxnards have made a proposition to erect a sugar factory at Hueneme and the people of that place are rustling to comply with the conditions by November 1.

Jasper Galpin and Lee Butcher, settlers suspected of starting a forest fire, were tried in San Francisco and acquitted because of an error in the survey. They were rearrested on a new complaint.

A baby was left in a Los Angeles court as security for a debt by a frightened couple, who couldn't speak English and who imagined that unless some sort of a bond was given they would be sent to jail. He was redeemed next day.

In San Francisco another woman has come forward to claim a portion of the $25,000,000 estate left by Imblay Clarke, who died in Australia in 1875. She is Ellen Clarke Linforth, widow of the late Edward H. Linforth of San Francisco and she resides at 1317 Leavenworth street.

WASHINGTON.

Coyotes are becoming so plentiful in the country between Garfield and the mountains as to be a menace to the poultry business and a general nuisance.

The treasurer of Adams county reports that farmers are paying delinquent taxes as far back as 1892. It is expected that the county will be able to pay off its entire debt.

Expert C. P. Dam has completed the work of experting the books of the Pacific county treasurer's office, and the commissioners will probably meet next Wednesday to receive his report.

The Northern Pacific Railway company has had shipped to Aberdeen two carloads of wheelbarrows and other material for the grading of the road to Hoquiam. It seems to be little doubted that the road will be built this winter.

The farmers north of Stanwood have started to build a dike to protect themselves from the winter flood. It starts at the railroad and runs west to the Skagit slough. Each farmer is assessed a certain amount by the committee.

The recent state apportionment of school funds gives Pierce county $28,762.78, which has been apportioned among the eighty-four districts of the county. There are forty-three small districts, which each receive $47.20. Tacoma had 804,909 days' attendance and receives $18,995.81 from the state fund.

The little son of Mr. Hodges, who lives near Keese, in Whatcom county, was chased by a cougar the other day. The boy was returning from a neighbor's with a piece of fresh pork, which the animal scented. The timely arrival of a party of prospectors saved the boy and a rifle bullet put an end to the cougar.

The Fourth cavalry breastwork drill, on Third and Poplar streets, in Walla Walla, twice a week attracts a large crowd and is a remarkable exhibition of horsemanship. At the word of command all the horses, except two or three refractory ones not yet thoroughly trained, lie down and at the sound of the bugle they spring to their feet. The purpose of this drill is to enable cavalrymen to use their horses for breastworks in case of an engagement.

A number of farmers and business men in the Walla Walla valley have conceived the generous idea of loading several cars with potatoes and other products of the rich soil of that valley for transmission to Ireland, where the potato crop is a failure, and fears are entertained of a famine among the poorer people.

F. W. Gaines on Thursday brought into Colfax from between Union and Alkali flats a stalk of the genuine cockle burr, which it has hitherto been supposed had never gained a footing in that section. Mr. Gaines says that on a quarter of an acre the plants are growing thickly, while further down a ravine many of the plants can be seen.

The Lincoln County Times claims that that county's wheat land produced this season an average of forty bushels per acre and the yield of the county will be nearly twice as great as any former year. Almost as many bushels of grain have been marketed already in Davenport this season as was marketed in all of last year and the crop has scarcely begun to move.

OREGON.

The largest cargo of lumber yet to cross the Nehalem bar was taken out by the three-masted schooner Prosper. She carried about 275,000 feet and made the round trip from San Francisco to Nehalem and return in about twenty days.

Contractor Jerry White, with a force of skilful workmen, is constructing along the banks of Powder river, in East Baker county, about 500 feet of powerful levee, which is at the expense of a number of enterprising property owners, the improvement to cost in the neighborhood of $2,000.

George Mayger of Mayger's landing says that the new flume into St. Helens will be completed about November 5 next. The flume will be extended a mile and a quarter up Milton creek, where a fine belt of timber will be tapped. The company that Mr. Mayger represents expects to handle 30,000 cords of wood yearly.

Agent Casson has completed the work of locating the Indians in Harney county. One hundred and fifteen red men have taken advantage of the government's generous donation. Mr. Casson says that the Indians are not allowed to rent or lease their claims, except old, blind and infirm Indians, and the renting or leasing is done by the department.

So many horses have been affected by what is commonly termed pink-eye in Sherman county that O. P. Hulse, who is authority in such cases, has given the matter some attention. He thinks the disease is not pink-eye but is caused from over-feeding. The hay this fall contains nearly twice as much wheat as formerly, hence over-feeding is easily done. Hot and dusty drives with irregular watering has much to do with bringing on the disease.

A Lincoln paper says it doubts whether in any former year there has been such immense quantities of fine, marketable fruit, especially apples, as Lincoln county orchards have produced this season. In quantity, size and flavor all former records are probably beaten. And the same may be said of the potato crop, the yield being heavy and of the very best quality. The fish supply has been and continues abundant and is absolutely free to all who will take the trouble to cast a hook or net and pull them in.