WHERE TOIL REAPS REWARDS.

Nature's Bounteous Stores Yield Generously to the Magic Lance of Energy.

VALUE OF PRECIOUS METALS AND COST OF PRODUCTION

Unusual Activity in All Departments of Industry in the Northwest—Gold and Grit Galore—Agricultural and Mineral Prospects in the Imperial Domain—The Week's Summary of News.

Miles City and Omaha.

MILES CITY, Mont., July 24.—[Correspondence of THE BEE.]—A lively interest in the proposed visit of leading business men of Omaha to Montana is felt by the people of this town. A movement is on foot among the principal citizens, the newspapers, daily and weekly, towards inducing the gentlemen from Omaha to stop off here if they go to Helena via the Northern Pacific railroad, or if they go by the Union Pacific, to return by the former route. Their wishes will probably be put in the shape of an invitation from the Miles City chamber of commerce. Some of the leading citizens of the town, knowing of your correspondent's relations with Omaha, requested me to communicate this intelligence while measures are being taken to put the matter in proper formal and official shape.

It will not do for the Omaha visitors to Montana to see only half or one-fourth of it—the northwestern portion—and go back without seeing eastern Montana. Here are the great cattle and horse ranches—in this big county of Custer, as well as the great sheep ranges. Miles City, the county seat, is the cattle center of eastern Montana. If the South Omaha live stock delegation should be obliged to return without a visit to this portion their trip to Montana would undoubtedly be good for their health, but there would be no business in it for them. For men interested in beef and mutton to visit Montana and not look over the eastern and southeastern portion of the state, would be like men interested in coal avoiding Newcastle. They would certainly be in Montana for their health only.

For the other interests represented by the Omaha visitors—the manufacturing interests, the provision men, the clothing men, the boot and shoe men—a partial visit would perhaps have partial results. Eastern Montana consumes vast quantities of provisions, wears a great many clothes, hats, boots and shoes, uses much saddlery and horse-gear. Miles City is the center of this vast trade and the most important shipping point for live stock on the Northern Pacific railroad. It is the point for collection and shipment of the entire wool crop of this region—and the great New England houses have all their agents here in the wool harvest buying the great staple.

Why cannot Omaha get her share of the trade in supplies, provisions and clothing, instead of letting it go past her to Chicago? There is plenty of need in this great cattle and horse region for Joe Garneau's Omaha made crackers, for W. V. Morse's Omaha made boots and shoes, for Max Meyer's cigars, tobacco, time-pieces—stop-watches for horse timing purposes—even for his diamonds and jewelry and the objects of art with which his shelves are filled, for your cattleman is a generous and princely buyer and wants the best of everything regardless of price. Why cannot the South Omaha stock yards and packing houses get the beef and mutton raised in this region and now shipped from here to St. Paul and Chicago? Here is the trade, and all Omaha needs to get it is direct rail communication. The way to get that trade is to push right through the heart of the ranges by the extension of the Fremont & Elkhorn road, and as it will ring the bell of the target aimed at by pushing it by Alzada across the Powder river valley to Powderville, thence across the Pumpkin creek and down the valley of the Tongue with its big horse farms—owned by wealthy and enterprising young Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen of the very best families of Great Britain—its cattle ranches and its model farms now made independent of the clerk of the weather by the Miles City irrigating ditch.

I regret that the excursionists will be too late for the local strawberry, which is about closed out now. Next year this crop will undoubtedly assume proportions that will admit of considerable exportation. We are now eating up the Gallatin valley berry, which is good, large and luscious as our own, but ours has the advantage of being ready for consumption two or three weeks ahead of the Gallatin berry. MONTANA.

Rainfall by Concussion.

The production of rainfall by concussion in the arid regions of the United States, says Engineering, is just now a favorite topic for the "funny man" of the daily press. But the experiment is to be actually made under the auspices of the United States agricultural department, and while we have the very tiniest hopes that any results of value will follow, it will be interesting as a scientific experiment. Dynamite or rack-a-rock were at first proposed as the explosive agents, but these were found to be too heavy, and to add too much to the cost of the balloon to be used for raising them to the moisture-charged air stratum. The latest experiments have been conducted with an explosive gas compounded of oxygen and hydrogen. The tremendous force of this explosive when fired by an electric spark sent up in the wire in the anchoring cables, has been demonstrated in the preliminary tests made near Washington, D. C. While rain did not follow the explosion, and was not expected with the quantity used, Dr. Dyrenfurth, who conducted the test, was officially requested to move his experimental station to some point more remote from the houses of those residing near the testing ground. Some arid spot in Kansas is now to be selected, and Dr. Dyrenfurth there proposes to plant balloons along a line two miles long, and to explode the gas by an electric current—and await results under an umbrella, perhaps.

The long held theory that the great battles, in our own wars were immediately followed by heavy rainfall, has been very thoroughly investigated by Mr. Edward Powers, C. E., in his "War and Weather," and as far as the records hold this theory is backed by fact in our own war. This Mr. Powers, by the by, is directly responsible for the present experiments. As long ago as 1874 he interested Senator C. B. Farwell, of Illinois, in his project, and through him presented a petition to congress asking that body to appropriate a sum sufficient to make an experiment on an extended scale. Mr. Powers now seems to be forgotten, and Senator Farwell is generally regarded as the father of the scheme. Mr. Powers suggested artillery as a means of producing the desired concussion; but while it is well shown by the records of various wars that rain very often follows heavy artillery firing, the later project for producing the aerial commotion required in the immediate neighborhood of the moisture-laden stratum promises more encouraging results. The most curious proof of the effect of concussion upon rainfall is brought forward by Senator Stanford. When this gentleman, with Mr. Huntington was building the Central Pacific railway through an arid belt, in which rain has never before known to fall, the heavy blasting required was followed by rain, and the rain lasted as long as the actual work of construction was being carried on. When active work of this nature ceased the rain stopped, and the region is now as dry as before. As this evidence comes from a most excellent authority, it is better proof even than the record of battles. If rain can be produced by the explosion of gaseous compounds, or by any other agent, the results would warrant a very considerable expenditure, for many millions of acres of fertile soil in the far west only need moisture to make them productive. But we fear there are too many conditions to be filled to make this artificial downpour certain and efficient, even if it can be produced by the means now to be tested.

Does Mining Pay?.

The assertion is frequently made that for every dollar in precious metals dug out of the earth, its equivalent in toil, energy or means is expended. The absurdity of the assertion is so apparent that refutation is unnecessary, yet there are those who actually believe it it to be a fact, and the absence, heretofore, of accurate data on production capital invested, value of plants and the amount paid to labor, lend to it considerable force.

Statistics compiled by the census office furnish information omitted from the annual reports of the mint, on the relation of cost to production. The coin value of gold and silver produced during 1889 was $99,283,732, divided as follows: Gold, $32,886,744, or 28 per cent. of the world's product; silver, $66,396,988, or 41 per cent. of the product of the world. The value of the lead and copper which are a component part of the product, is not given, leaving a considerable item of profit from the grand total product of gold and silver mines. The cost of production, including smelting, wages and supplies, was $33,451,130, leaving a net profit of $65,832,590, and this is exclusive of the lead and copper output, which swell the total to at least $40,000,000. The total value of mining plants is placed at $405,960,566, made up of buildings, railroads, machinery, underground improvements, mine supplies and cash, while the actual value of the mines exclusive of the above items is $638,094,821. The difference between the improvements and the cash value of the mines is $137,865,745, and on this sum the owners netted in 1889 a clear profit of $40,000,000. Who dare say mining does not pay?

Of the 6,004 mines on which returns of production in labor statistics were made, 268 were reported idle; 1,000 were reported working but not producing bullion; 28 as producing over $500,000 worth of bullion; 44 as producing $250,000 to $500,000; 107 as producing $100,000 to $250,000; 95 from $25,000 to $100,000; 437 from $10,000 to $50,000; 1,408 from $1,000 to $10,000, and 1,610 less than $1,000.

From the statistics it appears that the labor employed in the actual production of the precious metals is better paid, and more productive in fact, than any other industry thus far (May, 1891), reported in the bulletin by the eleventh census.

The average earnings of all the persons employed at the gold and silver mines, 57,635, was $725 a year, while the average output per man amounted to $1,723 a year.

Twenty-eight gold, silver, copper and quicksilver mining companies, which make public statements, paid dividends during June of this year to the amount of $1,341,691, and sixty-six companies paid $7,152,251 in dividends during the first six months of the present year. This amount is considerably in excess of that paid during the same time last year, and there is a prospect that it will be surpassed during the second half of this year.

Montana and the Teachers.

The decision of the National Educational association to meet in Helena in 1892, caused surprise in many quarters. No great effort was made to secure the honor, yet the city had a walkaway in the contest. Why was this thusly? Were the wielders of the rod fascinated by the magic name of Montana's capitol? To be sure the delightful location of the city, its charming array of tree topped mountains and emerald valleys, its famed Broadwater bath, the hospitality and enterprise of its people, are considerations of great moment, but these alone would not outweigh the attractions of less distant cities. Weightier reasons swing the pendulum of popularity toward Helena.

The city clusters around Last Chance gulch. In that ravine some twenty years ago, a party of prospectors, wearied of the chase for gold, pitched their shacks, and vowed that if the prospect did not pan out they would face about and take the trail for home. Fortune smiled upon their labors and the lake christened Helena grew strong and vigorous, blossomed into a radiant beauty and became the acknowledged belle of the northwest.

The potent power of Last Chance is not limited to glittering gold. It has other attractions. Montana contains more bachelors to the square acre than any state in the union. They are fairly well fixed in the world's goods, and Helena is their Mecca. Putting this and that together the foresight of the schoolma'ams stands out in bold relief. Their visit to Helena may prove a last chance in the matrimonial line.

The significance of the meeting is thoroughly understood in the mountain state. While the masculine spinsters of Helena calmly await the onset, hoping to monopolize the matrimonial market, Butte's aggregation of singles are on the alert. The Butte Miner avers that "there are several thousand handsome, prosperous and chivalric young bachelors in that city who would be good 'catches' for the best girls in christendom. With the meeting in Helena a committee from the Butte bachelor club will go over in disguise, to look at the intellectual aggregation and report. If the ma'ams are—as we believe they are—the genuine, bright-eyed, sunny-faced darlings who are compelled to wear masks to prevent the big boys in school from falling in love with them, then will Butte's young gallants sally forth and do the honors, which means of course, that Helena's well meaning, but unfortunate youths will be relegated to the rear in short order."

The Helena meeting promises to be the most successful yet held by the association, even though the membership suffer a decided falling off.

In Man's Attire.

For the past month Contractor Owens of San Francisco has had a large gang of laborers employed in making excavations for the erection of residences on Park Hill. Among them was one whose effeminate actions and appearance aroused the suspicions of the laborers that they had among them a woman wearing a man's clothes and doing a man's work.

Last week Mr. Owens had occasion to increase his force, and he assigned a man named Welland to work with the gang in which the laborer of doubtful gender was. When the noon hour came the suspect, who was known as "Fritz," was observed to shun the rest and retire to a secluded spot. After eating their dinner the men filled and lit their pipes, while "Fritz," sitting apart from the others, read a letter.

Welland is a German, and recognizing in "Fritz" a fellow country man he walked over to where "Fritz" lay stretched out on the hillside and asked carelessly: "Wie gehts, landsman?"

On hearing this salutation "Fritz" turned toward Welland, but immediately turned away again. Although "Fritz's" face was turned toward Welland for only a moment, he recognized it as that of Miss Catherine Bauer. Stepping closer to Catherine, he called her by name, when the unhappy "Fritz" burst into tears.

Comprehending her situation, Welland asked her to go to the foot of the hill to assist him in carrying up some tools. When they were well away from their fellow workmen Welland asked Catherine why she was masquerading in male attire and working as a laborer. She said her father had died about four months ago, and that she had disguised herself to earn a livlihood and support her aged mother, who lives on the outskirts of Ukiah. She said she had been working for Contractor Owens for three months and begged Welland to keep her secret.

Welland, who knew Catherine and her parents when they were in better circumstances, told the foreman, Blanchard, of his discovery, and a purse was raised among the laborers to assist Catherine. As soon as the contractor arrived in the evening he was informed of the discovery and he at once took Miss Bauer to his home, where she will be given employment as a domestic.

Miss Bauer is rather good looking and is about twenty-four years of age. She says that prior to working for Mr. Owens she was employed as a servant girl at 1418 Howard street.

Washington's Coal Pile.

The claim is boldly made that there is more coal in the state of Washington than in all the Atlantic states combined. Workable veins of coal exist in eighteen counties in Washington and cover an area of over 1,000,000 acres. Toward the development of this great source of wealth but little has been done and much remains to be done. Twenty-four veins are being worked, comprising an area of about 16,000 acres, which gave an output of coal in 1890 of 1,750,000 tons and a probable output in 1891 of 2,500,000 tons, while the area worked out is less than 2,000 acres. Other companies are at work developing 60 other veins, comprising an area of about 30,000 acres, some of which will be among the producers of 1892. Thus one and six-tenths per cent of the known coal lands of the state is held by companies which are shipping coal and three per cent more is held by companies preparing to make shipments.

What of the other 95 4-10 per cent of coal lands? They are held under claims by prospectors who have made the discoveries. Some of these prospectors lack even money to pay the government price for the land. Others who have their lands are awaiting means of transportation to take their product to market. The discoveries already made show Washington to possess the largest coal field in the United States—probably the largest in the world, and a large part of the territory has not yet been prospected. The coal exists in ten different measures, or distinct groups of veins, which show distinct characters of coal varying over a wide range of usefulness and chemical composition; from true cannel, showing 88 per cent volatile hydrocarbons, to a semi-anthracite of 91 per cent fixed combustible carbon. Between these two extremes are found all grades of gas, domestic, steam, coking and blacksmith coals.

A Fortunate Clean-Up.

In an interview in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a San Francisco millionaire tells the story of his start on the road to affluence. "Ten years ago," he says, "I stood without a nickel in my pocket outside of a restaurant door in San Francisco. I was indulging in an optical feast and wondering how all those good things in the window would taste if they were sliding down my hungry palate. I was trying to think how I could get the price of a meal, honestly or dishonestly, it mattered little. Before I had evolved a plan of action a prosperous looking man, who was flipping a half-dollar in his hand dropped it through an iron grating, and it fell into a subway below. He gave an almost unconcerned glance in the direction the coin had gone and then walked away. It was a 'ground-hog-case' for me, and I determined to secure that coin, so I walked into the restaurant and asked the proprietor if I might retrieve a $5 gold piece which I had dropped into the cellar. He replied, "Certainly," and gave me a hatchet with which I might remove a wooden bar that had been nailed across a door leading from the basement to the opening under the grate. There was much litter and dirt down there, and in searching for the coin I found many others, which had been dropped in a similar way. I cleaned up $8 from that dirt, an amount sufficient to dwarf an able-bodied appetite, secure a clean shirt and a proportionate amount of self-esteem and reliance. I visited men of influence whom I had not sufficient courage to visit before, and I have not been seriously insolvent since that time. Thus you may see on what a slender thread often hangs a chance in life.

Montana's Greatest Year.

The long continued rains which have made it somewhat unpleasant for pedestrians in the cities, have been a God-send to the state.

A trip through the Gallatin, the Flathead and the Deer Lodge valleys, says the Butte Miner, will open the eyes of the man who has been crying for immigration, and a glimpse of the ranges in eastern and northern Montana is a reminder of the value of rain. Never did Montana present a more inviting appearance to the farmer, the rancher or the miner. The streams which furnish water for the mines and smelters are swollen bank full; the valleys are gardens of luxuriant verdure and the ranges are adorned with a heavy growth of succulent, meat-producing grass.

The rains have given proof of the richness of Montana's soil, for in sections where it was feared that even with irrigation the land would not be productive, the grass is from six inches to two feet in height. Tourists and business men traveling through the state on the lines of railroad which traverse her wonderful valleys and cross her ore-filled mountains are treated to a delightful surprise, and all of them agree that this is not only the richest mineral state in the world, but that its agricultural and grazing lands are the finest that ever yielded golden grain or fattened a romping steer.

The rain is all right. It has added millions of dollars to the wealth of Montana and attracted the attention of the investor and the homesseeker. As a result next year's immigration to this state will be greater than that of any previous year.

Wyoming's Coal Product.

The report of the directors of the Union Pacific railway shows that during the year 1889 the total output mined and sold from the six coal camps operated by the company amounted to 1,050,074 tons, of which Rock Springs furnished about three-fourths, or 695,264 tons. In 1890 Rock Springs furnished 652,408 tons, although the total output from all the camps was 1,278,178 tons. Hanna and Pleasant Valley supplied most of the increased output in 1890, as they were not in operation the previous year. The total receipts for coal in 1889 were $1,625,487—a very pretty amount and one upon which the casual reader would say the company reaped a handsome profit. As a matter of fact their coal business that year was conducted at a loss of $47,923. The gross receipts for the coal mined at Rock Springs in 1889 was $891,938, but it actually cost the company $911,473* to get that coal out. Bringing it down to the price and cost per ton they sold their coal in 1889 for an average of $1.54 8-10 per ton and it cost them $1.59 4-10 per ton to get it out.

It was very little better in 1890, although the profits were small. Their total receipts for coal sold in 1890 were $1,909,992, of which Rock Springs furnished $885,731. Their total profit on this large business was only $75,434, of which Rock Springs furnished $16,862. The price per ton in 1890 was $150 6-10—a decrease of nearly 5 cents per ton over 1889. The cost per ton was $1.44 7-10 a decrease of nearly 15 cents of 1889.

The Coyote Bounty.

California's coyote bounty law, which was passed last winter for the benefit of the sheep owners, and which went into operation on May 29, is operating in a manner that is filling the taxpayers and the fruit growers of the state with dismay. It provides that for each coyote killed $5 shall be paid out of the state treasury to the person presenting the scalp to the clerk of the board of supervisors of each county. Although only eleven of fifty-four counties in the state have been heard from, the claims for bounty aggregated, on July 11, $10,890. A banking firm in Tulare county, which has not yet reported, has notified the state comptroller that it holds claims for $4,000. Were all these claims based on the scalps of coyotes killed in California the case would not be so scandalous. But it has been learned that enterprising Californians are importing scalps from Arizona, New Mexico and Lower California. A customs inspector on the lookout for Chinese on the Mexican frontier recently seized a package of fifty coyote skins that the owner was trying to smuggle into the state. It is learned, furthermore, that the bounty has called into existence a new and profitable industry—that of breeding coyotes. As a female coyote can produce three litters of seven pups a year, she is worth something like $100 to her owner.

Educational Lands.

To the national government's bounty the western states are largely indebted for the magnificent condition of their educational interests. Lavish donations of public lands together with a per cent. of the receipts from sales have helped to rear substantial buildings and liberally endow the public schools.

Congress has donated to South Dakota 620,000 acres of land for different purposes as follows: One hundred and twenty thousand acres for agricultural colleges, 40,000 acres for the reform school, 40,000 acres for the school of mines, 40,000 acres to the deaf and dumb asylum, 40,000 acres for the university, 40,000 acres for the normal schools, 50,000 acres for public buildings, 170,000 acres for other educational and charitable institutions. If the amount realized from all these many acres could be put into one institution what a grand one it would make! Something like that at Ann Arbor, Michigan. The donated land is to be taken from the counties north of the Hills. Commissioner Thomas H. Ruth is instructed not to sell school lands for less than ten dollars per acre and he has sold some for fourteen dollars per acre.

California Boodle.

California political circles are stirred to their depth by a case now on trial in San Francisco which promises to expose the boodle methods of legislators.

George E. Fayton, a lobbyist, sues State Senators W. O. Banks, Thomas Mayer, and John F. Broderick of San Francisco county, and twenty other state senators, for pay for his services in engineering through the legislature what was known as the Glenn county bill.

Fayton alleges that the twenty-four defendants formed a combination at the last session of the legislature for the furtherance of this measure and that for the services performed as lobbyist in April last they acknowledged indebtedness to him in the sum of $6,000 but failed to pay that amount.

Counsel for Fayton stated in court that he proposed to show that the combine had divided $100,000 among its members.

Irrigation in California.

The organization of irrigation districts and the formation of incorporations for engaging in irrigating operations is proceeding at a rapid pace all over California, says the Chronicle. Never, indeed, was there so much activity in this line of development. Yesterday an irrigation district election was held at Tipton, Tulare county, and two others will shortly be held farther south. During the past week an incorporation was formed at Los Angeles with a capital of $1,000,000, for the purpose of irrigating a large tract on the border of the Mojave desert in San Bernardino county. Irrigation enterprises are under way throughout the entire length of the state, from Lassen to San Diego county. No other element will enter so largely into the future prosperity of the state as the extension of irrigation.

Unenviable Notoriety.

South Dakota, as a place of refuge for persons who have found marriage a failure and are seeking release from their bonds, has achieved international renown. The procurement of a divorce after six months' residence and for almost any cause under the sun—"incompatibility of temper" being enough and to spare—is rendering the state justly popular with a great many people in every part of the continent. Already Sioux Falls has received and entertained throngs of people more or less prominent in society, and its growing importance both as a summer and winter resort for visitors with more money than domestic happiness is said to be enchancing real estate values and booming things generally.

Gold in Washington.

The town of Ellensburg, Wash., is excited over the discovery of gold in Menatash Canyon, fifteen miles from the city. Fine nuggets and dust are found daily and the gold is of high grade. Several good silver ledges have also been discovered in this canon. Gold has also been picked up in the hills north of this city. The whole country is wrought up to a high pitch, and many prospectors are fitting out and starting for the fields. Those who have returned are enthusiastic over the prospects and have dust or nuggets to back up their stories. A great deal of iron is also being uncovered by the gold hunters.

A Potato Glut.

Potatoes are a drug in the market in San Francisco. There is practically no sale, and tens of thousands of them are rotting on the wharves of the city. One million sacks are already stored on the water front, and this is being increased daily, while the local consumption amounts to but 3,000 sacks per day. There are enough potatoes there now to feed 10,000 hungry persons every day for a month, but no one appears to want the tubers even at 40 cents a hundred pounds, about half the regulation price.

Wyoming.

Newcastle has an oil exchange in full blast.

Buildings are multiplying rapidly at Gold Hill.

All roads in Wyoming now lead to mining camps.

Flattering reports of rich mineral come from all camps.

The Buckeye mine at Atlantic has been sold for $25,000 spot cash.

Intsrest in the coming state mining convention is increasing.

Cheyenne has added a building inspector to her metropolitan frills.

The Swedish society at Laramie is about to erect a new church building.

Ah Coon, a Chinese miner at Rock Springs, took the opium route to the hereafter.

Two Omaha business men are in Bonanza seeking a desirable site for a flour mill.

The Union Pacific returns Pullman property valued at $84,785 for state taxation.

Thh Union & Elkhorn Valley road have put on a passenger train between Deadwood and Denver.

Deposits of galena have been discovered near Casper, in the same vicinity as the asbestos fields.

The state encampment on the Fort Sandere reservation is assured. State troops will be ordered into camp September 1.

James F. Meskell, a member of the Mill creek placer company, brought to Laramie a small sack of gold nuggets as big as peas.

Attention is being directed to the recent discoveries of placers in the Tongue river region in the northwestern part of this territory.

The Platte Valley Lyre of Saratoga gives forth sweet music to the touch of two women—Gertrude M. and Laura C. Huntington.

The Wyoming commissioners to the world's fair have decided to erect a state building and will use Wyoming material, stone, etc, as far as possible.

The Deer Creek Coal company's mines at Glenrock, are on fire. It is believed the fire started in the stables under ground, though possibly the work of an incendiary. The mines will be flooded.

Isaac Nelson, a shop employe at Cheyenne, is in big luck, having received notification from Boston, Mass., that his wife, lately deceased, has left him and his daughter the sum of $100,000, mostly cash.

In the Brush creek placer mines, owned by Colonel Downey and Captain Mullison, at a depth of sixty feet, another mystery has been encountered. While timbering one side of the shaft caved in, disclosing an immense cavern, the dimensions of which were too great to be ascertained at the time.

Track laying on the Buffalo extension of the B. & M. is proceeding at the rate of a mile and a half per day. Nine miles are down west of Moorcroft, and the track will be completed to the new town on the head of Donkey creek by August 5, when the company expect to be ready to ship stock to that place. It will shorten the stage ride to Buffalo to seventy miles.

The Rawlins Journal advocates a fund for the erection of a monument over the grave of Managi, the Samoan chief who died on the train and was buried at that place last week. Managi was one of the Samoans who assisted in rescuing eighty drowning soldiers from the wrecked United States man-of-war on the coast of one of the Samoan islands, and his grave should not go unnoticed by the patriotic people of Wyoming.

California.

The asessed value of Los Angeles, Cal., is $3,000,000 less than last year.

The Chinese restriction act has raised the wages paid to Chinaman on the Pacific coast almost double.

The Humboldt county school census shows a total of 4,576 children—a loss of about 300 since last year; but there is a gain of 302 children under five years of age.

The Masons of Reading have decided to lay the corner stone of their new temple on Friday, August 7. The event will be one of great ceremony and the day will be generally observed there as a holiday.

Boring for natural gas in Stockton is an enterprise that has become too common there to excite remark. The new $300,000 courthouse is lighted and heated throughout by gas from a well bored by the county.

Apples are as profitable a crop in California as oranges. A grower, whose ranch is up 4,000 feet in the Sierra Nevadas, figures out a return of $2,106 per acre gross at the rate of 6¼ cents per pound, which he received.

The citrus belt seems to be able to raise something besides organes—mortgages, for instance. Property in Riverside is mortgaged to the extent of $3,407,310.81, and in San Bernardino the mortgage crop amounts to $1,028,135.42.

The register of the land office in Los Angeles has compiled statistics showing that there are many thousand acres of public arable land as yet unsold in the district, the principal drawback being the lack of water for irrigating purposes.

A peculiar feature of development seen within the past year or two in California has been the organization of incorporated companies for the purpose of planting trees and vines. There must be several hundred of such institutions now in operation.

Riverside has completed the shipment of her orange crop for the season of 1890-91. It reached 1375 carloads, and returned to the producers upward of $1,250,000. There are something like 4,000 acres of bearing orange trees at Riverside, which would give an average return of over $300 to the acre.

One hundred and twenty thousand dollars have passed over the counter of the Bank of Vacaville, according to the statement of Edward Fisher, the cashier, for the payment of fruit shipped to eastern points, as against $90,000 up to the same time last year. One hundred and sixty-one cars of green fruit and four cars of dried fruit were shipped east this year, as against ninety-three up to the same time last year.

A Tulare county, California, paper springs this story on its readers: A number of bees selected the garret of a local church for a hive, storing in it many tons of honey. The recent hot weather caused the wax to melt, which loosened the store of sweetness. The weight was too heavy for the church rafters to hold and the whole partition of the roof caved in over the pulpit. The church pews and pulpit were completely buried in honey and melting wax.

Montana.

Great Falls is negotiating for a glass factory.

Park county's assessment roll foots up $8,000,000.

Gallatin county shows an assessed valuation of $5,970,690.

A slice of Great Falls real estate was sold to Seattle parties for $112,000.

The Moscow mine at Butte has been sold to the Parrot company for $90,000.

Irrigation ditches in Gallatin county are now used to carry off the surplus of water.

The national government proposes to establish a fish hatchery in northern Montana.

The tramp who murdered Joe Clancey at Billings, decorated a telegraph pole a few hours after the crime.

It is stated that a leading Boston firm has purchased over 1,000,000 pounds of Montana wool at from 17 to 18 cents.

Burglars and sneak thieves have become an unbearable nuisance in Helena. A vigilance committee is threatened.

The number of tourists visiting the park this season falls 300 short of the number who arrived in Livingston to date last summer.

J. T. Woldridge, formerly operator at the depot at Missoula, but more recently agent and operator at Stevensville, was thrown from his horse at Stevensville and almost instantly killed.

It is reported that two men recently did a profitable piece of work in the Ivanhoe, in the Okanagon country. In three hours' work they broke off the ledge and scored sixty sacks of ore, worth $1,000 a ton.

The lessee has made another important strike in the Blue Bird, near Wickes, a clean streak of galena being encountered that will run over two ounces in silver. This mine will certainly become an important producer.

A new vein was recently struck by the Horr canal company. The mine was opened up 3,000 feet, and an immense supply of coal has been uncovered. Sixty more coke ovens will soon be added, giving a capacity of 150 tons per day.

During a terrific thunder-storm in Deer Lodge valley lightning struck the house of Evan P. Thomas. The man and wife were in bed, with a little child between them. The father and mother were killed, but the child was not harmed.

The Omaha lode, located on Carpenter Creek, is owned by H. Matthes et al. The vein is now three and one-half to four feet wide and carries pay ore one foot in width in a shaft of twenty feet. The assays have given seventeen, twenty-seven and thirty-two ounces of silver, $2 in gold per ton, and 68.7 and 70 per cent lead. Butte parties offered to pay $3,900 and sink a shaft 100 feet for a one-third interest. The Omaha is a bonanza.

Utah

The mercury and politics are in the ascendant.

A find of almost pure Galena ore has been made about eight miles from Paradise.

The Bingham mining exchange is now in a flourishing condition, and is doing a rushing business.

A startling phenomenon was witnessed in Salt Lake recently. The Tribune commended the project to rear a monument to Brigham Young.

A number of prominent Salt Lake and Provo business men have become interested in the establishing of a new bathing resort at the mouth of Provo river.

The Utah canning factory at Ogden expects to can 30,000 cases of jellies, fruits, etc. Three thousand barrels of pickels will be put up, and a like amount of vinegar manufactured.

The Samson property at Bingham, a bullion producer, is to be incorporated and its stock placed upon the market. The Samson was recently sold for $65,000, the bargain of late years in this territory.

Stockmen say that more cattle have been shipped from Utah this season than any previous year. Forty-nine car loads of southern Utah cattle, 1,500 head, divided into four trains, started east recently. The steers are from the ranch of Wooley, Lind and Judd, and were sold to Mr. Swan of Chicago.

For the first six months of the present year the mines of Utah have paid dividends as follows: Daly, $225,000; Horn Silver, $100,000; Ontario, $150,000; Petro, $12,500; Centennial-Eureka, $120,000; Champion, $60,000; Mammoth, $240,000. Total, $757,500, with a score or more mines of lesser note to hear from.

The shipments of metals from Salt Lake city for the week ending July were as follows: 61 cars of silver and lead ores, 2,229,180 pounds; 9 cars bullion, 272,471; total 70 cars, or 2,501,651 pounds. The receipts of ore and bullion for the week ending the 22d instant, inclusive were to the total value of $163,794.68, of which $83,556.50 was in ore and $80,238.18 in bullion.

Recent arrivals from Deep Creek country brought in ore from a new place which is said to be a fine strike. It comes from Thomas Creek, on the east side of the Deep Creek valley, in the Deep Creek range, in what is known as Durs t's Canyon. The ore brought in came from the surface, and is rich in gold.

Idaho.

Bishop Talbot is trying to raise $5,000 for the purpose of erecting an Episcopal female seminary at Boise.

News comes from Smoky that a four-foot vein of high-grade ore has lately been struck in the Carrie Leonard. This mine is being worked by leasers, and they are jubilant over their good luck.

Unless some unforseen difficulty arises within the next few days a train will be run through the Northern Pacific tunnel on the Cœur d'Alene cut-off, thus completing the connection between Mullan, Idaho, and Missoula, Mont.

The Mullan Tribune states that a rich strike of opals was made by Joseph Davis near the head of Mill creek recently. He brought several of them with him into Mullan and a jeweler at once purchased them in the rough for $86. Davis says there are gunny sacks full of the gems where he got his samples.

Aaron P. Parker, a journalist of Idaho, telegraphs from Orangeville as follows: "Theibert Walls has just arrived here from Elk City with news that Dr. Poyner of Palermo, Wash., has made a fabulous gold strike on the Red river. He has a four-foot ledge absolutely thick all over with gold. From all accounts it is a genuine and wonderful strike."

It is a delicate subject with us, cries the Idaho Falls Times, but we are very much embarassed financially, and as free from money as a frog is of feathers. If some of you folks that owe us on subscription could have a photograph of our empty st—— pockets you would hustle a dollar or so and change the picture. Our cash receipts have been so light the last month that a Hessian fly could cast them up in ten seconds. We dislike this contraction of the currency very much, and you, one and all, should extend a hand to help us out of the money panic we are undergoing. P. S.—Don't forget to have some silver in your hand when extended.

South Dakota.

President Cooper of the Iron Hill mines has made arrangements to ship ore to the Omaha smelter.

A detailed statement of public land in the Rapid City land office district shows a total of 8,875,880 acres, of which only 1,967,780 are surveyed.

In an open cut on the Caroline and Bavaria lodes, situated within the city limits of Deadwood, a strike of ore body assaying $69 in gold and silver was made on Thursday and has created a great deal of excitement.

The total valuation of property in Deadwood as returned by the assessor and equalized by the board of county commissioners is $1,721,055, divided into real estate, $1,206,865; personal property, $514,820. The total is in round figures but $120,000 greater than for 1890.

Dr. Headden, president of the Dakota school of mines, is now making an examination of the galena deposits in Canyon district, Pennington county. If his report proves favorable a local syndicate stands ready to erect large concentrating works in the district.

A cave occurred in the Highland one of the Homestake group mines, at Lead City, on Wednesday night, tearing out all floors from the fourteenth down to the tenth and bringing down several thousand tons of ore. Debris is now being removed, so that this ore can be reached and melted.

Washington.

Cable cars will be running at Tacoma next month.

The Ten Mile region near Whatcom is overrun with bears.

At a recent sale of public school land near Seattle, 1318 acres netted the county $81,339.

The transfers of real estate at Tacoma, Wash., so far this year amount to $5,919,170.

At Keith, a bridegroom of a week is trying to recover his bride, who has been induced by her mother to forsake him and return to the parental roof.

Ore has been shipped from the Fourth of July mine, at Conconnully, by the way of Coulee City, to Tacoma, which has gone as high as $500 to the ton.

L. W. Hohensee, a prospector, has located new and splendid fields of coal, iron and asbestos, all within eight miles of Hamilton. The samples of abestos brought in by him show a fiber three to five inches long and as tough as cotton warp. It was taken from beneath a high bowlder, the weight of which gave paessure to the deposit.

The Railway Age says: "'Snohomish Skykomish and Spokane' is the name of a new railway in Washington. What a splendid title for exercising the advertising abilities of the general passenger agent! 'Take the great S., S. and S., the great Sno-Sky-Sho line; hardest name and shortest route on the continent; the original and only Shoh-Skyk-Spok Road,' etc. etc."

Nevada.

Horse-owners on the Rees river ranges complain of the work of vandals in denuding the animals of the hair of their manes and tails.

The berry crop on the ranches surrounding Carson is magnificent this year, and if the weight of the apples don't break the trees down Carson will have apples for the state.

Small parties are being made up in Carson to go to the Pine Nut region, twenty-five miles from that city, where recent gold discoveries have been made.

A thunder storm Friday afternoon came near wiping out the mountain town of Genoa. About 3 o'clock a cloud burst near where the big snowslide occurred years ago. In a few moments a great flood came down three separate canyons, sweeping everything before it.

The best paying property in Nevada is a mine, whose history is thus told by the Central Nevadan: "Simeon Wenban had run the Garrison tunnel at great expense and was left a poor man, owing his creditors $150,000. There was not a pound of ore in sight whereby the debt might be paid. As a last resort, with a forlorn hope, after the mine had been closed, Simeon Wenban drilled a hole in the hanging wall and blasted out a huge piece of rock, which he found to be almost a solid block of metal and part of an immense vein which had been paralleled hundreds of feet. This fortunate last effort marked a sudden change that seldom falls to the lot of man. It was Wenban, the poor man, the laborer, before that blast was fired; it was Simeon Wenban, the millionaire, but a second thereafter. The first month's run of his little mill gave him $80,000, and ever since he has grown more wealthy."

Idaho.

Idaho secures $35,000 for the survey of public lands.

The Methodists are building a church at Pocatello.

Semi-annual reports of the state treasurer show receipts, $173,083; expenses, $75,824.

Malad valley, exclaims the Enterprise, has the best agricultural lands, the best horses, the prettiest girls, the sweetest babies, the kindest wives, the noblest husbands in the land. All we lack is a good public school to compete with heaven and the angels.

The silver vein on the 500 foot level of the Washington mine, near Idaho City, is five feet wide, and promises to be the biggest bonanza in Idaho. It caries crystalized ruby silver, native silver and a little bromide. The ore is very rich, some of it running 1,300 ounces per ton. Further developments will have to be made to determine its extent.

The Familiar Snarl.

The man was carrying a large basket covered with a newspaper, says the Detroit Free Press, and the woman carried a baby. There was a cry of all aboard! as they hurried through the gate at the railroad station and they ran forward as fast as they could with their burdens.

"Next time you'll begin to get ready sooner, I guess," growled the man hurriedly tossing his basket on to the car platform and pushing his wife up after it.

"I guess you'll walk faster, that's what I guess," she replied, reaching down for the baby's blanket, which had slipped off. "I told you all the time you'd have to hurry."

"Y-a-as, you did."

"Y-a-as, I did."

"A good deal you did; you told me nothing, that's what you told me. Now we've got to have that trunk come by express. We've got no check and no time to get no check. There's 75 cents lost through your dilly-dallying."

"Through my dilly nothing. Why don't you get into one of these seats? Do you want me to lug this baby through the whole train."

They bundled into a seat and the man looked at his watch.

"Say," he said, "it was the conductor of the other train that hollered all aboard. We've got fifteen minutes yet."

"Well, why don't you go and get the trunk checked, then?" You're slower'n molasses anyway."

"Ya-as I am."

"Ya-as, you are."

The man shuffled out of the car at this point and left the passengers without any amusement to speak of until he returned.

An Equine Joker.

A Mansfield, Ohio, doctor is the owner of a horse which has a fondness for playing practical jokes. Recently the physician drove out into the country to answer a sick call. Arriving at his destination, he tied his horse to a post near which hung a rope attached to a large bell used as a dinner signal for employes on the place, and went inside. Shortly after the bell rang violently. The doctor and the man of the house both looked out, but could see nothing except the horse. They had hardly turned away, however, before the bell rang again, and again they looked but could see nothing. This was repeated, and the doctor determined to solve the mystery, so, at the third ring, instead of going into the house, he stepped out and hid in the y