SHEARING SHEEP BY STEAM

Casper Boasts the First Plant of the Kind in the United States.

DESTINED TO SUPPLANT HAND SHEARING

Its Longer Clip is Worth More Per Pound, Besides Weighing More Than the Yield from the Old Process.

CASPER, Wyo., April 25.—Proud indeed are the citizens of Casper's first manufacturing enterprise, the steam shearing plant. This plant is located about two miles directly north of the town, immediately on the north bank of the North Platte river. The building is a large frame structure, enclosed with corrugated iron, surrounded with large pens. The engine furnishing the motive power is a forty-horse power. The shears are an English invention, having been in use in Australia and South Africa for several years, and this is their first introduction into the United States. The shears are very similar to the machine used to clip horses, except that they are wider and stronger built and have a faster motion. In shearing the sheep is held in the same position as in hand shearing, and the speed of the shearer is attained in his skill to make a long clip.

The plant started up in full blast last Sunday on a herd of wethers belonging to J. B. Okie. The wethers weighed from twelve to fourteen pounds, and are considered about as hard a class of sheep to shear as can be found. The expert overseeing the starting of the plant is teaching the men how to use the machine, and while the men cannot make the speed they can with hand shears, it is the belief of the writer that no person that has seen the machine work but is convinced that the day of shearing sheep by hand is a thing of the past. William Marquis, one of the fastest hand shearers in the world and the man who won the world's prize for hand shearing, was a visitor at the pens and after he saw the expert shear a sheep he turned to his companions and said: "Boys, she does the work. I am going to pitch in and learn to handle her. She has come to stay, and while I don't take odds off any man shearing sheep by hand, I am going to become an expert with the machine."

Mr. Marquis, with only three days' knowledge of the machines, sheared 100 Tuesday. This same man last year, working with hand shears, averaged 150 sheep daily. The steam shears shear a longer staple, do closer work, and there is no danger of cutting the sheep. New men have a tendency to crowd the machine, and by doing this they pull out a lot of wool and bring the blood to the surface, but this fault never occurs with one thoroughly acquainted with the use of the machine. The plant is owned by a stock company backed by J. B. Okie of Lost Cabin, Wyo. It was through the influence of Mr. Okie that the machines were brought here, and to J. B. Okie Casper is indebted for her first permanent industry in the manufacturing line, and to his enterprise the wool growers of this section are under obligations. Two hand-sheared sheep just out of the Casper Creek pens were caught, and from one the machine sheared twelve ounces of wool and from the other thirteen ounces.

The commission men here from the east claim that the machine wool will bring at least a cent more a pound than that sheared by hand. Taking these two things into consideration, the machines are surely a great thing for the wool growers, who are faced with a low wool market.

At this writing 4,000 sheep are daily being sheared here at the three sheep shearing pens.

Although Casper is not perhaps the largest sheep shearing point in the United States, she has the only steam shearing plant in the country.

SOUTH PASS MINING DISTRICT.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., April 29.—The history of the rise and fall of the great excitement in the great South Pass Mining district, is familiar to almost every newspaper reader in the country. There are yet many rich lodes in that section which will some day prove veritable treasures to their owners. One of these is the famous Burr mine, from which more gold has been taken than from any other property in the district. This mine has four well defined veins of ore running parallel the full length of the property. These veins are from four to sixteen feet in thickness. Some of the ore taken from this mine has milled from $500 to $5,000 a ton. The story of the discovery of this property by A. T. Burr, from whom it received its name, is full of interest. It was away back in the sixties that Mr. Burr came to the Sweetwater country from Montana, where he had been engaged in mining. A soldier friend from Fort Washakie, who was on a furlough, came with him. At Atlantic City Mr. Burr met S. L. Spangler, an acquaintance, who recommended that they begin prospecting in the vicinity of a certain spring in a gulch to the east of Atlantic.

The two men found the gulch and the spring. A few yards beyond the spring was a bare spot of ground, which upon examination Mr. Burr found to be a gravel formation. Taking a pan of this gravel he went to the spring and panned it out, the yield being 25 cents in gold. The second pan washed out 50 cents and a nugget that weighed $6. This proved that the gulch was rich and the two men laid their plans to mine in a business-like way. A trench was cut to bed rock and the dirt washed in the water. They were engaged in this work two or three weeks and took out considerable gold.

JOHN STRUCK THE LEAD.

A Chinaman came along one day and hired out to them to do the cooking and assist in the use of the rocker. One day, about a month after they had taken possession of the ground, the Chinaman prepared dinner at the tent and then went down to the diggings to call his employers. The two miners went to dinner, leaving the Chinaman at work cleaning the dirt from the bed-rock, which Mr. Burr had been examining with great care, as the pay dirt had disappeared and this had convinced him that the gold had come from a lead near at hand and it was his opinion that he had passed it. The Celestial cleaned the rock with great care while the men were eating their dinner, but before they had finished the heathen set up a howl which soon brought the miners out of their tent to see what was the matter.

The Chinaman kept up his cries until his companions came running to him in amazement, wondering whether the red skins were in sight or if he had suddenly gone crazy. Arriving on the ground the Chinaman exhibited to them some specimens of quartz literally studded with gold. The Chinaman had discovered the lead and the Burr mine was a reality.

A few days afterward the soldier was obliged to return to his regiment at Fort Washakie. As he passed through Lander he sold at the bank $280 worth of gold. Mr. Burr worked on and during the next few weeks took out about $1,000. In less than five years he took out more than $8,000 worth of gold. This gold was hammered out of the quartz in a small hand mortar, the most crude manner possible of treating the ore.

The Burr Mining company, of which Hon. J. D. Woodruff of Lander is the president, the present owner of the property, purchased it from Mr. Burr in July, 1893. Very little development work was done last season, but the company had made arrangements to thoroughly test the property. The latest improved mining machinery will be used. The company has several hundred tons of ore on the dump which was taken out this winter. It is to be expected that this season's work will demonstrate beyond peradventure the great wealth of the mining camp. It, however, is not a place for men without capital. It will require a large sum of money to develop the property in that section.

LARAMIE'S LATEST STRIKE.

Prof. Wilbur C. Knight of the university has just completed the assay of a number of samples of what he says is the finest galena ore he has ever tested in Wyoming. The ore he has just assayed comes from the Morgan district and was taken from a new prospect discovered by C. B. Richle, says the Laramie Republican. One assay from the prospect ran 246 ounces in silver, $2.20 in gold and 63 per cent in lead. Another sample went $17 in gold and eighty-seven ounces in silver. Two more assays taken from the lead, which is three feet in width, averaged ninety ounces of silver to the ton, with a shade of gold and a big per cent of lead.

The new discovery is now being worked in the interest of the owners. The assays referred to were taken from the surface rock, but the work of developing the claim will be gone on with at once. The location is above the Morgan mine, just at the foot of the main range and at the head of Dutton and Cooper creeks. The richness of the ore brought to town is unquestioned, and if the lead holds out the prospect will prove a bonanza to the owners and will cause a great rush to the Morgan district as the season advances.

The entire range from Rockdale to the north fork of the Little Laramie will probably be thoroughly prospected this season and it will be very strange if some rich strikes are not made. A piece of rock was picked up the other day from the surface of the North Star location, a claim just above the Morgan mine, and upon being assayed was found to run $700 in gold. The float found between the points mentioned will run anywhere from $10 to $30 a ton, but whether its richness continues under the surface or not is something that nothing but development work will prove.

WYOMING OIL FIELDS.

Mr. B. L. Olds, purchasing agent of the Union Pacific, Denver & Gulf railway, came in on the Cheyenne & Northern from a trip to the central Wyoming oil fields near Casper, says the Cheyenne Tribune. Mr. Olds has been making a personal investigation of these oil fields and gathering information as to their extent, the facilities for production, character and quality of the oil and all other features of the matter. At the present time the only outlet to market is by the Northwestern system, which is under the control of the Vanderbilts. This line, like most of the big trunk lines, is receiving at all times enormous patronage from the Standard Oil company, which controls most of the oil production of the country, but has not yet seized that of Wyoming. In consequence, the Northwestern has not even seen fit to make rates by which the Wyoming oil can be marketed. It charges $700 to transport a car of oil for the same distance that it charges $200 to transport a car of cattle. The inference is very plain that the Northwestern does not want the oil carrying trade.

The well owners have applied to the Denver & Gulf railway for a freight rate from Orin Junction to the gulf. If a satisfactory rate is obtained the Pipe Line company, which has already been incorporated, will at once commence the work of building the pipe line. Eighty miles of pipe line, with two pumping stations, will connect the wells with the Denver & Gulf at Orin Junction. A three-inch main will be laid. Ample capital is ready to be put into the line the moment the fact is assured that a market can be reached for the oil so that it can be shipped at a reasonable profit.

The quantity of the product is unknown. At the present time two wells which the Pennsylvania company have in operation have a capacity of 250 barrels per month each. There is 150,000 acres of oil lands in the belt, all of which is said to be equally rich in oil, and the number of wells which may be put down is almost unlimited.

The interest taken by the Denver & Gulf officials in the resources of central Wyoming and in the country tributary to the Cheyenne & Northern is awakening new hope in the people of these portions of the state, and the feeling is growing that there is soon to be a substantial development of the resources which have so long lain dormant.

GREEN RIVER PLACERS.

The placer diggings on Green River have been attracting a large amount of attention during the past few weeks. Thousands of acres have been located and considerable development work done. Numerous holes have been sunk and the deepest is fifteen feet, but even then bed-rock was not reached, says the Green River Star. From the surface the pay seems about the same for the entire depth. Sufficient gold it is claimed is found from the top down to make the whole pay dirt. The new devices for saving fine gold will be given a thorough test here and if they do the work successfully machines will be shipped in by the hundreds, for the pay ground extends 200 miles.

A new machine from Omaha is now being put up and another is expected in a day or two from New Mexico. If these get to work we will know something of the possibilities of the Green River placers. There will also be a new electrical machine put in soon, which the inventors claim is the thing for flour gold.

One thing is certain, the prospects brought down from the rockers on the river show up immense, and if much pay dirt like this is struck the Green River placers will be the wonder of the age. Parties who have looked over the ground claim that all the bars in the river are as rich as those now being worked and this means miles upon miles of good pay ground. Ah Say and other Chinese experts claim that from the work they have done that these bars will pay good wages worked by the simplest process. It was rumored that they are now engaged in making arrangements to bring in several hundred Chinamen.

Mining experts by the dozen have been here recently, and all except one pronounce the placers as remarkably rich and all say that the new placer machinery will be able to save the gold.

CHAIR OF IRRIGATION.

A very important conference has been held at Huron, S. D., upon the subject of practical irrigation work for the coming season. It was between Captain C. S. Fassett, state engineer of irrigation, Dr. William Blackburn of Pierre university, Captain E. F. Sheldon, president of the board of trustees of the agricultural college, and President Shannon of the board of regents. The regents at their February meeting, says a special to the Sioux Falls Argus-Herald, made arrangements for the establishment of a "chair of irrigation" in the agricultural college, with a view to teaching irrigation engineering, the analysis and application of irrigating waters, etc., on the theory that irrigation is a science of great present interest to the people of this state, the teaching of which comes clearly within the scope of the provisions of both state and national legislation.

The faculty of the college have joined in the recommendation of a plan for immediate work for the present season only, the entire cost of which, teacher, expenses, bulletins and all, will be less than $1,000, and that is provided for mainly by national funds.

The teacher, it is proposed, shall do his work from May 1 to October, out in the fields of those farmers who have water and lands ready for crop. There are probably a score of these in the state and as many will be dealt with as can be reached with thorough work. All will be under the immediate charge of the college authorities and all official reports will emanate from the school. But the owners or operators of the lands and, in fact, all who at any point see fit to attend will receive instruction in laying out the lands, constructing reservoirs, ditching, applying the water to the various crops, in short, in everything pertaining to the theory and field work of irrigation after the water is secured and the land made ready. The state engineer offers to do all in his power to aid the matter, without charge to the college, and it is believed that several of the farmers having wells will aid in the local expenses of the instructor.

NEBRASKA.

A colt born at Fullerton last week had an extra leg, and its owner killed it.

O. D. Jones, a resident of Brock since 1854, is dead at the age of 72 years.

A patent has been granted to M. L. Hall of Omaha for a check row corn planter.

E. C. Wright has retired from the Wahoo Wasp, and will go to Idaho to edit a paper.

Young Frye, who was accused of robbing the postoffice at Lexington, has been acquitted.

The Nemaha County Teachers institute will be held at Auburn June 18 and continue in session two weeks.

The sheriff of Dawes county has started a rogues' gallery, and the first faces to adorn it are those of the men who robbed the depot at Crawford.

Traces of a mastodon have been discovered on a farm near Kearney, and scientists are now digging up the soil in the vicinity for the purpose of unearthing the carcass of the prehistoric mammal.

Howard Clarke of Papillion has become such an enthusiastic bicyclist that he is about to make a tour of Europe on his wheel. He starts for England May 2 and will spend the entire summer abroad.

Roy Baker, a son of a Furnas county farmer, went out to till the soil with a riding plow, and when he returned home in the evening his head was cut open for a distance of three inches. He didn't know he was hurt, though the blood was flowing from the wound freely. He had evidently been dazed by the accident, and is still unable to tell how it occurred.

Mrs. Catherine Clifton, probably the oldest person in the state, died the other day at her home in Alexandria. She was born November 9, 1787, in Lincoln county, North Carolina, and was therefore at the time of her death aged 106 years, 5 months and 15 days. She lived in her native state until she was 13 years old, and then moved to Tennessee. She afterwards lived in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and came from the last named state to Nebraska. She was of Irish and Pennsylvania Dutch descent, of strong build, and was a large and healthy woman. Last summer she planted and cultivated one of the best gardens in Alexandria. Her mind, too, was clear and strong to the last. Last January she was taken with la grippe and was not afterwards able to be out. Last week she had an attack of erysipelas and this was no doubt the cause of her death. Last week she presented her cane, which she had owned for the past fifty years, to a young druggist in appreciation of his kindness in bringing her medicine while she was sick. She became a Christian early in life and her faith never failed her in all these years of trial and affliction.

THE DAKOTAS.

A heavy hail storm visited Brookings, S. D., breaking the glass in the windows of nearly all the residences and business houses.

Spring seeding is well advanced in South Dakota, where the ground is reported in excellent condition, with an abundant supply of moisture.

Large numbers of prairie schooners are passing through in the vicinity of Faulkton every day, filled with emigrants for homes on cheap lands.

A feed mill engine at Iroquois blew up and smashed the building into kindling wood, and instantly killed Ted Calkins. Pieces of the engine went forty rods and several persons narrowly escaped.

A meeting of the Missouri River Stockmen's association and nonassociation committees is called for May 1 at Fort Pierre, to arrange wagons, etc., for the annual round up, which starts from Fort Pierre May 15.

Rhodes Bros., who have the contract to supply mares for the Indians, are shipping the horses to Kimball preparatory to delivery to the agency west of the river. There are now at that place about 300 head and more coming every day.

Dispatches from Edgemont are to the effect that the recent rains have so swelled the Cheyenne river that it has overflowed its banks, and fears are entertained that the wagon bridge and the B. & M. railway bridge will be washed out.

Major Clements, Indian agent, has been at Flandreau distributing houses and barns to the Flandreau Indians. About fifty houses and barns have been distributed among the Indians. Soon 250 head of cattle will be distributed among the same Indians.

At Northville a young man was engaged in cleaning out the bottom of a grain bin in an elevator when the adjoining bin burst, letting the immense load of grain in upon him, smothering him to death. A hole was cut in the side of the elevator in trying to reach him, but life was extinct when he was found.

Prospectors down from Bald mountain report more snow on the ground in that section than ever before known. One branch of the Deadwood Central railroad is covered with a ten-foot blanket of the beautiful, well packed, and should a heavy rain come there is no question but that an immense volume of water would down this gulch.

Work on the big irrigation ditch at Edgemont is progressing finely. The ditch will be completed in time for use to water this year's crop. The water will be stored in two large reservoirs until it is necessary to use it, and there will at all times be enough water to supply the land. The ditch is large enough to furnish a forty-horse power reserve of water to be used for manufacturing purposes at Edgemont.

A Hot Springs man who has had a force of men at work excavating fish ponds struck a few colors of gold in the gravel, which leads him to believe that the source of Solomon's revenue has been rediscovered at last. As a matter of fact, all the gravel in this country is more or less auriferous, and a healthy, industrious man can go out with a gold pan and make from 15 to 25 cents in most any sunshiny, ten-hour day.

The Highland Mining company at Lead are now having timbers put on the ground preparatory to adding forty more stamps to their 120 stamp mill, the work to commence as soon as the weather will permit. When this is completed this mill will be equal in size and capacity to the Star of the Homestake company, which has long been known as the largest gold stamp mill in the world. This improvement will necessitate an increased force in the Highland mine.

While Joseph Dusick, an Aurora county farmer, was hunting along the creek on the Metzer ranch in that county he killed a very fine specimen of water fowl. It was measured and stands five and one-half feet high, with a spread of wings of six feet. The plumage, which is in four different colors, is very beautiful. No one in the vicinity knows the name of this strange fowl, although there is little doubt that it belongs to the stork or heron family. Hunters who have killed birds of every variety common to the country say they never before saw anything of this kind. On account of there being no taxidermist within reach it was found impossible to preserve the interesting specimen.

COLORADO.

Ophir camp, San Miguel county, is employing about 150 miners.

Work on the Alice 200-ton concentrator has been begun at Yankee hill.

It is reported that the largest cyanide works in the state will be erected at Leadville.

If no late frosts occur there is every promise for a very large fruit crop in the Arkansas valley about Durango.

Mining troubles in Cripple Creek district are gradually dying out. The differences at issue are too small to last long.

A new drift has been started in the Moose at a depth of 100 feet. It is over seven feet wide and brings $350 to the ton.

Alfalfa is up and growing in the Arkansas valley. It is thirty days ahead of its development at this time last spring.

The Rio Grande river is low for this season of the year, and water is therefore not as plentiful as it should be in the San Luis valley.

The Silverton road will be open and operating into the Red Mountain district before May 1. An immense amount of ore is awaiting shipment.

In the Little Anna claim at Jasper a 16-inch vein of gold quartz has been struck, assaying thirteen ounces of gold and seven of silver to the ton.

The Raven tunnel, Cripple Creek, is in over 250 feet and is outside of the Jack Pot lines. A good vein is expected to be cut within a short distance.

The first sale of mining property in the Goose Creek district has just been made by L. Sherbano selling $50,000 worth of Goose Creek prospects to parties in the east.

Sunset claim, one and a half miles east of Balfour, owned by J. E. Roper, shows free gold at a depth of eleven feet, the first free gold shown at this depth in the camp.

The Fort Collins Express says that a train load of seventeen cars of fat lambs, valued at $17,000, left that city for the Chicago market. There were 3,500 in the lot and were the finest bunch of lambs ever shipped from Colorado.

Dubois camp is greatly excited over rich ore discovered on Wolf creek in the Iron Cap claim and the Gunnison lode. There is about one car of ore on the dump of the Iron Cap ready for shipment that, according to camp assays, shows $80 per ton.

Some good discoveries are reported in the vicinity of "Mossies Cabin," an old Arkansas river camp of the early 60's, where Oro City and Granite miners used to do placer mining. In this vicinity an eruptive porphyry occurs, in which prospecting has been going on the past winter.

The following figures show about the amount of money spent at La Jara the past six months: Grain and potatoes, $50,000; eggs, $10,000; butter, $10,000; poultry, $3,000; hogs, $15,000; cattle and sheep, $10,000; and farmers in that vicinity still have on hand about 50 cars of hay, 40 cars of potatoes, 30 cars of oats and 20 cars of wheat.

Consternation, says the Pueblo Chieftain, prevails in Huerfano county. Farmers along the Huerfano river who have used the water of that stream for many years have been ordered to discontinue irrigation on account of priority of water rights of farms in Pueblo county. The order practically means that there shall be no more farming in Huerfano county and that the water shall be allowed to flow through there to this county traversing on the way long reaches of sand which will absorb the most of it and do nobody much good. Every possible legal resistance will be made to the attempt to deprive Huerfano county of the water of its own streams.

OREGON.

At Toledo they are using a box car for a city jail. It is the only one they have.

A joint stock company is being organized in Hillsboro for a vegetable and fruit cannery.

Rev. Mr. Irvine of Albany has a copy of "Calvin's Commentaries" printed in Genoa in 1565.

Sam Whetstone killed a black bear near Coquille weighing between 700 and 800 pounds and measuring seven feet four inches across the breast from the tip of one foot to the tip of the other.

Hope Bros. of Vale lost 1,700 sheep by the high water a few days ago. They were feeding them on an island, and the water rose so rapidly that they did not have time to get them off. They saved eighty head.

Mr. Tennison of Randolph is building a flume three miles long to bring water to his black sand claim on the ocean beach. The water is being brought from near the old Lane mine, and two miles of the flume is already completed.

N. S. Merrill has laid out a new town on his place, twenty-two miles south of Klamath Falls, says the Express. Thomas Martin will build himself a beautiful residence there, as his new mill site is adjoining, and, as the site is on the main road to California, it will make a fine location.

There are sixty men working on the Hampton ditch on Grave creek, and the construction will be completed by the first of May. The company has 750 acres of rich placer ground, and as they have all Grave creek to draw from, water will be abundant for washing down the banks the year round.

Julius E. Miner, who owns 18,000 acres of timber land up Rogue river, is having trouble over holding its possession. The government agents sent out have secured some evidence in regard to how it was secured, and the department has ordered a hearing at the Roseburg land office, where Mr. Miner is at present.

As no trains were crossing the Island City bridge, the railway boys used a novel method in the transfer of a carload of hogs shipped from Elgin. They built a sort of animal cage or den on a push car, coaxed fifteen hogs thereon, and by means of a big cable and the iron horse, the whole outfit was hauled gaily over the river.

WYOMING.

In view of the stampede to the placer diggings on Green river a newspaper is being started up.

About 250,000 sheep will be shorn about Casper, Wyo., this season, the shearing having already begun.

Buffalo Bill has invested heavily in the Bald Mountain placer properties and a lively season is expected in the camp.

The shearing season will open at Fort Steele and it is estimated that about 65,000 sheep will be shorn there during the season.

The Burlington has an order in the Pueblo rolling mill for 7,500 tons of rails for the new extension from the north of Sheridan.

The snow on the hills in the Lewiston country of Wyoming has nearly all disappeared, and already the influx of prospectors is great.

Ranchmen complain that there are 15,000 Utah sheep in the western part of Uintah county trampling down the meadows and eating every vestige of grass.

Two hundred elk were seen in one band on the mountains above Hyattville the other day. This is the largest band of elk that has been seen on these mountains for several years.

Frank Grouard left Sheridan to cross the Big Horn range on a secret errand. Grouard is chief of the regular army scouts, and there is much speculation as to the reason for the trip.

The placer mining excitement along the Green river still continues. Many Chinamen from Rock Springs have started for the new fields, and it is reported they are making good wages taking out gold.

What with the excitement over gold discoveries in the western part of the state and the railroad building in the northern part, there is every indication that there will be good times in Wyoming this year.

A rival town is being laid out ten miles above Otto, Wyo. The new town will be christened Burlington, and it is said will be a candidate for the seat of the new county which will be taken from Fremont county.

A large party of Fort Collins gentlemen will outfit for the Le Garde creek placers about May 1. This party will go prepared to stay awhile in that section, and, after the snow goes off, will be prepared to do some extensive and systematic prospecting.

The mine at Almy is turning out an average of 500 tons of coal per day, that being about the average for a number of years. This gives employment to about 225 men, hence the town at Almy is in a much more flourishing condition than it was a few months ago.

Probably the largest specimen of the American eagle ever seen in the Rocky mountain region is now on exhibition in Lander. The eagle measures eight feet from tip to tip and four feet from bill to tail. It weighed fourteen pounds. The bird has been in the vicinity of the Little Pope-Agie for a number of years and has killed a good many lambs in that neighborhood.

A gentleman who has just returned from a prospecting trip to Fremont county states that it is not generally known that there is an abundance of the finest coking coal in the world in that county, but it is nevertheless true. North of the town of Lander there is a vein nine feet in thickness. The great distance from any line of transportation has prevented any development of the mine, except for home consumption.

WASHINGTON.

A citizen of Whatcom has subscribed $2,000 to the fruit cannery project.

There is a project on foot to establish glass works at Tacoma, to cost $150,000 for the plant.

The Prosser irrigation ditch was formally opened and dedicated, with speeches and enthusiasm unbounded.

A sawmill is being constructed at the mouth of the Klickitat. Another mill and a grist mill will probably be built at Lyle, in the same county.

Claims for homesteads or mineral locations on the Klamath Indian reservation will be received at the land office at Eureka, beginning May 21.

In the Trout lake settlement, Klickitat county, there are seventeen unmarried ranchers with good homesteads, according to a paper that does not conduct a matrimonial bureau.

Promoters of the potato starch factory at Nooksack are awaiting a guaranty of 1,000 tons of potatoes at a reasonable price before proceeding with arrangements for establishing the plant.

Work is being pushed on the lands of the Willis ditch, and every kind of grain, fruit and hops is being sowed and planted. Soon this desert-looking part of the Walla Walla valley will blossom as the rose.

The Mohican paid off at Townsend the other day. It took $20,000 to go around. The Leader thinks the Bering sea fleet will disburse some $100,000 this way, and thereat congratulates itself and the town generally.

The populists of Kittitas county have organized a co-operative and industrial association, and will open a store in Ellensburg.

The Blue Canyon coal mine has now what it claims to be the finest exposed vein of any mine on the coast. The breast shows twenty feet of coal, all fit for the bunkers, and ten feet of which is absolutely free from bone and other impurities.

The schooner Volunteer is now at Aberdeen, loading with lumber for China, and her cargo will make the sixth that has gone foreign from Gray's harbor within a short time. The Volunteer's deck load, consisting of timbers two feet square and 100 feet long, would astonish an eastern lumberman.

Contractors are preparing bids on the proposed Great Nothern tunnel at Everett, which will be 2,000 feet long. It will be thirty-nine feet wide and thirty feet high over all the walls of masonry, the arch of brick, unless it should be decided to build it of timber. It will require 5,200,000 brick, 54,000 yards of masonry and 2,000,000 feet of timber.

MISCELLANEOUS.

King alfalfa is towering high in the Arkansas valley.

The melting of the snow has caused heavy floods in Idaho.

Bull fights are a feature of the Spanish fiesta at San Diego.

The cold snap at Eddy, N. M., killed just enough peach blossoms to assure a good crop.

A very rich gold strike is reported to have been made in the Dixie district near Boise, Idaho.

There is likely to be a lively fight against the confirmation of the land grant in the Cochiti (N. M.) district.

A line of the Postal Telegraph company is now being constructed along the Atlantic & Pacific in northern Arizona.

William Thompson of Napa, Cal., has erected buildings and made preparations to cultivate mushrooms for the market.

Work in the Truckee sawmill has been commenced. It is expected that at least 10,000,000 feet will be cut this year.

There is said to be big excitement over the placer gold fields in Hell canon, within fifteen miles of Albuquerque, and at least 100 locations are made.

The new placer discoveries near Ives Piedras, N. M., are turning out rich. Some of the miners claim to have made $1 per hour with ordinary hand rocker.

The Pecos valley of New Mexico is beginning the shipment of alfalfa-fed cattle to the eastern markets, and in time this will be one of the greatest sources of wealth to that valley.

There are now fifteen oil wells flowing in Los Angeles. The yield is steadily increasing as new wells are being bored all the time. The oil finds a ready market at $1.50 and $2 a barrel.

Albuquerque reports the discovery of paying gold in several mines in Hell canon, about thirteen miles from the city, and at least fifty people from Albuquerque have made locations.

The hay crop of the Salt river valley of Arizona will be one of the largest ever known, and even better than that is the fact that the prices to be realized promise to be far more than obtained last year.

An old Virginia, Nev., miner, in a letter written to Nevada City, says that the great mining town is fast decaying. He says that most of the people who are leaving are going to California mountain towns.

The various orange orchards in the Salt river valley, Arizona, present a beautiful appearance in their white rose-like blossoms. The orange crop the present year will be exceedingly large in the valley.

It is proposed to supply Santa Clara with pure water by piping it to the city from Stevens creek, about eight miles from town. The pipe line and pumping plant to accomplish this would cost $120,000.

R. D. Spencer of Denver is at Santa Fe after an inspection of the Cochita district. He says he has a very high opinion of the district. If it were in Colorado he says there would be 15,000 people there and all at work.

A curiosity that is attracting a great deal of attention is a block sawed from a tamarack tree, in which the horns of a deer are imbedded. The tree from which the block was taken grew in Lost canon, Mono county, Cal.

The surveyors of Butte and Yuba counties have begun a survey to determine the ownership of several islands in the Sacramento river. They comprise altogether about 600 acres and are claimed by several ranch companies.

Some fine specimens of galena ore from the two lower levels of the Cook's peak mine in New Mexico, owned by Colorado Springs men, which are at the respective depths of 620 and 525 feet, are being exhibited at the Springs.

A Phoenix, Ariz., jeweler visited court a few days ago, and while there went to sleep. His sleep was so noisy that judicial proceedings were disturbed. He was fined $5 for contempt, and when he refused to pay was taken to jail awake but very profane.

Borrego Springs, in the Cochiti district, N. M., has been incorporated as a town. The town lies seven miles south of Kent City and fifteen miles northwest of Wallace station, on the Santa Fe road. It is the seventh town recently laid out in the district.

The Indians of northern Arizona have a peculiar branding iron. It is made of steel and placed on the head of an arrow. Then with unerring aim it is shot with such force that it cuts a mark on the animal, which, when it heals looks as if it had been burned.

Farmers living near Grayson, Cal., are wrought up over the presence of a so-called wild woman in that vicinity. She sleeps in barns or haystacks. Her clothing is said to be worn to shreds and her feet are bare. A party of men has gone in pursuit of the demented creature.

C. W. Greene says in the Eddy, N. M., Argus that while he irrigates 6,700 acres of land in various parts of the valley the average cost of distribution of the water for each of these irrigations is but 25 cents per acre. When the land is properly graded he says the cost is about 10 cents per acre.

A recent discovery near Marshall pass is a valuable deposit of iron ore carrying silver. The property is one of the most peculiar ones ever heard of in the United States on account of the fact that a fine body of hematite iron is found in lime formation, and immediately under it is a body of coking coal of unknown extent.

The meeting of the Montana Stockgrowers association at Miles City took important action looking to the ridding of the ranges of wolves. People not familiar with the stock business in Montana were surprised to learn that the animal losses from the stock-destroying animals are greater than those from the severity of Montana winters.

A Yuma, Ariz., dispatch reports an important strike two miles south of the Monitor placer mines at Gila City in a high mountain. The vein is eight feet wide on the summit. In the bottom of the canon it crosses 600 feet below, almost perpendicular. It is twenty feet wide. The vein is very rich in free gold, carrying rich streaks of nuggets all through it. Enthusiasts pronounce it the richest gold strike ever made in the territory.

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