PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

Gold Output of Cripple Creek Showing Remarkable Gains.

COLOSSAL FORTUNES IN ORE EXPOSED

Ex-Governor Waite's Placer—Rich Coal Vein Near Denver—South Dakota's Mining Sensation—Witch Doctor in Limbo—News of the West.

Recent developments on Battle mountain in the Independence and Portland properties go to prove that this portion of the camp is richer in ore than claimed by the most sanguine believers in Battle mountain, says a Victor special to the Denver Mining Record. A conservative estimate of the value of the ore in sight in the 200-foot level placed it at $2,500,000. The third level will add at least an equal amount of ore blocked out for stoping.

The Portland shaft has now reached a depth of 300 feet, and the vein at this point is eleven feet wide, and all ore. A number of assays on the entire width were made and the lowest was twenty-two ounces and the highest ninety-six ounces in gold. Three cars of the ore, taken from the shaft the present month, went at the rate of 37.54 and 61 ounces per ton at the smelters. For the past ten days three shifts have been employed driving on the ore at a depth of twenty-eight feet, and there is no indication of the vein contracting or the ore decreasing in value.

It is impossible now to estimate the wealth of the new finds on Bull Hill. On the southern slope of the famous promontory it is likely that the top of untold treasure has been exposed. It is not found in one hole alone, or in two, or in three, or four. Digging gets it, and so far it has required the expenditure of very little muscle and very little money. Six weeks ago the region in question was considered practically barren, and now even a claim there is worth a small fortune.

Bull Hill slopes on the east spur, just below the new town of Independence, while to the west the sag carries it up on Battle mountain. To the north of both of these rich mineral has been found, and where the discoveries will end human knowledge cannot tell, as about an acre of ground up the hill, and a trifle to the west of the Theresa, is covered with thousands of tons of sand, innumerable assays of which show that it has an average value of $14.60 to the ton in gold.

Judging from the output of all the mines in the district, the first month of the year will be a record beater, and the value of the output of the camp in 1895 will be greater than the entire gold porduct of the state in 1894. The Independence and the Portland will be accredited with about half the value.

RICH PLACERS OPENED.

South Boulder creek is to be robbed of more of its gold next season than ever before, and the system is not unlike that the promoters of the Clear Creek company is about to employ in an undertaking of the same kind. The Ingold Placer company has let a contract for 300,000 feet of lumber, to be used in constructing a flume 1,700 feet long and 6x12 in size. Through this, says the Denver Republican, they propose drawing off the water of the creek through South Boulder canyon, and leave the natural bed free for placer washing. All surveys have been completed, buildings for the housing of forty workmen are up, and the company is in shape for serious work in the spring.

After the flume to change the bed of the creek is completed a bed rock flume forty-eight inches wide will be put in, and the working of the bars above the canyon will then be an easy matter. An expenditure of $40,000 will be required in getitng up the flumes to allow the sluicing of the bars to begin.

The company's bars are three and a half miles in length, and by surveys are figured to contain 3,000,000 cubic yards of placer dirt. The yield is from 50 cents to 60 cents per yard in amalgamating gold, with the black sand running from $20 to $40 a ton. One block washed last season yielded 83 cents a yard.

The company has been washing with sluices fed by shoveling for a number of years, but will put in the large flumes this season in order to increase the production, and at the same time reduce the expense of operating.

COAL NEAR DENVER.

On the territory known as the La Gier ranch, four miles south of Parker, a station twenty-four miles from Denver, on the Fort Worth railroad, excitement prevails, owing to a new body of coal which has just been discovered. The strike was made by La Gier on his own lands a few days ago, says the Denver Times.

It has always been the theory of the property owners of this particular region, from the indications on the surface, that some development would undoubtedly reveal a vast body of carboniferous mineral. But, probably from negligence, no test was made until of late. A short time ago La Gier began operation, with the intentions of making a thorough test.

T. J. Baird, who is also owner of property near the new workings, returned to Denver from the scene of the strike, and states that there is no better showing in the state considering the depth, which is at present eight feet from the grass roots. He exhibited a quantity of coal, which seems to be of the best quality.

The vein runs on an incline into the side of the hill, and seems to be increasing in width as depth is gained. Mr. Baird, with a number of enthusiastic friends, is now making arrangements to purchase a diamond drill, which will be taken to the grounds at once and the entire county tapped.

On the coal there rests a vein of fire clay four feet wide, and even this is valuable. Some time ago a survey was made to extend the Fort Worth track in close proximity to the new discovery.

BIG LARAMIE PLACERS.

There is considerable excitement at the Big Laramie placer fields over a big strike that was made a few days ago. A prospect hole was sunk on one of the claims belonging to the Dodge City Placer Mining company to bed rock, writes a correspondent to the Laramie Boomerang. They panned out from 75 cents to $1 per pan. The gold is different from any other that has been panned since the first discovery of the gold in the camp, all of it being round or block pieces. In fact, it is the only place where bed rock has been struck, and it pans out beyond all expectations. On bed rock some pieces were found that were estimated to contain the value of 10 cents. One pan of gravel was panned out near bed rock that contained 457 colors, which were counted by the naked eye that were scratched to one side of the pan by the point of a pin. The boys feel highly elated over the find, and think the camp will surely boom next summer. There is considerable prospecting going on in the camp and surrounding country. News has been received at the camp that if the weather continues to be pleasant the Iron Mountain company will send a gang of men there to go to work on their claims preparatory to putting in a $30,000 plant. The Iron Mountain company is going in on a large scale, and will work their claims for all they are worth.

GOLD AT KOKOMO.

Another old silver camp is likely to begin to assume the aspects of a gold community. This time it is Kokomo, lying between Leadville and Breckenridge on the South Park and Rio Grande roads. Very little has been said about the amount of yellow metal thus far discovered at this place, because the people have become so accustomed to mining silver and lead that they never thought that gold might be below the veins of the whiter metals. Few of the mines of the district have reached sufficient depth to tap the strata which in the formation at Leadville carries the gold, but all the attention of prospectors and mine managers has been spent in the upper formations.

Roswell Sqrague Jones, manager of the Ten Mile Mining company of Kokomo, is in the city making arrangements for the shipment of fluxing ores from the mines of his company to the Denver smelters, says the Denver News. "The fact has not been advertised, but we have a continuation of the gold belt at Kokomo," said Mr. Jones. "From the Wintergreen mine during the past few years we have shipped to the Omaha and Grant smelter over 100,000 tons of iron fluxing ores, and the value of this mineral has been carried entirely in gold. For this ore as a flux we have received only enough from the smelter to pay for the mining, but we have made our profit entirely from the gold it contained. At first the returns from this source averaged about $5 to the ton, but as depth was increased the value increased slowly until at present we are mining an iron fluxing ore that returns a value of from $10 to $15 to the ton, and undoubtedly, as we get down, it will increase. The trouble with the Kokomo mines in the past has been the fact that no assays were made for gold. All we wanted was mineral carrying iron, silver or lead, and the yellow metal was entirely lost sight of.

RICH BLACK HILLS COUNTRY.

During the past year the Black Hills have made rapid strides to the front rank as a producer of precious metals, says the Sioux Falls Argus-Leader.

Statistics of the gross output are not obtainable, as a great majority of the producing mines are owned by individual or close corporations, who never give publicity to their affairs. It is safe to say that the Black Hills during the past twelve months have produced between $5,000,000 and $6,000,000 in gold alone. Dividends have been regular and promptly paid by the larger corporations, the Homestake company alone distributing $300,000 in this manner to its stockholders. During the year a number of rich discoveries have been made in old and almost abandoned camps that rival in value the ore of the so-called high grade camps of other states and territories. These discoveries have resulted in making their owners comparatively rich men, not by selling their mines, but by extracting the ore and having it reduced at the many mills now in successful operation throughout the country. In addition to these new discoveries a number of old properties have been reopened, and are now being properly worked. It is almost an assured thing that as soon as the weather will permit, work will commence on the large new mill for the Horseshoe company, which has expended much money during the last year in getting their large group of mines in shape to facilitate the extraction of ore, which is exposed in the extensive and deep workings. The South Dakota company is another corporation that has performed and still continues development work on their property, which now shows up large and valuable ore bodies, which have been fully tested in fifty and 100-ton lots by chlorination at their small mill in Garden City.

There is sufficient ore in sight on their property to warrant the erection of a plant with the capacity of at least 100 tons per day.

SPIRIT OF TWO STICKS.

There came very near being a serious time at the Deadwood jail on account of the great superstition of the Indians. They are, if possible, more superstitious than the negroes. In the Deadwood jail there are at present confined some eight or ten Indians, charged with all the crimes from murder to petit larceny. Late the other night, says a Sioux Falls special to the Minneapolis Tribune, a voice was plainly heard by all saying: "Wasta lelia wasta, beta." This was repeated several times.

When Two Sticks, the chief actor in the murder of the four cowboys at Humphrey's ranch, was executed on the 20th of December, he spoke on the scaffold as his last words those above quoted. The Indians, who were in their respective cells, hearing the voice, at once conceived the idea that Two Sticks' ghost was prowling about in the corridor. They became so frantic in their efforts to escape that the sheriff had to summon all of his deputies and go into the exercise room of the jail, into which the nearly crazy Indians were brought.

Here they were talked to kindly by the sheriff, who tried to explain to them that they had imagined that some one was speaking. The sheriff succeeded in quieting the red men somewhat, but not altogether. They firmly believe that Two Sticks' ghost is abroad and that he will come back to haunt them. They shiver each night when being placed in their cells with mortal dread that the ghost will come that night.

HAVE FAITH IN GOLD.

Ex-Governor Waite is about to embark in the mining business. In company with Mr. Childs, the retiring register of the state land board, and others he has located 600 acres of placer land and sixteen lodes in the region of Tarryall gulch, near Como. Receiver Frank Trumbull of the Gulf road and other officers of the railway, says the Denver News, are also interested in the district, and it is prophesied by persons who have looked over the ground that there will be a big rush into the new district this spring. Although the snow is all the way from three to ten feet deep in the district, the country is reported to be well supplied with prospectors who are staking out claims and preparing for active operations at the earliest day possible. Among the claims staked out by the retiring populist state officials are the "Governor," the "Lady Waite," the "Childs" and the "Harriet." Mr. Trumbull located upon two claims last week and a New York capitalist is now in the city with a view of investing in properties heretofore located. The region has yielded many thousands of dollars in placer gold for years. It is reported that one fortunate placer miner took out $10,000 last summer. At the grass roots one of the lodes assays $42 in gold to the ton. Mr. Childs says the district is abundantly supplied with water and the placers can be worked at small expense.

A GREEN MOUNTAIN BONANZA.

The wonderful record of the Holy Terror mine as a gold producer bids fair to be surpassed by the rich strike just made on the Lackawana lode, adjoining the Decorah, situated on Green mountain, Lawrence county. Rumors of a rich strike in this mine have been in circulation several days, says a Chamberlain special to the Minneapolis Tribune, but the rumors are now verified and the richness of the strike is almost beyond belief. The present owners of the Lackawana mine, James Collins and Curly O'Leary, have been working the property since 1885, developing it and extracting a fair grade of siliceous ore, of which they have now nearly 2,000 tons on the dump. Last September the annual assessment work was commenced at a point 200 feet lower down the mountain and the same distance below the workings. An open cut and tunnel was started and driven in thirty feet, the last few feet being in ore. On the 1st of the present month the owners visited the place to see if everything was all right. A small piece of rock was taken from the face of the tunnel and afterward examined and found to be fairly covered with rich flaky gold. A shot was then put in the face of the rock and fired, and the result was the opening up of an ore body that fairly glistens with the precious metal. Numerous assays have been made, the returns varying from $1,600 to $3,700 gold per ton. The ore body has a slight dip to the northwest, is twelve feet thick between shale rock and trachyte. Future work may determine that the ore body is even wider than stated.

PACIFIC COAST MINING.

Encouraging signs of a revival in the gold mining business are noticed in many directions. This is especially the case in Amador and Tuolumne counties, where work has been resumed on a number of abandoned properties, while mines which have been worked all along are said to be yielding a better output than fromerly. At several other spots on the Sierre a resumption of activity is reported by the local papers, though there is an absence of the usual boasting.

In mining circles it is common talk that the profits of some of the Sierre mines are much larger than the public suspects. One resident of this city, says the San Francisco Call, is said to be drawing an income of $60,000 a month from his properties, whose names are hardly known; and men who are equally unknown are mentioned who draw their $100,000 a year from the bowels of the earth, and saying nothing about it. Every geologist knows that the Sierra is full of undiscovered gold, and it stands to reason that some day it will be got out, in spite of the drawbacks under which hydraulic mining has had to labor, and the lean ores which are being hoisted from some of the veins.

If the gold mining industry resumes its ancient activity, it will do so under far better auspices than formerly, for it will rely on sources of supply which are not liable to collapse. At all periods of the world more money has been made by mining lean ores than rich ores. The latter are sure sooner or later to peter out, and the owner is likely to sink all his gains in a fruitless pursuit for the lost bonanza, whereas a body of lean ore, carrying a pretty uniform though low percentage of the precious metal, is likely to stay and go on yielding a fair return to the legitimate miner for years and generations.

ROAST HORSE AT LARAMIE.

Roast horse, fresh cooked, under the direct supervision of Chef de Cuisine Huempfner is a palatable dish, says the Laramie Republic. It was tried last Thursday by a small army of patrons. Some took their appetites with them, some left them outside, but all pronounced the meat as good as beef. It is infinitely more tender than the ordinary boarding house article, and if one was not aware that "man's noble friend" was being chewed, he would be willing to make a wager of almost any amount that horse meat and that of a corn-fed steer were one and the same. The only discernable difference is that horse meat has a sweeter flavor than the time-honored article.

The menu was as follows:

Horsetail soup, jockey style.
Horse tongue, race track style.
Loin of cheval, a la Metz.
Fillet of horse, with truffle sauce, a la Parisienne.
Pferd, a la mode, sauce piquant.
Steaks, Hamburg and Berlin style—porterhouse, tenderloin, sirloin and round.

That Mr. Huempfner's spread was a complete success was shown by the number of guests who called for the dish out of mere curiosity, but who wound up the repast by putting in a square meal.

AN INDIAN WITCH DOCTOR.

Scun-Doo, the notorious Indian witch doctor of Alaska, arrived here, in charge of United States Marshal Williams, and was at once taken to San Quentin, to begin serving a three years' sentence, says the San Francisco Examiner.

"The old doctor has caused the death of many people," said Marshal Williams, "and was accounted rich among the Indians. His fee in this particular case was twenty blankets. A man of the tribe had died at Chilcoot, and his relatives came to consult the doctor to see what it was that had caused his death.

"The doctor sounded his drums and went through his divinations, and finally settled on a woman in the tribe. By the order of the witch doctor the dead man's friends took the woman and bound her with thongs for ten days, giving her nothing to eat for that time. At the end of the ten days she died.

"That settled it, according to Scun-Doo, for had she not been guilty she would have lived, so he said. The story got out, and Scun-Doo, for his own safety, went to the interior, and it was some time before he came back again. When he did he was arrested.

"The doctor is about 55 years old, but he looks to be 70. An odd thing about him is that he has red hair. Undoubtedly he has white blood in his veins. The supposition is that his father was an agent of the Hudson's Bay company.

"He had a large stock of blankets, constituting his wealth derived from divinations. He also had two wives. Neither of these came down to attend his trial or bid him farewell. His sister came to see him at the jail just before he was taken away, and the parting was quite affecting.

"He has caused a good deal of trouble in Alaska. He threatened the miners of Chilcoot and Chilcat pass going to and fro at one time, and in one way and another was a disturber. Besides, it was felt that an example must be made of him to the other Indians."

NEBRASKA.

Boone county farmers will hold an institute at Albion on February 7 and 8.

Humboldt will entertain the Nebraska Christian convention today and tomorrow.

Fire caused by a defective flue in the Geneva jail was easily extinguished and little damage was done.

Suit has been brought against ex-Treasurer Cashman of Greeley county for a shortage amounting to $4,000.

Frank Forst's two-story frame store building and stock of general merchandise at Deweese has been totally destroyed by fire.

Knights of Pythias from Minden, Oxford, Arapahoe, Alma, and Curtis gathered at Holdrege last week. The Holdrege lodge has eighty-two members.

Judge Ong was so well pleased with the prospects in Colorado under irrigation that he bought a controlling interest in a large orchard at Debeque.

Jasper Bailey was arrested at the complaint of John Marsden of Red Cloud for stealing a horse of the value of $40 and sent to jail, in default of giving bail, to await trial.

William Curley of Norfolk owned a brood of twenty-two hens which furnished him daily with about seventeen eggs. One night not long ago all but one of the brood were stolen.

Henry Willot and others who went to California with him from Albion found the land they had purchased to be utterly worthless, and were left without any means and far from home.

More than 100 members have been added to the two churches during the progress of the revival meetings at Murray, at which Revs. Hawke of Omaha and Ross of South Omaha are assisting.

The Utica Sun has two editors, and they are not clear in their own minds which of them owns the paper and which of them is the assistant owner. Not many days ago they had a knock-down fight over the point.

Schuyler has organized a Young Men's Christian association, with thirty-six members. The following are the officers: President, S. D. Wheeler; vice president, V. H. Lovejoy; secretary, C. M. Johnson; treasurer, N. R. Miles.

Harry Douglas at Minden noticed that the blow-off pipe of the boiler had blown out, made for the boiler room. The floor of the room was covered with boiling water and in the dark he stepped into this and is now badly scalded.

McPherson county has 29,000 acres of vacant land in the Alliance land district, 415,495 in the Broken Bow land district, and 400,495 in the North Platte district. In all 845,415 acres of vacant land, enough to pasture 56,361 head of cattle, and allow fifteen acres per head.

There was a lively time at Paul Fisher's sale, says the Madison Chronicle, and Mr. Fisher's farm came near being a field of carnage. The whole neighborhood attended the sale, and the opportunity to rake up old quarrels was too strong a temptation to be resisted. Somebody made a statement about a missing steer, reflecting somewhat upon one of the Teskes, and the fun began. The air was blue with "cuss words," threats and counter-threats, and masculine oaths and female shrieks mingled in dire confusion. Finally Carl Teske and one of the Long brothers engaged in a lively fight, while a fair Amazon stood near with a loaded revolver to prevent interference. There was more talk than anything else, however, and byond some disagreeable scratches and a few bruises, no harm was done. The fire of sectional strife still smoulders in that locality, and an insurrection may be expected at any time.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

The Sturgis roller mills are now running continuously.

A carload of jack rabbits was sent to Chicago from Hitchcock.

The Iroquois Creamery company is erecting an ice house near its plant.

The Farmers' institute of Ransom county will hold its next meeting at Sheldon on Friday, February 8.

The Black Hills Artesian Well company has been incorporated at Pierre. The headquarters will be at Rapid City.

Carl Erstad of Brooking, who is 17 years old, is six feet and six and one-half inches high, and weighs 207 pounds. He is still growing and bids fair to be a seven footer.

The people of Gregory county at a recent meeting decided to ask temporary relief, and have appointed delegates to go to Iowa, Illinois and Ohio to solicit money, goods and other necessary articles.

A committee appointed by the Missouri River Stockmen's association is at work preparing bills relative to the stock industry of the state. Among them is one to prevent the trapping and killing of beavers for the next ten years.

On account of the extreme dry weather during the fall, the grass became completely cured before the killing frosts came, and, as a consequence, all over South Dakota stock has lived and fared well running loose over the prairie.

A call has been issued for a convention at Huron on February 4, to take action looking to procuring legislative authority for building dams and reservoirs to hold surface water for irrigation purposes. Counties east of the Missouri river and in the Jim and Sioux river valleys will be represented.

The county commissioners of Turner county have decided to furnish seed grain to farmers unable to procure it under the seed grain law of 1890. They will also furnish it to those who wish to buy for cost, as they hope to secure free transportation, and thus be able to give the farmers the benefit of the lowest possible price.

The recent receipt by the Huron land office of plats of 100,000 acres of land in the northeast portion of the Crow Creek Indian reservation brings the body of land open for settlement under the homestead law. Much of this land is Missouri river bottom. It is well watered and contains some timber, and will be taken up as soon as spring opens.

There is a growing interest in the Hay Creek coal fields, in the Black Hills, and the place is rapidly being peopled. Prospectors report excellent finds, shafts are going down with all possible speed, and Griggs, the new townsite, is sure to become an important point. The coal already mined is of good quality, and is reported in large quantities and easy to get at.

COLORADO.

The Mancos Times stoutly maintains that the Mancos placers and the La Plata district is the best gold district on earth.

Johnson gulch, Custer county's new gold camp, is holding out well and the local excitement over the discovery is increasing instead of diminishing.

A rich strike of ore in their Puritan Extension lode is reported at Yankee Hill. A recent shipment returned them $78 per ton in gold. The size of this rich ore streak is one foot in width.

A gold find of no little importance has been made recently on Tarryall creek, in the Lost Park country, about eighteen miles from Florissant. Two mill run tests show a value of $48 per ton.

Frank Keys and others have a group of five claims a few miles north of Buena Vista. The ore is quartz and hematite between porphyry and granite, and assays from $10 to $35 per ton in gold.

Snowslides are frequent and destructive in the mountains in Colorado. Avalanches in Marshall Basin have destroyed much property. At Rico ninety feet of railroad trestle work have been destroyed.

The new gold find near Alma is creating considerable excitement. The exact location of the find has not been made public, as the prospector who discovered it refuses at this time to reveal its whereabouts.

The recent mill run from the Mary Etta lode, an undeveloped claim near Silver Plume, returned nearly two ounces in gold and over 100 ounces in silver per ton. Parties have taken a lease on the property.

A very important strike in the Crooked Creek district, in a claim known as the Gold King, owned by Messrs. Millen, Mason and Dimon, is reported. They have encountered two feet of $50 gold ore in a drift which they were running from the bottom of a fifty-foot shaft.

The Centennial mine on Four Mile creek, which is owned by Dennman and others of Aspen, is one of the most promising properties in the camp. They have a shaft ninety feet deep, with ore continually from the top to the bottom. The work has been done on the foot wall and the pay streak varies in width from fifteen to thirty inches. The nature of the ore is white quartz, with copper, pyrites and iron sulphide. The ore assays from $10 to $40 per ton in gold.

WYOMING.

Eighteen inches of snow on the level is reported just the other side of Evanston.

W. W. Lufkin of Pass creek killed an immense lynx the other day. The animal weighed sixty pounds and measured twenty-two inches in height.

The Saratoga papers say that John Cummings will irrigate a large tract of land in that valley and try to settle a colony there during the coming season.

Miss Ida Roberts of Ferris killed one of the largest wildcats ever seen in the state the other day. She brought the animal down from a distance of 100 yards.

The colored people of Laramie held a meeting recently in which they organized an African colony. A representative will be sent to the dark continent to look up a location.

A walking club has been organized in Laramie, of which ladies only are the members. The rules prescribe that the members must walk at least an hour each day in the open air.

A mining deal of great importance in the Atlantic district embraces a group of mines including the Mary Ellen. The whole deal involves $200,000. A number of other big deals in the same district are in prospect.

The Dodge City Placer company has been digging some new prospect holes on its claims and they prove to be better than anything that has yet been found. The gold is more round and is heavier and more easily saved than the flake gold.

State Auditor Owen says the article circulating around the country concerning the hight of Grand Teton peak is a monstrous fabrication. The height of the peak has been established by numerous surveys at just about 14,000 feet, instead of 15,446, as reported by the Cripple Creek "discoverer."

A new method of extracting gold from its ores has recently been introduced in the mining districts of Wyoming, and is called the Fauvel process. The crushed ore is heated to a state of incandescence and quenched in a bath of cold water. Enough steam is instantly generated to shatter it, and any glaze or film is therefore ruptured.

State Engineer Mead says that the four great rivers which have their origin in Wyoming will water an acreage as extensive as that fertilized by the Nile. The land which can be reclaimed in a single arid state is as great in area as that which in Egypt requires for its cultivation the labor of 2,000,000 of people, and supports a population of 7,000,000.

OREGON.

Monroe has a fine mill site and good water power, and wants a flour mill and will give a bonus of $500.

The rabbit drives in Lake county continue to be made at the rate of two per week. The total of dead rabbits now numbers 6,000.

Union county's members of the legislature will use their endeavors to secure state aid for straightening the Grand Ronde river and to improve Wallowa hill.

There is quite an area of fine cranberry land near the beach at Oretown, at Sand lake and on Nehalem beach. Several parties have already begun cranberry raising, and many more will engage in this business ere long.

The peculiarities of the Chinook wind are shown in the region south of The Dalles. All of the snow on the high ground, from Tygh ridge to the Blue mountains, has disappeared, while winter still reigns in the lower altitudes.

Francis Atkins of Bridal Veil, in company with others, is building a steamboat with which he expects to go to Alaska about May 1 to explore the Yukon river, and will be gone about two years. Mr. Atkins has been in Alaska the past ten months familiarizing himself with the peculiarities of that country for the purpose of this exploration.

The young men of Jacksonville who have found it impossible to get employment are striking out into the hills with pick, pan and shovel, and report finding the venture remunerative. There is also one lady who goes out regularly with her young sons to mine on Rich gulch. Those who are at work report wages from 75 cents to $1.50 per day.

The stage to Lakeview was held up recently near Bly by a panther. The horses stopped in the dense timber and refused to move even when urged. They snorted and began to back. The driver thought he was about to be robbed, but soon descried a mountain lion in the road. He had nothing to shoot with, but began throwing snowballs at the brute and finally drove him away.

William P. Simpson of the South Bend broom handle factory has found that hemlock, so common in that region, is the best material yet discovered for broom handles. Alder has heretofore been considered the best, but handles made of hemlock and sent to his customers in Portland and San Francisco have been pronounced by them superior to alder. The hemlock is whiter, polishes better, is lighter in weight and equally as strong.

WASHINGTON.

The Seattle public library contains 11,812 books.

A petition is in circulation in Douglas and Okanogan counties asking congress to improve the Okanogan river and the upper Columbia.

Fourteen-inch ice is being harvested at Ellensburg.

There is a project on foot at Spokane to establish a factory for the manufacture of starch from potatoes.

It is reported that the Weyerhauser syndicate has purchased 3,000 acres of timber land in the Nasel country.

The capacity of the Roche harbor lime works, on San Juan island, is 1,500 barrels per day. There is enough marble there to last a thousand years.

The new creamery at Ellensburg will be in running order early in February and will have a capacity of 1,000 pounds per day, twice that of the one burned.

News has been received in Tacoma from the east that Paul Schulze has succeeded in placing $1,000,000 bonds of the Sunnyside ditch, in the Yakima country.

Prosser, the chief town of the Horse Heaven country, last year shipped 82 cars of sheep, 19 of cattle, 3 of horses, 16 of wool, 290 of wheat and 10 of miscellaneous stuff.

Representative Doolittle has notified the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce that he has introduced a bill for a military post at that city, upon condition that 640 acres of land are donated for that purpose.

The shingle trade is opening earlier and heavier this season than ever before. During the past few days Tacoma dealers have received eastern orders for 20,000,000, making 130 cars. Stocks are light and mills will be crowded.

The recent snow and rains caused a flood at Lake Cushman, the water standing eight feet deep on the floor of the Cushman house. Several houses were washed away and considerable damage was done to fences, farms and orchards.

All the logging camps will start up in this state and British Columbia in a few days. There are only 47,000,000 feet of logs on hand in this state, hardly enough for a month's run. Prices are already stiffening and dealers are elated over the prospects of high prices and an increased demand.

The dry kiln of D. H. McCan's shingle mill at New Whatcom was blown down the other day. The building contained about 1,000,000 shingles, which were set afloat and washed ashore and now line the beach for several blocks. An engine that was stored in the kiln is at the bottom of the bay, while the building, piling and shingles were washed inland about ten rods from the spot where the building originally stood.

The timber country of the upper Palouse will be a scene of great activity during the next six months. C. E. Averill has secured a contract to furnish 50,000 ties to the Oregon Railway and Navigation company. The logs will be cut in the vicinity of Starner, floated down the river to Elberton, and sawed there. F. L. Bell has also secured a contract for 10,000 to 20,000 ties, to be delivered at Farmington or Garfield.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Of the twenty-one county superintendents in Montana, twelve are women.

The woman suffrage question is being thoroughly debated by Nevada papers.

There are about 4,000 head of beef cattle feeding in Honey Lake valley. They will be shipped during the coming months.

Weiser citizens have organized a company to construct a new irrigating canal thirty miles long and covering 50,000 acres of land.

A 12-year-old lad at Missoula recently captured two young mountain lion kittens. He is now running a small "side show," the captured kittens being the principal attraction.

A carload of western horses sold at Arkadelphia, Ark., brought from $10 to $16 per head. Several large and extra fine animals included in the shipment went for $40 and under.

That wonderful Salt Lake copper plant is again in the courts. When the ownership will be settled is as problematical as ever. There are three or four fighting factions, and they keep the steam in the boiler red hot all the time.

Articles of incorporation have been filed for the Phillipsburg Iron works. The company has a capital stock of $45,000, divided into 9,500 shares, and expects to carry on a general foundry and iron casting business at Phillipsburg, Mont.

It is stated on the authority of Prof. Sargent, the botanist, that there is a greater variety of trees in Arizona than in the state of California. The writer also estimates that there are 10,000,000,000 feet of standing saw timber in the territory.

They have had a number of rain storms down in Arizona lately. This usually proves a blessing in that territory, as the water washes the gold down from the hills into the gulches and makes placer mining profitable along the little streams.

A big gold ledge is said to have been found in Little Cottonwood canyon, eighteen miles out from Salt Lake. The ore has assayed as high as $1,800 per ton, and not less than $39 per ton, with an average value of $290. Prominent Salt Lakers are the owners.

Children playing at San Luis Potosi, Mexico, discovered a cavern and several men explored its depths, revealing an iron chest filled with Spanish gold coin, amounting to over $250,000. It is believed the money was placed in the cave by the Franciscan monks.

The latest gold find is heralded from Manti, Utah. The mountains just east of the Mormon temple are said to be loaded with the precious metals. Assays from the new discovery show a value of eight ounces in gold, three and one-half ounces silver, and two ounces copper per ton.

The miners employed on the Eagle group, in the Mercur district, Utah, that is being operated by Schen, Thompson and McFarland, encountered the vein at a depth of about sixty-five feet. The ore has not yet been penetrated far enough to determine its value, but it is in a locality where good values should be obtained.

In the legislature at Boise a bill was introduced absolutely repealing the Mormon test oath. Two years ago that part of the oath was repealed which made it retroactive in form. Previously no one could vote who belonged to any organization that had ever taught polygamy. It is now proposed to wipe out all reference to the subject.

Captain Frant, one of the leading cattle raisers of southwestern Texas, says there is a marked shortage in Texas cattle in the vicinity of Fort Worth. The fall rains have put the ranges in excellent condition, and there is more grass than stock to eat it. Shipments of feeders to southern cities, where there are cotton seed oil mills, the loss from the drouth of 1893, and the drives to save something from the bare and sunbaked ranges have almost depleted the ranges of cattle and breeders are now holding their stock. He says the shipments of south Texas will be much smaller than for years past.

DEFENSE OF THE SURETY COMPANIES.

OMAHA, Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: House roll No. 163, introduced by Mr. Jenness of Douglas county, and its duplicate, senate file No. 137, introduced by Senator Smith of the same county, entitled "An act to protect employes from being blacklisted through the machinations of guarantee bond companies."

This is a vicious bill and should not pass for several reasons. Possibly, the party who originated the bill intended to serve those who were compelled to give surety bonds, and to that extent should be credited with good intentions. A perusal of the bill, however, emphasizes the fact that the author knows nothing of the scope and purpose of guarantee bond companies. No such act as the one presented has ever been passed in any legislature in the United States, and the passage of such a law would undoubtedly compel bond companies to withdraw from the state. I presume that the intent of the author was not to drive these companies from the state, as it is a well known fact among all business men that it is a matter of great convenience to every person seeking positions of trust to be able to secure surety bonds. So many defalcations have occurred in the last few years that men of means are chary of signing bonds for even their most intimate friends. It would be a great injury to honest employes if they were unable to purchase bonds, which makes them more independent and saves them from being placed under obligations, oftentimes to their disadvantage.

Under the present order of things people requiring surety bonds can secure them at an average rate not exceeding $7 for a thousand-dollar bond. Ordinary rates for bank employes are $5 per $1,000, and for employes of railroad and telegraph companies even less than $5 per $1,000. The tendency among business men generally is to extend and increase the bond business, instead of crippling it. There are only five surety companies doing business in the state of Nebraska. The total surety business throughout the state amounts to less than $25,000 in premiums per annum. So far no suits have been brought against surety companies for the performance of their obligations. The general verdict is that they have been prompt and honorable in their dealings and their system of espionage over their patrons in the way of watchfulness and checking them up has been very beneficial to business interests generally. To that extent that nearly every leading bank in the state of Nebraska has now bonded their employes, as have all the railroad and telegraph corporations, as well as most all of the leading manufacturers and others who employ men to handle money or fill places of trust. The idea is growing stronger every day that our county treasurers throughout the state of Nebraska should be compelled to give surety bonds rather than personal bonds. If such a law had been in force Barrett Scott would not have been assassinated and Holt county would not have lost $70,000. Other counties in the state would have saved several thousand dollars.

Referring to the bills in question, the section of the bill (3) requiring a special deposit for all fidelity or guarantee companies organized in other states and doing business in Nebraska of $25,000 is vicious and bad, for the reason that there are only five responsible surety companies doing business in the United States. Each one of these companies has a large special deposit, some of them amounting to $250,000 and none less than $100,000 each, with the insurance commissioner of New York, which, under the laws of the several states, permits them to do business in other states without any special deposit, as this special deposit is for the benefit of all policy holders throughout the United States. If companies are compelled to segregate their capital by dividing it up in $25,000 deposits throughout the several states in the United States they would each have over $1,000,000 of their working capital tied up and consequently could not do business at all. It is not possible for them to make a fair profit on the business if so much capital is tied up, unless rates are doubled and trebled throughout the United States, which would be a hardship without any corresponding benefit.

Section 5 of the bill would be absolutely destructive of the bond business, because it denies the right of the companies to keep confidential their correspondence in regard to the character of applicants and parties bonded by them. The very nature of the business requires that before any guarantee company can issue a bond they must know fully the life and record of the applicant, and to get that they call upon the applicant to furnish full information as to where he has lived, by whom he has been employed, and what has been his business for a certain period of his life—if a young man, commencing with the time he leaves school and launches out into the world for himself. The party in answering these questions discloses his location and the names of responsible people, who are immediately communicated with by the surety company under the pledge that their communications shall be absolutely private. The secretary and president of the company are absolutely the only parties who know what these answers are, and no local or general agent, even, can obtain any information as to what statements are made by the referees.

If the banker or business man who is called upon to give information as to the character of any applicant asking for a surety bond did not know that his communication was absolutely private, and could not be disclosed, he would probably hesitate before telling that such and such a person had been guilty of some crime and was leading a vicious life, etc., and that personally he would not trust him. He would not do this, because the natural tendency is not to interfere with other people's business, as the saying is. Surety companies, if they could not get this information, certainly could not issue bonds on the fidelity and honesty of applicants, and if such a law as the one proposed should be enacted every company doing business in Nebraska would be compelled to withdraw. It often transpires that a poor man cannot conveniently get friends to go on personal bonds for him.

Under the present system, if he has a good record, comes under the tongue of good report, and is a man of good character and habits, he can get a bond, if he has the wherewith to pay for the same, which, as before stated, amounts to but a trifle, $4 or $5, perhaps, for a $1,000 bond. If a bond is cancelled, notice is given to the employer of the reasons of cancellation, and no cancellation is ever made except for account of dishonesty or for discreditable acts on the part of the party bonded. In the matter of the first acceptance of a bond applications are rejected because of bad records, and in that case information is necessarily confidential and cannot be disclosed.

Do our legislators wish to deprive a man of the chance to secure a position of trust that will bring bread and meat to his family?

H. E. PALMER.

ONCE AGAIN THE GRIP.

How the Old Enemy Operates and How He May Be Quickly Overcome.

We may as well look the situation squarely in the face. Our old foe, the grip, has attacked us again. He has been aided by cold, damp weather, and the vile condition of the streets in towns and cities. Strong men and women are stricken down and tormented by the fear that even if they recover their health will in all probability be permanently shattered.

This is one of the worst things about the grip; that it may leave the senses impaired, and lungs, stomach, or nervous system weakened. Doctors are urging the need of precautionary methods. Keep warm, well fed and good tempered, they say. Avoid overwork, worry and wet feet as you would a deadly poison.

More; brace and tone your body with a pure stimulant, which shall help the digestive and respiratory organs to nourish and cleanse the system.

Public opinion commends Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey as an invaluable aid in fighting the grip. It is prepared with a view to combating those malarial influences which together go to make the power of our old enemy. A sneeze, a cough, a dull headache, with probably a little fever, and some muscular pain tell that the invader is at hand.

You will soon find how wise you were to take Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey, for it stirs your blood so that waste matter is readily driven out, while well-digested food is turned to new tissue. This stimulant will keep you in perfect health, and no healthy person yields to the grip. It strikes only the weaklings.

CUPIDENE

Is the Great Life Giver.

CUPIDENE builds up, refreshes, invigorates all exhausted organs of the body. It is the great vegetable vitalizer that destroys the germs of that insidious disease which has wasted the strength of our young men.

There are hundreds of young and middle aged men whose nerve force are declining, who suffer from debilitating dreams and those ills which follows from excesses and over indulgences in early life.

CUPIDENE will give you back your life. You will be as powerfully strong after its use as you are now puriently weak.

Are you in a premature condition? **CUPIDENE** will stop this waste in a fortnight or three weeks.

Impotency sterility, mental incapacities are quickly cured and speedily removed by the use of CUPIDENE.

CUPIDENE cures Lost Manhood, Loss of Brain Power, Consumption of the Brain (paralysis), Sle