many workingmen are working on half time and many are not able to find work at all, you must remember that when you decide whether the purchasing power of the workingman's wages is decreased you must take what the workingman will receive in dollars under free coinage and compare it with what the workingman receives in dollars now under the gold standard."

Suppose it is true that men would be able to work full time, and idle men would be employed under free coinage. It remains true that the man who is working full time now would suffer a loss in the aggregate purchasing power of his wages. Laboring men who refuse to take the word of the sound money advocates on that question, and who are bewildered by the glamour of the glorious generalities of the free silver enthusiast, will certainly be willing to believe what Mr. Bryan says about the matter. Mr. Bryan says in effect that the man who is working full time now and getting normal pay for his work will be able to buy less of the necessities of life and enjoy fewer of the luxuries with a cheapened dollar than at the present time. There can be absolutely no question that Mr. Bryan is right in this confession. What reason, then, is there for the man with a job to vote for Bryan and free silver?

"I Believe, Mr. Friends"

Chicago Post.

At last Bryan has been forced to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by Schurz, Carlisle and Cockran and to attempt an explanation of the effect of his proposals on the wages and general status of workingmen. We cheerfully concede that the answer would be immediate and tremendously effective if Bryan could supply a trifle the need of which he has apparently overlooked in the hurry and stress of the moment. That trifle is proof of that in which he so earnestly believes and on which he so fervidly insists. Stripped of verbiage, Mr. Bryan's answer is no better than the "because" of the "old woman" of comic journalism. Why do you think that labor will benefit, Mr. Bryan? Because I think so, he virtually answers. He tells us what he insists, believes, asserts, hopes, predicts, fears, knows and feels, but this is not at all what really interests us. We want to be introduced to the basis of his beliefs, to the evidence in his possession. What he says that labor would have more dollars than now, that employment would be steadier, the demand for services greater and the price of labor higher, he is only laying down propositions which we expect him to prove. Is it possible that he, a lawyer, does not know the difference between promise and fulfillment, offer of proof and actual proof, assertion and demonstration? Confronted with the admitted fact that the purchasing power of the dollar would be lessened, he is bound to prove that the loss would be at least compensated by an increase in the number of dollars received. What does he do? He simply says that this would take place and stops with an air of great triumph. Would this method win cases in a court before judge and jury? Does he expect to be elected to the presidency by using methods which would make his name a byword among the students in law offices?

Bryan's answer to Schurz and Cockran on the wages question is, in brief, this: "I believe because I believe."

THE SILVER THREAT.

How the 16 to 1 Policy Would Affect Public School Teachers.

Harper's Weekly.

If there is any class of our citizens who ought to be exempt from the fluctuations of currency, and be above and beyond the damage which free silver could inflict, it is the American teachers. When one considers the amount of time spent daily in the school room, the singular combination of faculties and requirements needful for the equipment of a good teacher and the money and discipline required before the career is even entered upon, it can be easily seen that no one is more justly entitled than the teachers to a fair and just payment in the best currency known to civilization. As the grade of instruction advances from the primary and intermediate schools to the college and university, and the cost and time in preparation are infinitely greater, the question of justice and right in equivalent payment is all the more serious. As a class, from the lowest to the highest grades, the typical teacher is but meagerly paid.

Now suppose the present salary in every case is cut in two in the middle by the triumph of the silver dollar. What is the immediate result? The teacher must live on 50 cents instead of a dollar.

With all the difficulty of existence with which the teacher now has to contend his burden would be at once doubled should free silver become a fact.

The amount of instruction now going on in the United States makes this danger one of the most alarming character. The number of instructors in the whole country, in all classes of schools, is 432,578, or, in general figures, nearly half a million. The compensation of this faithful, patient and hard-working class is $144,795,855. Remove our national finances from the present gold basis to that of unlimited silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and supposing the loss to be but 40 cents instead of 50 cents, or even 50 cents, the disastrous result to our great army of teachers would be an annual loss of $57,918,342.

There is no escape from these facts. The teacher—every teacher from one coast to the other—ought to know that now his silver dollar is as good as gold. It goes for its full value—100 cents. Why? Because the government pledge is back of it. The equivalent in pledge or gold lies in the treasury, and he can draw his dollar in any form he may choose. But let free and unlimited coinage of silver come and he gets only the intrinsic value of his new silver dollar. There is no government pledge back of it. The mint has stamped on it 100 cents, but the United States treasury is under no pledge to make good the difference between the intrinsic and the face value. The new dollar falls to its intrinsic value and no power can make the butcher, the baker and candlestick maker pay him 1 cent more. The loss must come out of the teacher's already scanty income.

HISTORIC PARALLEL.

The Present Situation Likened to that of Eighteen Years Ago.

New York Independent.

There is much in the present situation to remind one of the years 1878 and 1880. After years of business depression we agreed, in 1878, to pay gold on demand. Confidence was the immediate result, and business increased. We are now about to confirm the continance and certainty of the same, redemptions of our currency in gold on demand, and the same increase in commercial activity may be expected. There is a parallel also in grain. In 1879 we were blessed with a good crop of wheat which was sold at good prices, owing to a scarcity in the world's supply. Likewise this year we are experiencing a similar advance in wheat, an advance delayed in the United States by the Chicago platform which limited the power of borrowing and, therefore, checked the rise until foreign purchasers pulled the price up by main force; so that farmers lost part of the advance which might have carried up prices a month or more earlier. Nevertheless at least 200,000,000 of bushels, held back by producers, have been lately sold at an advance of from 10 to 20 cents over last summer's prices—an increase in farmers' profits of, say, $20,000,000 from wheat alone; and wheat has advanced the prices of corn and other grains also.

Now let everybody within reach of these words give the ball a further push by voting for McKinley or Palmer, and we shall in all probability see a revival of business for the past decade greater than anything in our industrial history. Stocks of merchandise in merchants' hands are low, while the slackness in our imports of luxuries confirm the report of general economy on the part of our people. It needs but a return of confidence to see the wheels of manufacturing and trade going at great speed. Meanwhile, the agricultural position is such that we are reasonably sure of good prices for farm products for a couple of years to come. If we elect Mr. McKinley by a large majority, we are certain of a revival from the business depression. If we elect Mr. Bryan, with his revolutionary policy, we are certain to have a panic and a continuance of hard times for nobody knows how long. Can the intelligent citizen hesitate?

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

In the county of Albany, New York, there are 2,500 democrats opposed to Bryanism enrolled in clubs.

Odds of 5 to 1 on McKinley are offered by bettors in New York City, with very little Bryan money in sight.

Cassius Lee, nephew of General Robert E. Lee, has organized a republican club in Fairfax county, Virginia.

The Steinel family of Fort Wayne, Ind., has a total of twenty-eight votes, and they will be cast unanimously for McKinley.

Efforts to get up a popocratic parade in Boston failed because there wasn't enough paraders to make a showing for a funeral.

An Omaha family of twelve votes, all democrats, lines up in this way: Sound money, 8; free silver, 2; nonconsumptive, 2.

John J. Knickerbocker, the well known Chicago attorney, has wagered $4,000 on McKinley carrying Illinois by 100,000 plurality.

More than one-half the registered voters of Kansas City are members of the Sound Money league. There are 15,000 names on the list.

A New York correspondent quotes ex-Governor Campbell of Ohio as stating in business friends that "the bottom has dropped out of the Bryan campaign."

Bryan's flying trip through northern Illinois last Thursday cost $1,500. Of this sum the town of Freeport paid $300 and the town of Pale got a five-minute speech for $50.

W. M. Hoyt, the Chicago man who donated a Lincoln lot worth about $500 to the Bryan campaign fund, publishes in the Chicago papers a card signed by himself and four members of the firm, in which the statement is made that 90 per cent of the firm's employes and all members of the firm except Hoyt, are supporters of McKinley and sound money.

A canvass of the political sentiments of 3,000 men employed in the furniture factories of Grand Rapids, Mich., illustrates the effect of the educational campaign for sound money. Late in July a poll of the men taken by themselves showed two-thirds for free silver. A recent poll showed 80 per cent in favor of McKinley. The polls were taken by the men themselves and not by their employers. What brought about the change of sentiment, may be asked. The facts are that the men studied the propositions of the republican and popocratic parties. No noisy meetings were held, discussions were had and advocates of both sides heard. The men gradually reached the conclusion that what was for the best interests of the business of the country would prove beneficial to workingmen, and that the present was not a good time for financial experiments.

JOKERS' RALLY.

Washington Times: "I see they are applying ball bearings to a great many things now." "Yes; they have a ball bearing sign down where I keep my watch."

Chicago Record: "Uncle Simon, what is the luxury of wine?" "Luxury of wine? Why, it is the diamonds a widow buys when her husband has been dead two months."

Judge: "That hair restorer I bought of you is found very efficacious," remarked Cowker to his barber. "Sir," replied the knight of the razor, "I must try it myself."

Boston Globe: Benson—"I'm almost crazy. I wrote a letter to my broker, asking him whether he thought I was a fool, and another one to Miss Willets, asking her to drive, and I don't know which of them this telegram is from." Roberts—"What does it say?" Benson—"Simply 'Yes.'"

Detroit Free Press: "Hey, waiter, why is it that you charge me 75 cents for this small steak?" "Jist kase we cooks it ober a coal fire, sah."

Puck: Mr. Gotrox (pointing a moral)—Now, Johnny, which would you prefer to have me drop in your little bank—this gold dollar or this silver dollar?

Johnny—The gold dollar, if you please, sir.

Mr. Gotrox (dropping it in)—Quite right, Johnny; now tell me why.

Johnny—Because I can shake it out easier!

Washington Star: "Think," exclaimed the agitator, "of the army of the unemployed."

"I was thinking of it when you spoke," was the answer. "I saw it this morning."

"Where?"

"Following a minstrel troupe's brass band."

Indianapolis Journal: Watts—Let's walk along until a car overtakes us.

Potts—No. Let's walk the other way until a car meets us. We will catch it sooner; we will go down town just as quick, and we get more ride for our money.

Pittsburg Chronicle: "I believe it is said that travel broadens a man," remarked Mr. Hilltop.

"I have often heard it said," replied Mr. Birmingham.

"But the conductor of a sleeping car never gives a wider berth to a commercial traveler than to any other passenger."

Indianapolis Journal: "Happened to see your wife on a wheel yesterday. If I remember, I heard you declare you would never allow her to ride."

"So I know. But she had a chance to trade off her pug dog for a wheel, and I thought I would choose the least evil."

Cincinnati Enquirer: "Where are you working, Mark?"

"Ain't workin' nowheres. I am in business for myself. I got a couple dozen ladies that pays me a quarter a week to come around and ask 'em for a place, and it makes the hired girl they got mad and she won't leave."

TRUE TO LIFE.

Pearson's Weekly.

A letter from the one you love
May for a week or more
About the city idly rove,
Searching for your door.

But let your tailor send a "dun,"
And in a manner spry,
'Tis true to catch you on the run
Before the ink is dry.

AFTER THE AVALANCHE.

New York Sun.

Once upon a dark November,
How distinctly I remember!
It was in my study chamber, and I'd closed
and locked the door;
And the night was very dreary,
And my throat was sore and weary,
For I'd made six thousand speeches, more
or less, the month before.

As I nodded, nearly sleeping,
Suddenly I felt a creeping,
Strange sensation seize my heart, and
strike into my bosom's core,
An instinctive, dread forboding,
All my warm young blood corroding,
As of some vague apprehension of calamity
in store.

It was some such apprehension
(I may pause awhile to mention)
That might seize a lost soul catching
glimpses through an open door,
From circumference to center,
Of the heaven he may not enter;
Of the heaven barred and bolted from his
vision evermore.

Then awoke I from my napping
With the curtains idly flapping,
And the moonlight falling ghostly through
the window, to the floor;
And the figured carpet fading
In the dim lights spectral shading,
And a picture of Columbia framed above
my chamber door.

As I stared and wondered dimly
Straight Columbia's features grimly
Turned with fearful, threatening gesture
as I crouched upon the floor,
And the eyeballs blinked and started,
And the lips of canvas parted,
And I heard the thrilling accents, and the
strange word, "Nevermore!"

Much I marveled, asking vainly
How such lips could speak so plainly
That were paints upon a canvas—mere dead
matter—nothing more,
But the fearful, vivid glaring
Of the features, stern and staring,
Struck a terror more than mortal I had
never felt before.

"Fiend or fury—picture never!"
Cried I; "If thou canst disever
Soul from out that painted canvas, and the
frame above the door,
Tell me if upon the morrow
Waits for me success, or sorrow;
Will the nation vote for silver?" Quoth
Columbia, "Nevermore!"

How my hopes lay anguished, broken
By reply so aptly spoken!
How "the dollars of our daddies," that I'd
promised them to pour
Thick as forest leaves in autumn
In their laps, with all I'd taught 'em,
Now became a misty memory, a forgotten
tale of yore.

Pulse of Western Progress.

At the time of the big Lamartine strike a few years ago, says an Idaho Springs epecrony to the Denver News, the mountains in that locality were covered with prospectors, all anxious to find the extension of that lode, or one equally as good. Four leasees within one year cleaned up a quarter of a million dollars from what was then thought to be a surface pocket. At the expiration of the year the owner assumed control and since then the mine has produced about $3,000,000. New ore bodies continue to be opened up, and at the present time mineral is showing in every one of the ten lower levels. Only recently new pockets of very rich ore were cut at the sixth and seventh levels of the Lamartine, and these are now being drifted on with satisfactory results. A carload of the first class was shipped which netted assure it to bring something over $500 per ton. Then there is a larger body of second and third class mineral which runs from $60 up to $200 per ton. The big drainage tunnel, which cuts the shaft at about 1,000 feet, was an immense yet wise undertaking. Development work has been resumed in all parts of the property and the drills are pounding away night and day. The tunnel is being extended beyond the shaft, and is becoming a prospecting tunnel for the lodes on Hanscbert hill, near the Money Mink claim. The recent strikes are very encouraging and it is estimated that in one block alone there is $1,000,000 worth of mineral overhead.

RICH PLACERS ON THE COLUMBIA.

Placer mining is being prosecuted on a large scale on the banks of the Columbia river in eastern Washington, says a Tacoma dispatch to the San Francisco Call. The other day earth running 25 cents per pan was found on the Last Chance claim in the Big Bend district. The owners have driven a tunnel through solid rock for 262 feet to strike an old channel which was partially worked during the Big Bend excitement several years ago. A 750-foot tunnel has been run on the North Star claim, a half mile away, revealing dirt which pays four men $50 daily.

Nearly as good results have been obtained on many other claims and work will be continued all winter. Most of these claims are owned by eastern Washington men. In several instances farmers have secured good claims above Wenatchee, and up toward the British line several Chinese have been extracting gold from the river sands for years and are now wealthy.

Companies are being formed to purchase dredges and engage in placer mining on a mammoth scale. The dredgers can pump sand from beneath deep water where gold is supposed to be most plentiful.

CUTTING GOVERNMENT TIMBER.

Over in Utah a United States special agent is reporting cases of trespass against mill owners who have been cutting timber on government lands, and some of the cases will get some of the large mining companies into trouble, says the San Francisco Examiner, unless they have complied with the act of March 3, 1891. Mine owners generally should look out for the provisions of this act, as under them the purchasers of timber unlawfully cut are equally liable with the men who cut the timber on government lands, and the value of the lumber used can be recovered from the purchasers if they are responsible and the trespassers are not. No matter how innocent the consumer may be, he may be made to pay for the lumber if the mill men who cut it cannot. Under this state of affairs it will be well for mine superintendents to keep a good lookout as to the source of their lumber supplies, otherwise they may have to pay for the material twice.

PROGRESS IN THE OKANOGAN.

Sam Robinson has returned from a five months' prospecting trip in the Okanogan country, says the Spokane Chronicle. Mr. Robinson says that he, together with three other men, penetrated an entirely new region during the summer, and made a number of locations which they think highly of. The region lies on the north of Osoyoos lake on the British side. Samples which Mr. Robinson has with him show up well in free milling gold.

All through the Okanogan country and way up into British Columbia Mr. Robinson found the greatest evidences of mining activity. The hills were full of prospectors, and outside of the new region which they penetrated hardly a day passed but what they would run across some prospector, and often a party of them. The interest around Ruby is great, and that little town will undoubtedly come to the front again after its quiet sleep of the past five years.

Parties from Rossland state that the track-laying on the Red Mountain railway is progressing rapidly, and they are now within two miles of the O. K. The track is being ballasted as fast as it is laid, so that by the time Rossland is reached there will be only a few days' delay before trains are running through from Spokane to Rossland. It is expected the first train over the line will reach there on November 15.

IMMENSE LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

The British bark Creedmore, now at Port Blakeley, will load lumber for Plymouth, England, says a recent number of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. She is the sixth of a series of nine large vessels going to Plymouth with lumber from the Blakeley mill. The Creedmore carries 1,100,000 feet of lumber, and she will be followed by the Kennebeck, which carries 1,500,000 feet. Captain Lewis, who is master of the Kennebeck, left the ship at San Francisco and will join the Kennebeck at Port Townsend. The Undaunted will follow him to Plymouth loaded with lumber from this place for the same English firm.

The Alex Gibson was the first of the series to leave, and she carried 1,322,000 feet; then went the John A. Briggs, carrying 1,430,000; then the German ship Columbia, carrying 987,000 feet, and lastly the British ship Dundee, carrying 1,087,000. Two other ships will probably be chartered for the same order, which will bring the total amount of lumber going to the same place to more than 11,000,000 feet.

In this order, besides the small lumber, there will be between 10,000 and 11,000 pieces of timber ranging from eleven and one-half to twenty-four inches square and from forty-five to eighty-five feet long. All this is very fine lumber, being an extra quality of merchantable, and all goes to build a large dry dock in the harbor at Plymouth.

The trade with Japan still continues on the same level. The bark St. Katherine is now loading for that coast. She will carry 800,000 feet of lumber, consisting mostly of large pieces from eighteen to twenty-four inches square.

The Chilian ship Temuco, Captain Swanson, left port for Valparaiso, carrying 625,000 feet of lumber, besides 500 tons of sugar pine and canned goods. The Chilean bark Latona, Captain Gillmore, also loads for Valparaiso, carrying about 900,000 feet. The bark Emma Louisa, carrying 1,000,000 and the bark Anna Catharina, with 850,000, left for the same coast only a short time ago.

The steamer Bogstad is nearly loaded for South Africa. She will carry 1,300,000 feet of lumber, besides 100 tons of flour and 200 tons of merchandise.

There are at the present time thirteen vessels in port, either loading or preparing to load lumber for various ports of the world. They will carry out more than 14,000,000 feet.

EXTENSIVE WATER SYSTEM.

A. B. Spreckels, who with his brother, John D. Spreckels, is interested in the Southern California Water company, which is building the largest water system in the state, comprising three dams each three times as large as the famous Sweetwater dam, says a San Diego dispatch to the San Francisco Call, has returned from a visit to Otay dam. Mr. Spreckels expressed much pleasure at the progress being made on the great enterprise. The Morena dam, now being built by the company, will supply the city with water. This is fifty miles inland and Mr. Spreckels did not have time to visit it.

"The Otay dam is a very great undertaking," said Mr. Spreckels. "And I am much pleased with the way it is being carried out. Everything thus far has been done in the most workmanlike manner. I have no doubt as to the ultimate success of the enterprise. We went through Chula Vista and saw the lemon groves, and came back by another route and I saw more rich land than I expected to find. The land under the Otay system is just as rich as that at Chula Vista, and all it needs is water to make it immensely valuable. It will be 100 feet in height in January. After seeing it and consulting with Mr. Babcock, who is president of the company, we have decided to raise it to 135 feet, which will give it a capacity three times greater than Sweetwater reservoir. Water is what this country needs and we are going to get it."

ALASKA SALMON CATCH.

"The season's catch for all the salmon canneries in Alaska waters has amounted to 115,000 cases," remarked G. J. Humphrey, manager of the canning department of the Pacific Steam and Whaling company at Prince William sound, speaking to a reporter of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The fisheries of this company are at the mouth of Copper river, at Chinik, on the Russian peninsula, 40 miles east of Unalaska and at Hunter's bay, southeastern Alaska. At these various fisheries all the fish-catching devices known have been successfully used, such as traps, seines and gillnets.

Over 600 white men, Indians and Chinamen have been employed during the past season. The value of the entire Alaska pack is estimated as high as $3,500,000. A large proportion of the Pacific Steam and Whaling company's catch will be shipped to Europe on sailing vessels. The steamer Jeannie is now en route to Alaska to load for Liverpool, from which point a large percentage of the cargo will be transhipped to other European ports.

"Salmon are peculiar in those far-off waters," said Mr. Humphrey. "I saw one catch of 100,000 salmon in a seine. The fisheries there are only in their infancy. In addition to salmon, halibut and cod are plentiful.

"As to the gold outlook, while I have made no special effort in the line of prospecting, I believe there must be an abundance of the precious metal further up the Copper river. The stream has not been prospected, nor has the source of this wonderful river been discovered, because no effort has been made in that direction. The Heidar Indians, who come in from the upper waters of the Copper river, frequently display copper nuggets and they declare the metal to be plentiful. I think a thorough exploration would disclose an abundance of the precious metal."

REPORTS ON ALASKA.

James Sheakley, governor of Alaska, in his annual report to the secretary of the interior, says: "There is great encouragement in the outlook for Alaskan gold mines. During the year ending the first of the month $2,200,000 in gold bullion has been taken from the mines, the greater part being the product of low-grade ores, much of which yielded less than $4 per ton. Almost any grade of ore now can be worked at a profit here. Confidence in Alaska as a gold-producing country increases with the development of her resources. A number of gold-bearing quartz ledges and placer deposits have been discovered in the Sitka district and several are under development with good prospects.

"The gold placers of the Yukon region continue to attract the attention of gold miners and fortune seekers, but no rich discoveries have been reported from there."

Several wild reports, the governor says, have started rushes of several thousand seekers to the Cook's Inlet gold fields during the summer, but only to meet disappointment and hardship, and the people are getting back out of the district. The governor believes, however, that there are paying gold deposits there.

The report makes a plea for the repeal of the present liquor prohibition law, which has been demoralizing in its effects and is violated in every community, and urges the enactment of high license laws, with suitable safeguards.

On the subject of the fur seal agreement the governor says: "The current regulations agreed upon by a majority of the tribunal of arbitration for the protection of fur seals in the Behring sea have entirely failed to afford the protection intended or to prevent the destruction of these animals. Pelagic sealing, anyway, will result in the extermination of the entire species within a few years."

The governor deprecates the expensive and burdensome patrol now necessary as exceeding all the net profits of pelagic sealing, even if the latter were harmless.

LIVING MASTODON.

In conversation with a gentleman, formerly of Denver, who came out this fall with a party of miners, we learned that the existence of living mastodons near the headwaters of White river was not the mere fabrications of the northern furriers, says the Alaska News, published at Juneau, but that the Stikk Indians had positively told him that not later than few years ago such animals had been seen by them. One of the Indians said that while hunting one day in that unknown region he came across an immense track, sunk to a depth of several inches in the moss, and from the description as the Indian marked it out to him in the sand, it much resembled an elephant's track, and was larger around than a barrel. Upon striking it, the Indian followed up this curious trail, which to all appearances, was very fresh, and tracked from one immense stride to the other for a distance of some miles, he came in full view of his game. And what game! The hunter gave one look, then turned and fled as though pursued by the evil one. These Indians are a class are the bravest of hunters, and with no other weapon than the spear, will attack and slay the St. Elias grizzly. But the immense proportions of this new kind of game both startled and filled the hunter brave as he was, with great fear, and he imagined his only safety lay in swift and immediate flight. He described it as being larger than Harper's (the post trader's) store, with great shining yellowish tusks and a mouth large enough to swallow him at a single gulp. He said the animal was undoubtedly the same as were the bare bones scattered over that section. If such an animal is now in existence, and there is no reason to doubt the veracity of the Indian, as other Indians, and also Mr. Harper, had confirmed it, they inhabit a section of very high altitude and one but rarely visited by human beings and these only Indians. We also have no reason to doubt the Indian's tale, for at no very recent period the Yukon country was inhabited by these animals, and hundreds of their massive skeletons found strewn along the creeks are the silent but truthful witnesses.

THE DAKOTAS.

Balmoral City is the name of a new town in the Black Hills. It was established to accommodate the rapid increase of population in the Ragged Top mining district.

Dr. Henry Rice, a member of the United States geological survey, is visiting the western part of South Dakota, for the purpose of examining the deposits of clay and fullers earth of that section.

From 1,500 to 2,000 bushels of wheat are being marketed at Puckwana daily. Although the town has a population of less than 700, one buyer estimates that his shipments of wheat for the month will aggregate fifty carloads.

Destructive prairie fires have been raging about Langford, S. D., on the military reservation and in Simeton and Waverly townships. Hundreds of tons of hay have been destroyed and a number of farm houses and barns have been burned.

Drilling has commenced on the artesian well at Kimball. Twelve or fourteen years ago the town sunk an artesian well, which for many years furnished an ample supply of water. Recently the well gave out, and the new well is designed to take its place.

W. M. Dent of Chamberlain has a large cattle ranch on Medicine creek, in the ceded Sioux lands west of the Missouri river. The other day he sold a carload of 5-year-old steers that averaged 1,416 pounds each, and a carload of cows and heifers that average 1,256 pounds. Not one of these cattle has ever been fed a pound of hay or grain, being purely grass fed.

What is probably the best six-inch artesian well in the state has been struck at Crow Creek Indian agency. It is 782 feet deep, and the water flows to a height of considerably more than five feet above the top of the pipe. It is very securely constructed, being cased to a depth of 120 feet with an eight-inch pipe. So well are the joints of the pipe connected that not a drop of water escapes on the outside of the pipe. The well was sunk for agency purposes.

The Edgemont Building company has started work on its $25,000 hotel; also a business block, both to cost $60,000. The Union Hill Mining company is composed of the same people, and is in project of erecting a great smelter. The ores contain a large percentage of lead ore, and this, with the iron in the concentrates, will be used for smelting the refractory ores of the Black Hills. It is to cost $200,000, and the money is subscribed for it and a reserve capital of $250,000 for the purchase of ore. The company has put in a sawmill in Galena and is cutting timber for the reduction works.

COLORADO.

The first directory of Cripple Creek has been issued, showing over 7,000 names.

A body of ore several feet in width and running between 200 and 300 ounces in silver to the ton has been opened in the Bushwhacker mine, one of the standard properties in the Aspen district.

A strike of sylvanite ore has been made in the Silent Friend mine at Idaho Springs, a test run showing sixty-four ounces gold and thirty-four in silver. The streak is five inches wide with a twelve-inch streak alongside worth about $100 a ton.

A visitor returned from the Puma City district, Park county, brings with him a large specimen of ore from the Boomer, which assays from $85 to $100 per ton in silver and lead, with some gold. The shaft is down about forty feet. The camp is located some 4,500 feet above sea level.

A new strike of a seven-foot vein of oxidized iron has just been made in the Zuni, one of a group of claims on Loveland mountain, about three miles above Alma, carrying over $20 in gold and small values in silver. The iron is pronounced a splendid fluxing product, and will be sought for by smelters.

A rich vein of sylvanite at a depth of five feet is said to have been found in the S. H. R. mine southeast of the Victor. The vein is three and a half feet wide and averages $42 to the ton. In the same vein was found a vein of pure sylvanite in a harder rock. The gold averages seventy ounces to the ton.

Some good news is constantly coming in from the region of country about the Bare Hills and Freshwater, but the miners and prospectors from this section try to wrap considerable secrecy and mystery about their discoveries, and very little is known. It is really known that there are some very good showings in both camps.

The latest property to come forward with a strike is the P. R. H. claim, on the west slope of Big Bull mountain. At the bottom of a sixty-five-foot shaft a three-and-a-half-foot vein has been opened up that gives an average across of $45.80 gold per ton, while a rich streak of sylvanite ore along the hanging wall assays seventy ounces to the ton.

One of the largest cattle ranch deals of recent years in Laramie county was consummated a few days ago. The purchase price was $35,000, and although this may appear like a large sum during the present financial depression, yet it is a very reasonable price for an valuable a property. The property is situated near Independence mountain on the Platte river in North Park, and will hereafter be known as the Big Creek Live Stock company.

WYOMING.

The Ember Cattle company has put up about 10,000 tons of alfalfa hay.

A flume is to be constructed at the Laramie springs to carry water around the old reservoir and into the Union Pacific aqueduct.

Sheridan is offered some distinction from the Hon. Robert Furnimmons. He has written, making inquiries as to what kind of a place Sheridan would be for him to train in for his fight with Corbett.

A saw mill is being erected on South Owl creek at Pardee's ranch. This mill will be a boon to the ranchmen in that vicinity, as lumber suitable for building purposes is very dear, owing to the distance it has to be hauled.

Judge Gleiche and Prof. Lindgrew, mining expert of the United States geological survey, have gone to Silver Crown, where a thorough examination of the mining properties in that district will be made. It is the intention of Prof. Lindgrew to make a report of the district.

The shipments of cattle over the Union Pacific continue to be enormous. Particularly is this the case from Laramie, Hatton and Rock Creek; hardly a day passes but from two to four train loads are shipped. The shipments from the west are also very large and the Laramie yards are kept full of cattle that are shipped at that point for feeding.

Everyone is much interested in the working of a patent sheep-shearing machine which was exhibited the other day at Saratoga. It is a wonderful invention and promises to revolutionize the sheep-shearing business. It costs 2 cents per head more than the old way, but is reported to save from one to two pounds more wool per head.

George Bisbom, manager of the Rock Springs Lumber company, has made arrangements to commence work on the slough for the purpose of holding the log drive next spring, says the Green River Star. They will put graders to work at once, and will sink the bed of the slough so as to force the water from the river through it. As a consequence, the bed of it will have to be lowered several feet. Mr. Gildersleeve, the president of the sawmill company, informs us that they have at present ten men cutting logs, and that they will continue to employ them until the snow gets deep enough so that they can haul the logs to the river. He says they will be able to put the drive in here in the early spring. The boom will be placed across the river during the winter, and it will be made in such a way that there will be no danger of its getting away.

OREGON.

The contract for constructing the Sluice, etc., in Tillamook harbor has been awarded.

Plenty of trout can be caught on Coos river by using salmon eggs for bait, but fly fishing in that river is over for the season.

The North Bend Mill company of Coos bay has discontinued rafting logs from the Coquille, and is now shipping them over the railroad.

John Dawes, who lives near Silverton, recently dug 725 bushels of potatoes from three acres of land. This is an average of 242 bushels to the acre.

The chinook run of salmon in the Siuslaw this year has been fairly good, but it is about over. The "big run of silverside salmon" has not yet entered the river, although it has been daily expected.

A. Anderson of Forest Grove found the other day a curious bunch of grapes on one of his vines, part of the White Sweet Waters, and the rest of a red variety. The grapes were mature, of full size and good flavor.

Deputy Stock Inspector Hopper has just returned from a visit to the various sheep camps in the Blue mountains and reports the sheep in good condition. Sheep owners are now beginning to move their bands out of the mountains to winter range.

According to the record kept by John Watkins, the keeper of the free ferry across Rogue river, 4,268 persons made use of the boat during the past year. Fifty-six four-horse teams, 966 two-horse teams and 1,279 single horses also crossed during that time.

Lacy Bros. of Portland bought in the Mitchell section about 6,000 sheep, paying for them from $1 to $1.60 a head. One band of 2 and 4-year-old wethers, mixed, brought $1.50 a head. A band of stock sheep, consisting of 2-year-old ewes, yearling ewes, yearling wethers and lambs, were bought at $1 a head. Dry ewes, all ages, brought $1 a head, 900 2-year-old wethers, $1.60. The sheep are to be taken to Nebraska to feed. The prices are considered very low, but were the best the owners could get.

Eight men, including the millers, were thrown out of employment by the burning of the Weston flouring mills. The mill lacked 300 barrels of completing a 1,000-barrel order for the China trade. It had just received a telegram asking terms on 1,000 more barrels.

G. Alphin, who has been employed by Captain Smith for some time in logging on the Willamak place, a mile or so below Corvallis on the river, says that logging operations are about brushed there. The contract for logs called for 300,000 feet, while nearly 400,000 feet were cut. Captain Smith has been to Portland lately to see about getting out a large number of balm logs, and if he is successful it is likely that he will move camp down below Albany.

WASHINGTON.

The Seattle food exposition will open November 7.

Twelve vessels loaded lumber at Port Blakeley during the week ending October 24. The mill loaded over 10,000,000 feet last month.

The Herrick Canning company of Aberdeen has put up 30,000 cases of salmon this season, and expects to put up about 4,000 more.

The Northwest Lumber company in Hoquiam, is rebuilding its saw mill, is putting in an engine of 800 horse power. The engine was bought in Saginaw, Mich.

There will be no surplus alfalfa in the lower Yakima country when the winter is over. All that is offered for sale finds a ready market at $6 per ton in the stack.

When Ben Butterworth spoke in Everett those that made up his audience were seated upon 2,000 kegs of nails. The platform, too, was made of nail kegs, to give the orator for protection an industrial platform.

Mrs. H. H. Harvey, who has been residing on a snow near the Harvey logging camp on the Opweemah, in Cowlitz county, has fed the fish in the stream until they have become so tame that they allow Mrs. Harvey to take them from the water with her hands.

Bishop Cranston and a committee of thirteen Methodist ministers have completed a thorough investigation of the affairs of the Puget Sound University, resulting in an unanimous approval and endorsement of the methods and management of the college in all its departments.

The Northern Pacific is laying a temporary track back of the Crescent Creamery company in Tacoma, in order to bring to the wharf the rock that will be used in the construction of a big stone wall extending over 1,000 feet along the bank on the west side of the wharves. The wall will be of solid masonry and will be thirty feet high and four and one-half feet wide. It will be placed on a solid rock or hardpan foundation.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ventura, Cal., was showered with ashes the other day from a mountain fire.

Cook inlet is freezing up and all the miners, save a few who will go down on the Dora, are out.

It is reported in Antelope county, California, that fully $1,000,000 worth of gold was shipped from Mojave from August 16 to 21.

In Cook's inlet, out of 2,000 prospectors who went in last spring, 400 will remain all winter. About 3,000 will winter on the Yukon.

Horses in San Diego county, California, offered at $5 apiece, go begging for buyers. Beggars will soon be riding horseback at this rate.

According to the Los Angeles county, California, assessment there are 736,965 non-bearing fruit trees in that county and 1,911,033 bearing trees.

A syndicate of eastern capitalists has purchased 540 acres of choice fruit land in the Salt river valley, Arizona. The consideration was $150,000.

A very rich ledge has been discovered in Quartz valley, Siskiyou county, Cal. It is from six to ten inches in width, and free gold can be seen in the quartz.

Millions of army worms are reported to have appeared in Mohave county, in California, and it is said that the Walapai Indians are waxing fat on soup from the worms.

The Southern Pacific branch from Anaheim, Cal., to the Alamitos sugar factory, 9.5 miles, was built in five days and is now open for business. It is finished just in time to handle 400 or 500 carloads of celery from the peat lands.

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Aloe & Penfold Co.

Sign of Big Lion in front. **1408 Farnam**

It's time to light the fire—and the stove to build it in is the Acorn Oak—the one that has the smoke consumer—a new device by which over two-thirds of the smoke that usually escapes is consumed—it's a great saving in the coal bill—the Acorn Oak is absolutely air-tight—keeps fire for three days with soft coal—economy is what you want now—that's what you get in the Acorn Oak.

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