Pulse of Western Progress.

The cattle shipping season is over and the total value of cattle shipped from this state has amounted to less than for some years, owing to the low prices, says a Great Falls (Mont.) special to the Minneapolis Journal. Almost exactly 200,000 cattle have been shipped to Chicago stockyards this season, a decrease of 20 per cent from last year. Some 60,000 more have been killed for local consumption and for Indian use. These cattle are valued at about eight and a half million dollars. Shipments of sheep have been larger than last year, but at lower prices. The last load of cattle to go from this state, so far as is now known, was a train from Fort Benton November 6. "Three days," said the shipper, "after Bryan's election, when I will be sure to get the top price of the season."

The loss to ranchers this year by wild animals has been much less than the year before, when it was 5 per cent of their total holdings, and the loss by weather has been less than known for many years, being put at not far from 1.5 per cent. Last year it was 0.5 per cent. The ranges are in excellent shape and cattle are going into the winter better than for a long time. There is almost every reason to believe they will come out in the spring in the best of condition.

There are now in the state about $17,000,000 worth of cattle, sheep and horses. There are 652,500 cattle, valued at $10,000,000, according to the returns of the assessors; 2,900,000 sheep, valued at $4,350,000, and 190,000 horses, valued at $3,000,000. Custer county has almost a third of the cattle in the state, while Fergus county has more than a sixth of the sheep. In Beaverhead county the horses are valued by the assessors at but $10.20 each, less than anywhere else.

According to the report of the commissioner of agriculture, just published, the wool clip of the state for this year has been 21,780,000 pounds, an increase of nearly 2,500,000 pounds, over the summer before. Montana has more sheep and produces more wool than any other state in the union. The state is also credited with raising the best of any of the so-called territory wools and constantly raising its standards. The average price obtained by wool growers this year was but eight cents a pound, a decrease of two and one-third from the year before, and the proceeds of the clip were $1,750,000. Of the total clip nearly two-thirds was consigned to eastern houses without sales.

LAWSUIT OVER 40,000,000 ACRES.

The title to 40,000,000 acres of land is involved in a case pending in the supreme court of the United States, says a recent Washington dispatch, wherein the United States asked leave to file a brief because of its concern in the questions presented. The title of the case is the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad company against Robert Mingus et al from the supreme court of the territory of New Mexico. The litigation was over the title to a tract of land situated within the limits of that part of the grant originally made in 1866 to the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad company and declared to be forfeited to the United States by the act of 1866, because the road co-terminous therewith had not been constructed in accordance with the conditions of the grant. The supreme court of the territory affirmed Mingus' title to the land and the railroad company appealed to the supreme court of the United States.

It is claimed by the railroad that by an act passed in 1871, congress expressly authorized the company to mortgage the land grant, and that having been done congress could not forfeit the land at least until after the time when that mortgage became due, which time has not yet arrived. Joseph Call, assistant counsel for the United States, in his brief stated that the land in question comprises all that part of the grant lying between Isleta Junction and Springfield, Mo., and between the Colorado river and the Pacific ocean, 40,000,000 out of the 50,000,000 acres contained in the original grant. If the claims of the railroad company should be sustained, all of the patents issued by the United States, and entries allowed to settlers for parts of such lands since 1866, will be nullified. He contends that the forfeiture act must be upheld, and the judgment of the territorial court, in favor of Mingus' title, affirmed.

JUMPING OIL LAND CLAIMS.

The excitement in the oil region in the southwest portion of this county continues unabated, says a "Fresno special to the San Francisco Chronicle, and it is feared that blood may flow if the jumping of claims continues. W. J. Weems, who was recently connected with the engineering department of the Valley road, returned from a visit to Coalinga, forty-five miles southwest of town. He reported that all but one of his own claims had been jumped and that he does not expect to recover them. He has located his most valuable claim as a homestead under the recent ruling of Secretary Hoke Smith.

J. Baker, Attorney G. L. Warlow and other citizens of Fresno who have filed claims on oil lands have had their claims jumped and homesteads have been filed on them by persons who know perfectly well that the soil is barren rock. Mr. Weems says that trouble is sure to occur if the intruders persist in their present course, and that arms and ammunition have been shipped from Fresno to Coalinga on the order of claim owners. The latter are not in a mood to wait a legal settlement, and any overt act on the part of the claim jumpers will be resisted by force.

The bitterness of feeling is due to the fact that many of those who have filed claims in the oil region during the past ten months have put every dollar they had in the world into the enterprise, while the jumpers are equally persistent in affirming their rights under the homestead clause.

It has been intimated that the Standard Oil company is giving secret encouragement to the claim jumpers. The latter will have to deal with men who will resist to the last extremity any attempt to deprive them of their property. One of these is Milton McWhorter, to whom the discovery of the oil belt is mainly due and who has sunk all he possesses into the enterprise. The other is Captain Frank Barrett, a capitalist, who has sunk $25,000 in the same section. The claims of both these men have been jumped and if the courts uphold Secretary Smith's decision that oil lands are not mineral lands there are lively times in prospect at Coalinga.

IN EAST KOOTENAY.

Thomas McVitt, a civil engineer who has resided in the vicinity of Fort Steele, in East Kootenay, furnishes some interesting information, says the Tacoma Ledger, regarding that country, which is now beginning to attract attention, but of which so little is known. In speaking of the put gold, the fact that it was in that section that placer mining was carried on about thirty years ago, when the miners were after placer gold, and the gravel bars in the Wild Horse and tributary streams yielded more than $15,000,000, he said:

"The recent gold quartz discoveries on Perry creek, about twenty-five miles west of Fort Steele, are attracting miners from all over the country. The first discovery was made in July, 1895, at a point five miles from the old town on Perry creek, which was the scene of a placer excitement shortly after the discovery of gold on the Wild Horse. The quartz discovery was made at the upper end of the Perry creek leases. After the first location in 1895 no other locations were made until July of the present year. Since that time no less than fifty claims have been staked and recorded. There are four parallel ledges, and, from what can be learned, they will each average fifteen feet in width. The ore on the surface is of excellent grade and will run from $50 to $250 a ton in free gold. The ground is located for a distance of seven miles. The coal measures lie for the most part east of Elk river, following a contact of two different formations, carboniferous on one side and limestone on the other. These seem to be cannel, anthracite and bituminous. The surveys for the Crow's Nest Pass railway run through these coal measures. Coal oil has been found on a branch of the Flathead river, fifteen miles north of the international boundary. All of the streams running from the west into the upper Kootenay have been superficially prospected, with fair results, but the streams have not been explored to their sources. There has been gold quartz discovered on the Wild Horse and tributary streams and for a distance of ten miles north and south of the Wild Horse. There are large areas on the western face of the Rocky mountains where copper has been found. So far, however, there has been but little done in prospecting for it. The district is one of great possibilities and when transportation facilities are afforded the section will no doubt attract great attention, and I look for the time when the mines of East Kootenay will be as well known as other districts in British Columbia."

CIRCLE CITY WELL PROVISIONED.

It is believed that William Fee and party, who arrived at Juneau on October 18, will be the last party out from the Yukon this fall, says a Tacoma special to the San Francisco Chronicle. Fully 1,500 people will pass the winter at Circle City. Just before Fee left there was great rejoicing over the arrival of the steamer Alice with 1,000 tons of supplies, 500 tons of which were towed up the Yukon on a barge. The steamer Bertha was expected a few days later with more supplies. The arrival just before navigation closed greatly changed the situation at Circle City, for the last previous reports were that great anxiety was felt over the prospective shortage in supplies. The arrival of the steamers caused bacon to slump from 50 to 35 and 40 cents a pound. A wagon road from Circle City to Birch creek has been completed and is the first work of a public nature ever attempted in the Yukon region. While the course followed by the road in order to avoid swamps increased the distance to fifteen miles, the superiority of the route more than compensated for the extra travel.

New discoveries have been made in the Birch creek district. On Harrison creek Joe Garrity located Discovery claim, and two other promising claims are opened up. Many others have been located on Eagle creek. Two claims have been opened which prospect very high. Deadwood creek is the the banner section this season, with the Mastodon a close second. There are fifty claims being worked on the former, and of them John Howard's is the best.

Howard bought this claim from Tom Andersen, who thought it about worked out, and sold a half interest for $1,000. Howard secured the remaining half interest for $1,500. He worked seven men this summer and took out from eight to eleven and a half ounces per day per man. At last accounts he had cleared something over $18,000 this season. Chris Harrington's claims on Mastodon creek are the best there. Harrington bought one claim for $6,000. His first cleanup from his three strings of boxes paid for the claim and left him a balance of about 300 ounces. More than two dozen miners have come down the Yukon with $5,000 to $15,000 in gold dust, much of it being this season's product.

GAME IN YELLOWSTONE PARK.

All kinds of game except buffalo are multiplying rapidly in Yellowstone National park, says a Livingston (Mont.) dispatch to the Portland Oregonian. There are thousands of deer, elk and antelope. During the past season herds of elk numbering from 200 to 400 have been seen at various times, and deer are fully as plentiful. Bears are getting too numerous and steps must be taken to get rid of them. They are so bold that they will enter and take possession of camps of tourists and cannot be driven out. The laws governing the park will not permit the killing of them. Meat must be hung in trees to prevent their getting it, and cooks are frequently driven from their tents by the animals.

The park has now been closed for the season, and the herd of buffalo has been removed to a small inclosure near the Lake hotel.

EXPERIENCE WITH A METEOR.

The remarkable experience of witnessing a meteor flashing across the firmament, watching it in its course and seeing the stone drop to earth within a few yards of where one is standing comes to but few people, says the Portland Evening Telegram, yet such a happening occurred recently to Ben Hall, a painter of Albina, Ore. It was shortly after 10:30 p. m. that Hall started from the store of Joseph Turner to go to his lodgings. Reaching the corner of Rodney avenue, Hall was startled by a sudden illumination of the sky toward the east. Gazing aloft Hall saw what at first he took to be a ball from a Roman candle fired from some pyrotechnic display incident to the many processions. As the flaming globe approached, however, it assumed such size that the Roman candle supposition was precluded. Nearing the earth, the opposing ball of fire could be seen to be bringing with it a trail of bluish sparks, which left the main body with a peculiar crackling sound resembling the snapping of charcoal.

Barely missing the roof of the house at the corner of Sellwood and Rodney avenues, the visitant from the heavens took a long, swooping flight, as though repelled by the earth's surface, finally alighting in a bed of hardpan on the corner of Rodney and Russell avenues, burying itself to a depth of some five inches. The distance from where Mr. Hall was standing to where the meteor alighted was so slight that he had a fair view of that portion of the meteor exposed. From this came a shower of sparks, much the same as though the component parts of the meteoric visitor contained a percentage of saltpeter.

Going over to the spot where the fragment of some heavenly body, broken loose in space, had alighted, Hall found the meteor still at a white heat.

The piece is of an irregular shape, muchly resembling a lump of hard clay that had broken loose from a cut and rolled to the roadbed below. It is some nine inches long by four inches deep and four inches wide at its maximum points, tapering to about two and three-quarter inches at the point. It weighs three pounds and six ounces. One side and end appear a deep black, as though burned in lighted tar. The other parts present a gray slaty color. Contrary to the usual idea of extreme hardness attached to meteoric stones, this visitor is quite soft, it being possible to pick off pieces with one's finger nail.

THE DAKOTAS.

Heavy shipments of grain and stock have begun at Watertown, S. D.

Owing to a heavy fall of snow a large amount of grain remains unthreshed at Langford, S. D.

Governor Sheldon recently requested the detail of First Lieutenant Frost of the Twenty-fifth infantry, stationed at Fort Custer, to act as instructor to the state militia, and the War department has made the detail.

A couple from the headwaters of the Moreau river recently came to Gettysburg, a distance of over 200 miles, to secure a marriage license and to be married. This was the nearest place they could secure the necessary authority from a county clerk to complete their happiness.

Al and Richard Standen, who are at work on a group of claims seven miles from Hill City, have found a ledge that seems to promise rich returns. They were prospecting and struck a vein of free-milling rock that went $15, and they have now followed it 1,500 feet across their claim. The tests all along show about the same quality.

West Carbondale is having a boom. Forty-eight locations were made there in one day recently, and many more on following days. A strike has been made on the La Plata, in the Carbonate camp, small seams of rock assaying 2,500 and 3,000 ounces silver to the ton. Some of the rock is 76 per cent galena. A large body of iron ore, showing rich in wet silver, has been opened.

Huron is happy over a decision in the United States court dismissing the receiver of the Huron water works and restoring the plant to the control of the city. The case has been in litigation five years. The plant was sold during the capitol location contest for $40,000, and the money used for that purpose. The decision makes no provision for the reimbursement of the purchasers.

COLORADO.

Mining circles in Aspen are again enjoying a gold excitement.

Pine Creek now has more men on the payroll than ever before in its history. The owners of the Nancy Hanks, Utah Hill, are jubilant over their new find of a vein of high grade copper ore. They will begin shipping as soon as they can get the property in shape to take the ore out in paying quantities. The famous Leadville mine, over in Woody district, a few miles from Aspen, and in which a small vein running as high as 24,000 ounces was recently uncovered, has stopped shipping. There is a great deal of lead in the ores from this mine, and Manager Ryan states that at present prices it does not pay to ship either the silver or lead ores.

An abandoned claim on Cement creek, on which Darling, the Silverton jeweler, ran a fifty-foot tunnel eight years ago, has been relocated by him. The vein had been cut, and, though the quartz looked unpromising, he had it assayed, with the result of two and three-fourths ounces in gold and sixteen ounces in silver.

The Denver & Rio Grande surveyors, who have been working the past six months on the range west of Lavoie, trying to gain a more feasible route over the Veta pass, have about completed their labors. They have connections on both sides on the range with the present line, and claim to have a route that is much easier to climb the range than anything heretofore tried.

Saw Pit is again in a flutter of excitement over a strike in the Little Homer mine, in Wheeler gulch. The property is worked under bond and lease by James Blake, who has already spent several thousand dollars searching for the contact. He was well rewarded for his expenditure by breaking into the richest body of ore yet found in this district. As yet no assays have been had, but the tests with acids and the gold pan show a remarkably high grade ore.

WYOMING.

A postoffice has been established at Stamper.

The Union Pacific is erecting a new ice house at Evanston.

The Fortunatus company has struck ore which assays $20 per ton on one of its claims at Bald mountain.

Great preparations are being made for Laramie's cowboy festival, which will take place on November 16.

Preparations are being made at Green River for a log drive, which will be sent down the river next spring.

Kingsbury's gold find, says the Buffalo Bulletin, is the latest sensation in mining circles. It is said to assay $30 to the ton.

The Cooper Dip Manufacturing company is considering the proposition of establishing a steam shearing plant near Green River.

The coal mines in Weston county are working full time, and the mine owners have so many orders that the capacity of the mines will have to be enlarged.

Excitement over the Grand Encampment gold fields still continues. A large number of men are at work doing assessments and new finds are reported almost daily.

OREGON.

Bleack bears are reported to be much more numerous than usual in the Blue mountains this fall. They are doing much damage among stock in Umatilla county.

Milton's apple crop will bring her in thousands of dollars this fall, for only in that immediate neighborhood has anything like a full crop thereabouts been obtained.

A farmer, recently speaking of the condition of the stock throughout Benton county, said the a majority of the animals were already winter poor, on account of the lack of grass.

The chinook salmon continue to run in large numbers in Nestucca bay and river. It is seldom they run as late as they have this season. The silverside run is very good and they are very large.

Warner & Bauman have moved their logging outfit to Kiger's island a mile or so below the Wilbank place, in Benton county, where they have been logging. They expect to get out about 200,000 feet of white fir logs where they are now at work.

W. R. Winans of Hood river has discovered part of an oak tree which is older than its neighbor, the mountain about it. The specimen was imprisoned by the solid granite formation upon it, was petrified and afterward turned black as mahogany.

G. W. Wright and Charles Collins are putting up a saw mill at the foot of the mountain, on the Low Pass road, in Lane county. The mill will be run by water power and is to be in running order by the 15th of December. They now have ten men at work. Orders for 100,000 feet of lumber have been received already.

The Astorian says that the Foard & Stokes company of Astoria received from Dublin, Ireland, a letter from a wealthy firm in that city ordering 2,000 Oregon draft horses to be shipped to Ireland as soon as the horses can be secured. The letter specifies that the horses must be without mark or blemish. Mustangs or branded horses will not be received.

The remodeled and newly equipped Pioneer flouring mill at Island City has started up. During the last three months the mill has been undergoing improvements. The capacity has been increased to 150 barrels a day and it is supplied with the latest machinery throughout. During the enforced idleness orders for flour have piled up and the machinery will be run night and day in order to overtake the demand. The mill company has about 70,000 bushels of wheat on hand, and is still receiving more, although nearly all the available storage room is about filled.

George R. Harrsdine and G. G. Eubanks of Ashland went on a wild bee and honey-hunting expedition and came home with a good colony of bees and about 100 pounds of honey, all of which they found in one big, black oak tree on the mountain, toward Grimly peak, east of Ashland. Mr. Harsdine has been putting in a little leisure time lately in hunting these bee trees in the mountains, in order to secure not only the honey, but a number of colonies of bees with which to start an apiary. He has so far cut about half a dozen of the trees inhabited by the busy bees and brought them and their product down to civilization.

WASHINGTON.

A theater is being built in New Whatcom that will be able to seat 1,000 persons.

The Centennial Mill company of Spokane has announced its intention to construct a flouring mill in Seattle with 1,000 barrels daily capacity.

The Shelton Southwestern railway will soon have five logging camps in operation, which will test its capacity to keep the landing at Shelton clear.

Very few hops have been sold in Puyallup thus far, only those that have been contracted for having been delivered. Growers seem to think they will get more by holding on.

The loggers and mill men who have camps on the small streams flowing into the Snohomish river are anxiously waiting for rain. These streams are now so low that logs or boats cannot be floated to the mills.

Loggers around Kelso have received the encouraging news from the Northern Pacific Mill company that from now on the mill company will pay $4.50 spot cash for logs. This is an advance of $1 per thousand.

A corps of civil engineers are at work surveying and staking out the new sidetracks and other improvements contemplated by the new management of the Northern Pacific Coal company at Roslyn. A work train with a crew of about forty men has arrived, and the men have been put to work grading and preparing for the new sidetracks.

The Northern Pacific Railway company has built coal bunkers on the Tacoma water front that are seven feet and fifty feet high and will hold 14,000 tons. The loading is done by two conveyors, one 200 and the other 250 feet long, that are operated by electricity. The bunkers are on solid ground, instead of piling, so that the trestle is not to be feared. The cost of the bunkers was $70,000.

The salmon fishermen on the Snohomish river are patiently waiting for the fish commissioner to come and arrest them for fishing with nets in the river, contrary to the law, which closes the season October 1. They wish to test the constitutionality of the law and have raised a fund to push the matter. Of course, while waiting they have been catching as many fish as possible.

A visitor on the sound who is interested in the lumber trade with Delagoa bay, Africa, says that during the next twelve months between 60,000,000 and 70,000,000 feet of lumber will be required to supply the visible demands of the country tributary to Delagoa bay alone, and the whole will have to be supplied by Oregon and Washington mills. This amount of lumber would load about thirty large ships.

R. C. McCrosker of Garfield has harvested his crop of mangle-wurzel beets. The ground he plowed in the fall, and put in first-class condition, yielded about ten tons to the acre. The yield from the spring plowing was not quite so large. But the total amount of feed from five acres is enormous. He finds that the beets make excellent and cheap hog feed. Fed, in connection with pasture, they make a feed upon which hogs will thrive amazingly. Of course, he will also feed the beets to his milch cows.

Oakesdale seems to be the leading potato market, as well as one of the leading grain markets of the Palouse country. Every day large quantities of potatoes are sold there, and two firms have already bought twenty carloads, or 600,000 pounds of potatoes. It is estimated that this is only about two-thirds of what will be brought to Oakesdale this fall. Many farmers are "putting" their potatoes, and will hold until spring, when it is thought the price will be better than now. At present the price is 50 cents per 100 pounds, which is double the price obtained last year. At this price the farmers near Oakesdale will receive at least $4,500 for potatoes alone.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Piutes of Austin, Nev., are making an effort for the establishment of a school at that place.

The number of men at the Randsburg mines has increased to 1,000. No Chinese are allowed there.

A limerack quarry is being opened up at Victor for the use of the Chino sugar factory next season.

With the exception of a few miles, the Southern Pacific has completed the laying of seventy-six-pound steel rails from Los Angeles to Indio, a distance of 119 miles.

New mills are going up in several places in Humboldt county, California, and with the new railroad to take the lumber out nothing is lacking for the prosperity of the place.

Colton's mill, a four-story structure filled with heavy machinery, is to be moved to San Bernardino for its new owner without taking out any machinery or removing a board.

The total fruit shipment from San Jose for the season up to October 24 was 28,056,985 pounds. Of this green fruits consisted of 12,085,395 and dried prunes 15,528,410 pounds.

The guano industry is getting to be quite extensive at the port of San Diego. Nine or ten vessels are now engaged in the trade, four of which are out, and the others about ready to leave.

The South Coast Paper mills at Soquel, Cal., have placed in position the first installment of machinery necessary for the proposed manufacture of manilla, fruit and rag wrapping paper.

Jesse R. Grant has left San Diego for another prospective tour in Lower California's gold-bearing territory. He is accompanied by a considerable party of Americans and Mexicans.

The Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber company has commenced the development of 21,000 acres of valuable timber near Truckee. Towns are springing up, but saloons are strictly barred.

The use of sea water for street sprinkling at Santa Monica is not altogether a success. The salt rusts the spokes of bicycles and injures the delicate fabrics. Complaints have already been heard that it would be prejudicial to health.

After December 28 the land in the Yucaipe valley, San Bernardino county, California, that has not been filed on by the settlers long resident there, and who have waited all these years for the government to accept the survey, will be open to entry by any one who may wish to take it up.

Deputy Fish Commissioner Boyce has arrived at Carson from Mariette lake, Nev., with the first lot of 50,000 eastern brook trout spawn for the Carson and Elko hatcheries. He will hatch and distribute in the waters of this state about 750,000 of this variety, and 200,000 of the rainbow and Mackinaw trout this season.

The Alpine Land and Reservoir company has made some progress building small dams and reservoirs on the headwaters of the Carson river and is now preparing to build a ditch some three miles in length to carry water onto sagebrush land. There is probably 25,000 acres of land in Carson valley that can be cultivated with the aid of a system of small reservoirs on the Carson river.

William Ogilvey, a Canadian surveyor, who is in the Yukon district in connection with the delimitation of the Alaska boundary, has made a report to the Canadian minister of the interior, stating a great gold find has been made on the Bonanza creek, which flows into Deer river about forty miles from Fort Cudahy. Mr. Ogilvey said that 200 claims had been taken up and there is room for 1,000 more. If the property is prospected there is work for 2,000 men. One gold nugget worth $12 was picked up on the surface, and in an hour's time three men took out $75. The department will send an officer to see about the claims being laid out properly so as to avoid disputes.

OLD-TIME SOUTHERN PARSONS

They Could Fight as Well as Preach on Slight Provocation.

MUSCULAR CHRISTIANITY IN OPERATION

Parishioners Respected Them in the Pulpit as Well as in the Mix-Up—Now and Then a Refractory Brother Was Cooled Off.

How two Wall street brokers who always manage to light on the right side of the market ever drifted down to a South Carolina town at the foot of the Blue Ridge mountains to pass the dog days of August will always remain a mystery to their friends on change, relates the New York Sun, but they did so just the same. They say that they went south for three things—to keep cool, to forget that business in the street was just as flat as a negro revival in cold weather and to learn the true inwardness of the political situation in the south. Success crowned their first and second objects.

Their days were occupied in moving around to the shady side of the house, as the sojourners say, watching the apparently ever-changing mountains and in seeing who could drink the most juleps. Each day the brokers would solemnly resolve to find out something from their host—Brown he may be called for convenience—about the political situation that very night. After supper, and each night, they would put it off to listen to Mr. Brown's stories of the old south. He is reputed to be one of the best informed men in the state which had produced Pitchfork Tillman on the present situation there and in the adjoining states, but the brokers say that he is wary about spilling his knowledge.

One night they thought they had him cornered. Mr. Brown had lighted his corncob pipe, Mrs. Brown had sent an ebony pickaninny to find her spectacles for her at least the twentieth time that day and the two brokers were enjoying fine Havanas.

"Look here, Mr. Brown," said the stout New Yorker, removing his crash coat at the invitation of his hostess, "your politicians in South Carolina seem to be great fighters. At nearly every campaign meeting some of the candidates come to blows. I guess they are a pretty game set."

"Yes," hastily put in his tall, thin companion, "can't you tell us something about them?"

"So you think they are a game set, do you?" returned Mr. Brown in his soft drawling voice. "Well, that shows that you all Yankees don't know much about 'em. They are cowards. When you hear men brappin' about comin' of fightin' stock you may set it down that they'll run like a pack of yellow mongrel dogs when it comes down to the real business of blows. Why, bless you, dear sirs, these South Carolina politicians would have been scared to death to meet the fightin' parsons of this Piedmont belt lying in Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia along the Blue Ridge mountains. I can tell you, gentlemen, the parsons in this part of the country fifty years ago were fighters, and good ones they were, too, but I reckon you all don't want to hear about them."

"Of course we do," spoke up both brokers at once.

EASY TO MAKE PREACHERS.

"Well," began Brown, calling a little darkey to refill his pipe, "you see it was this way. The very first settlements in Piedmont, Carolina, were composed of Scotch-Irish and English, who come down this way from Virginia and Pennsylvania. Some of them were Presbyterians and their preachers came with them. But the great majority of settlers came without pastors, and I must say they didn't need 'em much while fightin' Indians and clearin' the forests. Presbyterianism didn't reach out after these people, for the Presbyterians seemed satisfied to take care of their own people. That wasn't the way of the few scattering Baptists, however. It was a fine field for the Baptist preacher, and he was quick to see it. It required no education, much less theological trainin' in those old days to be a Baptist preacher, for each Baptist church was independent of every other one, and consequently the makin' of preachers was an easy matter with that denomination. Of course, as a natural result, such a condition brought rude, uneducated men into the ministry. They were in no way superior to the people, but worked for their livin' side by side with 'em, engagin' in the ordinary pursuits."

"That's so," agreed Mrs. Brown, as her husband stopped to light his pipe again.

"I guess in that way a good many queer characters did get into the pulpit," remarked the stout broker, with a great show of interest.

"Your guess is about right," answered his host, taking a long, noisy draw at his pipe. "And it is not at all strange that some of these preachers should have had tempers and passions like common, ordinary, everyday people, an' as I set out to tell you, fightin' parsons were not uncommon, which was natural enough.

"Six days in the week they were engaged in work right alongside of their parishioners, and took part in all of their log rollin's, corn shuckin's, chopping's, house raisin's, militia musters, deer hunts, and the usual sports of the day. Sunday they would bring out their Sunday clothes and bibles, and on that day become the religious teachers. Even in my day I knew a Baptist preacher by the name of Blanton who had to spell out the hymns like a backwoods schoolboy as he lined 'em out in meetin'. It wasn't at all strange that now and then one of these stalwart sinned grinders would resort to blows and knocks not quite apostolic.

"A Baptist preacher by the name of Jonathan Guthrie was a terrible fighter. In the early days of the century he generally settled disturbers of the peace by a word, and if words failed he was not chary with his fists. He was at a military muster once. Of course the whisky wagon was on hand. A muster wouldn't have been a muster without that and plenty of muster ground gingerbread. Uncle Jonathan, being human, always took a little of the stuff just to show the people that he wasn't above them. One of the bullies in the crowd, after takin' several nips, began to feel lively; then he began to feel strong. Pretty soon the fightin' fit came on him. That's the way moonshine whisky affects the average man. Well, this man pulled off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, and began to challenge any and everybody to come on. He bleated around about comin' of fightin' stock and of his strength till everybody was tired to death of it. After a while Parson Jonathan peeled off his jim swanger, stepped out in front of the bully, and said very quietly:

"'Do you mean all you say? If you do I'll attend to your case right now. Come on.'

REFUSED TO COME ON.

"'Did he come on?' Well, I should say not. That bully knew what was comin'. When Rev. Jonathan Guthrie got in a fightin' way he he didn't do a thing but get into his coat like a man runnin' to a fire, tucked his tail like a whipped dog, and kept mighty quiet out on the edge of the crowd the rest of that day.'

"How long did the parsons in this country keep up their fighting propensities?" asked the thin broker.

"Why, bless you, it followed the preachers down through the first half of the century well up into my day. I knew a parson with well-knit frame and steel-gray eyes who was always ready to fight or to preach. It didn't matter to him much which it was so it was one or the other. Once at a gathering two of his grown-up sons had a little quarrel with some neighbors. They were not fightin' the music to suit the parson. When they failed to come up to the scratch their father threw off his coat, jerked his boys back, and said:

"'Get out of my way and let me attend to this case.' The quarrel ended there and then. Not one of the fighters was willin' to tackle the preacher and his well-aimed blows.

"Some time after that there was a church trial at one of his large churches. A sharp division sprang up, and the wranglin' became hot and bitter. The parson, to save his life, couldn't keep from bein' partisan. After many hot words had passed he shouted out:

"'Brethren, it is impossible to settle this question in a church council. If you will walk out of the church I will attend to your grievances in short order.' He then stepped down from the pulpit, marched out of the church, shucked his coat and rolled: 'Come on, some on, I say!'

"Most of 'em had jumped out the windows and slipped out the back way, but he faced those who were bold enough to follow him. Not one of 'em was brave enough to settle with the preacher.

ANOTHER GOOD FIGHTER.

"Another fightin' parson was Uncle Billy Lee. He was a good one, too. Uncle Billy was born in the Buzzard Roost section and in his boyhood was accustomed to resort to the arbitrament of muscle to settle all disputes. He was not afraid to attack sinners with bible texts or with his fists. Once when he was conducting a very successful revival meetin' at one of his churches something very funny happened. Very large crowds attended. In fact, although the mourners' benches were crowded day and night, there was about as great an outpourin' of the flesh at this meetin' as there was of the spirit. During the progress of the meetin', just when many sinners were been touched, Uncle Billy and a neighbor by the name of Hollis got into a quarrel about some hogs.

"It seems that Hollis' hogs had got into the preacher's fields. The preacher spoke to him about it, but the hogs repeated the offense. Preacher Lee met Brother Hollis in the road on his way to church and remonstrated with him again. The more they discussed the hogs and the longer they talked the hotter they grew. Feelin' that words were vain, the parson dismounted and proceeded to beat, bruise, gouge, and knock Brother Hollis until he wished he'd never owned, seen, or even heard of a hog. After that little bit of missionary work the preacher went on to the church, where an immense congregation was waiting for him. He preached such a spirited sermon that every one agreed that he had certainly received power from above that day. Many souls were saved. The next day he made an explanation to his congregation, concluding with these words:

"'Now, if you wish me to go on with this meetin' I will do it. If not, I will close it at once.'

"The congregation unanimously decided for him to go on with the meetin', and, more than that, they passed resolutions to the effect that the parson was justified in knockin' Brother Hollis out about his hogs."

"What became of Parson Lee?" asked the stout broker.

"O, he fought and preached his way westward, and came to be quite a noted divine. But see here, when you asked that last question your voice sounded dry. Wife, it's about time we fixed up three good nightcaps, I reckon. You get the ice and mint and sugar, while I bring out the foundation principle of a first-class nightcap."

When they had disappeared into the broad, long hall the stout broker said to the slim one:

"Well, we've got to get back east tomorrow, and I'm hanged if I know any more about politics down here than I did when I came."

Mr. Moody's Bible Class

BY DWIGHT L. MOODY

The famous Northfield evangelist begins, in the November Ladies' Home Journal, a series of popular Bible studies in the form of a great National Bible Class, destined to prove the most helpful religious department ever sustained by a magazine.

10 Cents on All News-stands

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA

WANTED TO BE PRECISE.

Believed the Statement of a Boston Girl as to the Age of Trees.

She was from Boston and was on her way to the geysers, relates the San Francisco Post. She had rendered the stage driver thoroughly uncomfortable by throwing great chunks of botanical and geological information at his head, and he had about reached the determination to frighten her with stories of highwaymen till she would get inside the coach, when some gnarled and twisted oaks attracted her attention.

"Do you know how old those trees are?" she asked, and, who prepared to launch a whole row of figures at him, when he surprised her by answering her very promptly:

"Yes'm."

"How old are they?"

"Three thousand and six years."

"How do you arrive at such accurate results?"

"Well, a smart young woman from Boston was' knows all about it told me they were 3,000 years old, an' that was six years ago, so they must be 3,006 now, guess' on 3,007."

Dead Man's Gulch.

Among the rich mines of Leadville is one called "Dead Man's Claim." It seems a certain popular miner died and his friends, having decided to give him a good send-off, hired a man for $20 to act as sexton. It was in the midst of winter, there was ten feet of snow on the ground and the grave had to go six feet below that. The grave digger sallied forth into the snow, depositing the corpse for safekeeping in a drift, and for three days nothing was heard from him. A delegation sent to find the fellow discovered him digging away with all his might, but found also the intended grave converted into the entrance of a shaft. Striking the earth, it seems, he had found pay rock worth $60 a ton. The delegation at once staked out claims adjoining his land and the deceased was forgotten. Later in the season the snow having melted, his body was found and given an ordinary burial in another part of the camp.

Spoiling a Good Thing.

A rich man of this city gave a chestnut party, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The chestnut supply at the point he had selected for the party was scarce. There was a splendid tree, but its crop was light. Wealth is the true father of expedients. The rich man bought a generous supply of chestnuts and sent them out to be carefully scattered beneath the tree. When the party arrived at the nutting ground the tree had been shaken, and on the ground lay a remarkably generous supply of nuts. The business of gathering them went merrily forward, when, all of a sudden, one of the older members of the party picked up a fallen leaf and looked at it suspiciously. Then she glanced up at the tree above her.

"Isn't it strange?" she said.

"Isn't what strange?" asked the rich man.

"That all these chestnuts should grow on an oak tree."

Why She Wanted It.

Chicago Post: "I really must get one of those knickerbocker hunting costumes," said the girl in blue.

"But you don't know anything about a gun," protested the one in gray.

"Of course not."

"And you wouldn't dare to go near one."

"That's also true."

"And you'd be afraid to go near any one who had one."

"Quite right."

"Then you wouldn't be able to do any hunting."

"You forget," said the girl in blue, "that husband hunting is still somewhat in vogue, and I don't know anything better for it than such costume as that, now that the bathing season is over and we haven't quite reached the decollete period."

Quibbling.

Cincinnati Enquirer: "I will write you a good recommendation as to your working ability," said Rastus's employer, who had been forced to part with him because of the mysterious disappearance of sundry small articles, "but I am afraid I can't say much for your honesty."

"Tell you, Mr. Blackwell," said Rastus, after a moment's thought, "Yo' might put in de words dat I is as honest as I kin be, kain't you?"

Not Needed at All.

Indianapolis Journal: "What's all the row here?" asked the plutocratic parent, as he came in and found his son in an angry altercation with the tutor.

"I am trying to teach him how to spell 'business,'" the tutor explained, "but he refuses to be taught."

"Well, he don't have to be learned how to spell business. I am raising him for a gentleman."

PEN PICTURES PLEASANTLY AND POINTEDLY PUT.

GOES WITH A (W)"HOOP"—

There are none to compete with it—all others are what patent medicine dealers declare to be "base imitations"—the Kimball piano was awarded the highest honors at the World's fair—as the best piano on the face of this earth—that's enough.

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Music and Art. 1513 Douglas

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The greatest man on earth today is the inventor of the "Acorn Oak"—the only stove that really does hold fire with either coal or wood—it's air-tight—gas-tight—dust-tight—and the greatest heat producer we know of—it can be had with either half nickel or a full nickel dress.

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All you've got to do in these times is to "not go to sleep in the day time"—for seeing is believing—and you can see our carpets—you will see them in greater variety—you will see more exclusive designs—you will hear lower prices quoted here than anywhere else in Omaha.

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