tract was plain. It was made after discussion in both branches of the legislature. To refuse to pay it would be an abrogation of contract, and thereby fasten the stigma upon the state predicted by the enemies of the incoming state administration. The Reporter does not believe in giving a permanent bounty to the sugar makers, but it does believe that the raising of beets should be encouraged until the method of raising beets it understood to the extent that they can be raised profitably for less money than is now paid. Diversification of crops is what is needed in Nebraska to make farming profitable, and as the nature of our soil is favorable to the raising of beets, that industry should be added to the raising of cereals, which would make the price of the latter crop better, by reason of lessening its production. That Senator Allen's ideas upon this question are sound, all who have investigated the matter will agree.

Fullerton News (rep.): The recent decision of the supreme court does not affect the validity of the beet sugar bounty, as has been popularly represented. It merely sets forth that the state auditor can not lawfully issue warrants in payment of the same, in the absence of a specific appropriation for that purpose. All the warrants heretofore issued are valueless and if the incoming legislature fails to make an appropriation for their payment the law will be a dead letter. The bounty should be paid. The Oxnards have paid $5 per ton for beets expecting to get $1 back in bounty. They have acted in good faith and the state should act in good faith with them. Without the bounty the farmers would only have received $4 per ton for their beets.

Wahoo New Era (pop.): With hardly an exception, our people's party state exchanges are in favor of the incoming legislature repealing the bounty on beets. We unreservedly believe that it is unjust to tax the 10-cent corn raiser to pay a bounty to the beet producer. But all questions have two sides, and it well not to be carried away in the advocacy of a principle that in the abstract is as true as the eternal rocks, but when considered in connection with other principles and conditions assumes quite another phase than appears at first view. Whatever diversifies the products of our rich and productive soil benefits all, and the lessening of the acreage in corn is desirable, which no one gainsays. Secondly, increased numbers of laborers and other employes in reducing the product of sugar adds to the number of consumers of farm and factory products. Thirdly, is it good politics just now to entirely wipe out the bounty on beet raising? The law is on our statute books by republican legislation, ostensibly to encourage a Nebraska industry, hence the populist party is in no sense responsible for this legislation but by its repeal would place in the hands of the republicans a club that they would wield with a vengeance, saying: "There you have a practical object lesson of how the populists avail themselves of every opportunity of striking down Nebraska industries." The present law, however, should be amended so that the bounty should never pass through the hands of the Oxnards or any other corporation, but be paid directly to the beet producer, and that at the end of the season of 1898 the bounty should cease, thereby placing the responsibility upon the legislature of 1899 to reenact the law if it has proven beneficially that time, however, the sugar industry in Nebraska would, no doubt, be established on so firm a basis that it could stand without any further state encouragement.

THE WESTERN FARMER.

An Instructive Showing Made by Foreign Money Lenders.

Philadelphia Record.

The London Economist, which is generally conceded to be the chief financial newspaper of the British metropolis, recently published a balance sheet of one of the principal money-lending firms of that city whose investments had been mainly for the purchase or improvement of farms in our western states, the sum of $4,350,000 having been advanced on farms in Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and the Dakotas. The Economist writer says: "Although the rate of interest is high, and the firm had transactions with more than 4,000 farmers, the defaults leading to foreclosures have not quite reached $25,000."

Such a showing will be as instructive to Englishmen as it will be gratifying to Americans. It is at once the highest possible testimony to the honesty of the farmers of the west, and the clearest possible proof that the farming industry of that section, if not as remunerative as it might be, is paying its way, and moving along by the paths of solvency to the better conditions that must ultimately crown honest industry and thrift.

Reassuring as is the balance sheet in itself, it gains in value for its timeliness. It is, indeed, especially opportune, coming, as it does, so close upon the heels of the recent popocratic canvass, which was essentially a mad attempt to impeach the credit of the farming interests of this country. This showing must further tend to neutralize the baneful effects of popocratic oratory abroad, and therefore its later effect will assuredly be to persuade foreign capital that it has nothing to fear from the American farmer, and that it may confidently trust him to find it profitable employment.

POINTED PERSIFLAGE.

Chicago Tribune: "Why do people take so much interest in what they call Darkest Africa, anyhow?"

"I presume they have a kind of idea it would be a good thing to go there and grope with the country."

Detroit Free Press: Police Justice—Why are you certain that the prisoners threw eggs at you?

Tragedian—I caught them in the act.

Philadelphia North American: "You're not the only pebble on the beach," said the cracker to the bivalve, jocularly.

"No," replied the bivalve, "but I am the only oyster in the stew."

Up-to-Date: Lawyer—Witness, I believe you are the biggest liar in the country.

Judge—Sir, you forget that I am here.

New York Journal: May—I wonder why it is that people always put the record of births in the Bible?

Marie—Well, I don't know where it is safer from human curiosity, unless in a safety deposit vault, do you?

Atlanta Constitution: "Want to buy somethin', lady?" asked the boy who had been put on for the holidays.

"No," said the lady; "not today. I was merely looking around a little."

"Oh! Jist rubberin'."

Indianapolis Journal: Fuddy—There's that Miss Rixter over there. She is rather good looking, but they say she is very cold to the men she meets.

Duddy—But what could you expect from a young woman with a cool hundred thousand in her own right?

Washington Star: "Now," said one pugilist to another, "there isn't any use of our being brutal and unrefined and pounding each other all around the ring."

"But the stakes are up."

"I know it. We'll have to give them a boxing match. But it'll be much more cultured and humane if we arrange matters beforehand by shaking dice for the choice of a referee."

THE POLISHED ROOF.

Washington Times.

Jeer not at the bald headed man at the play,
Nor the front row, where long he has sat.
Far better a pate that is not in the way
Than the plumes of a theater hat.

SENTIMENT AND SUBSTANCE.

New York Journal.

Ere we were wed sweet were our golden fancies,
Days spent in dreams of what the years would bring;
Bright were the eyes so filled with tender glances,
Proud the fond hearts when Cupid's darts took wing.
Home meant to us a paradise of pleasure,
Gold was the dross of earthly toil and pain—
From love's deep glass we quaffed a heaping measure;
What cared we two for Winter's wind and rain?

Now we are wed we have no time for fancies,
Days spent in dreams would run us quick in debt;
With Cupid's darts we are not taking chances,
For things that now are bad might be worse yet.
Gold is just now the sun of our existence—
Home is a place to linger in at night;
This is the fate 'gainst which there's no resistance;
Tell me, O, married men and women, am I right?

Pulse of Western Progress.

"In regard to the mining district about Laramie I wish to correct a statement that has gained currency to the effect that the ores are arsenious," said Mr. A. A. Johnson of Laramie, speaking to a representative of the Denver Republican. "In the Fremont mines, in Pass City, Lewiston and Atlantic City districts arsenic is found in the ores, but it is not found in the mines in the immediate vicinity of Laramie.

"The new Grand Encampment district, on Grand Encampment creek, is a branch of the north fork of the Platte and is the latest district to attract the attention of prospectors. I have not seen the camp, but from what I have heard the ore deposits there must be phenomenal. I have a piece of copper taken from a vein there which is 80 per cent copper and runs $12 in gold. An experienced miner who lately visited the camp told me that it was the largest ore chute he ever saw, and that he would not be surprised if depth should develop a wonderfully rich zone of copper.

"Another vein of free milling quartz in which the gold is distinctly visible is said to have been traced for a distance of twelve miles. There is not a hole on this vein over twenty feet in depth, and from every one comes the same report of ore running from $500 to $20,000 to the ton. I saw one man whom I know very well and know to be reliable, and he told me that in his claim on this vein he is down only twelve feet, and that he has obtained returns of from $200 to $2,000 per ton. Accurate information in regard to the district is very hard to get, for it was only discovered in August, and is now covered with snow, so that nobody can get in. It is usually safe to accept the stories in regard to new mining camps with a very liberal discount, but there is certainly a remarkable unanimity in the assertions regarding the Grand Encampment district that at least make it worthy of investigation.

"The district is about seventy miles from the railroad and of course ore will have to be of reasonably high grade in order to stand wagon transportation for that distance. The man who made the first discovery of copper in the district is hauling ore to the railroad regularly. He was a poor man working on the railroad and when he found this vein dropped everything and went to work. He found pay ore in a very short distance below the surface and commenced shipping. That his stuff is valuable is evidenced by the fact that he has in the course of the few months that he has been operating his property accumulated $13,000 or $14,000, and has 150 tons of ore on the dump which has been paid for.

NEW MEXICO IN A NUTSHELL.

James McCarthy, Denver's well known "Fitz Mac," has returned from a five weeks' sojourn in New Mexico, says the Denver News. He brings back with him a fund of chat which he delivers in his happy style to the ever appreciative friends who love to hear him talk. He is planning to write a resume of New Mexico and its resources, which he wishes to make most concise and complete. For the purpose of gathering data he spent most of his time while there in the saddle. Grant county was his headquarters, and the climate of that portion of the country he states is the finest he ever saw. The winter months are all much the same as those of Colorado in the fall. He was greatly impressed with the mineral resources, and says that the Mexican miner is so inferior that he is not to be compared on the same day with the gold-diggers of Colorado. Said he: "The Santa Rita mine is one of the greatest producers in the southern part of the United States. The copper which comes from this mine is so pure that there is scarcely any need of preparation to coin it into cents at the mint. At Black Hawk there are silver mines from which silver is readily taken out in its native state, and this is immediately sent to the mint at Silver City, only sixteen miles away. Mr. Seldomridge, who recently died at Colorado Springs, was one of the owners of a rich producer of Black Hawk district." Fitz Mac states that not a hole in this district is over twenty-five feet deep, and that the ore brings over $20,000 per ton. There is talk of a new railroad to connect these mines with the St. Augustine coal fields, eighty miles north. There is a branch road of the Santa Fe connecting Silver City with Black Hawk. D. H. Moffat, G. E. Ross-Lewin and J. T. Graham of Denver are operating on a large scale in the Mogollon mountains in the northern part of Grant county. Their main property is the Independence mine, and they have a fine pan amalgamation plant on the White river. Some of the finest milling plants in the world are in New Mexico, and they are worked at a good profit.

The Pinos Altos gold mines north of Silver City are well known. They were originally worked by a placer, but they are now operated in lode claims and their depth is considerably greater than the rest of New Mexico's mines, but they are not as rich.

The cattle ranges at present are in a very fine condition and the cattle are looking more prosperous than he has ever seen them during his fourteen years' familiarity with New Mexico.

WATER COMPANY FORFEITS TITLE.

The case involving the title to the Grass valley canal, which case has been on trial before a jury in the district court of Garfield county, says a Glenwood Springs dispatch to the Denver Times, has been decided and the company must forfeit its title to the canal and pass into the possession of the holders of the water rights.

The Grass Valley Land, Loan and Irrigation company owned the canal and reservoir and claimed an appropriation of water therefor from East Rifle creek. The company sold to various persons, who owned land under the canal, water rights to the amount of about thirty-eight cubic feet of water per second of time, receiving upwards of $12,000 therefor. The company agreed that it would furnish the water and keep the canal in repair, and that when it had sold water rights equal to the estimated capacity of the canal to furnish water and two-thirds of the contract price for the same had been paid in full, the owners of said water rights should have the title to said canal. The company failed to comply with any of the agreements and on the 8th day of September suit was commenced in the district court to have the title of the canal declared to be in the water owners.

MILLIONS IN BLACK SAND.

Sheriff M. N. Grant received returns from four pounds of black sand sent to the Engineering and Mining Journal to be assayed, says the Laramie Boomerang. The result shows that this sand runs $10.75 per ton in gold and $2.01 in silver. This assay was made in New York. This is another wonderful new resource for this section. This black sand is secured from the placer grounds in this section. The sand accumulates in the ditches of the hydraulic works, or wherever the ground is handled by means of water. It recently became known that this sand held and contained a great deal of gold and an assay was accordingly made at the university by Prof. Knight for gold. His work showed that it contained $9.40 in gold to the ton, very nearly the same as the New York assay. Mr. Knight did not make a test for silver, which it will be seen adds considerably to its value. The sand which was sent to New York was from the Albany placer company's ditches and was secured after they made their small clean-up. The only expense to secure the gold from this sand would be in getting it into the mill or to whatever process was used to work it. It is estimated that it can be worked for $1.75 per ton. There are millions of tons of this sand in the placers of Douglas creek and the other placer grounds of this section. It will add a new value to all this ground.

PARADISE FOR WOLVES.

The National park is said to be infested with large numbers of wolves and coyotes, which prey unhindered upon the game animals in the park, writes a Livingston (Mont.) correspondent of the Anaconda Standard. So numerous have they become and so bold in their attacks that elk and deer in large bands have sought refuge from them by leaving the great game preserve and rendezvous in the vicinity of Cinnibar, Gardiner and Horr, their natural timidity toward man being overcome by their abject fear of their carnivorous enemies, whose frightful howls resound through the park in one continual chorus from the setting in of each night until the breaking of the dawn.

The country for twelve or fifteen miles this side of the park boundary is literally stocked with elk and deer, and it is no trick at all for the least experienced hunter to go out and secure fresh venison at any hour of the day.

Some means should be adopted to rid the park of these wolves and coyotes. They are increasing rapidly each year, and at this time are even leaving the security afforded them in the park and following as closely after their prey as their sneaking instincts and fear of men will allow. The state pays a bounty on them of $3 a head, and wolf hunting has become quite a profitable business along the park border. But they are so numerous that the destruction of a few hundred does not materially reduce their number. The bounty fund disappears, that's true enough, but the money is paid out for nothing; for by another season the increase will be much greater than the number killed for the bounty.

Said a gentleman who came down from the park the other day, discussing how best to get rid of them: "A systematic wholesale hunt would seem to be the only way to go about it, but the park rules appear to stand in the way of this, wolves and coyotes receiving the same protection as any other animal. If the people of the Upper Yellowstone were allowed the privilege they would be only too glad to organize and exterminate the pests.

NOT YET GOOD INDIANS.

The band of Yakima Indians who were reported starving and freezing to death in the Big Bottom district in the Cascade mountains, according to a Tacoma dispatch to the San Francisco Examiner, has been rescued by Agent Irwin of Fort Simcoe, who organized a rescue party under instructions from the Indian department at Washington city. Chief Charles Skimmut of the Yakimas was the means of saving the party. After snow had fallen to a depth of ten feet in the Big Bottom country a month ago and it had become impossible for the band to escape he improvised a pair of snowshoes and walked out, reaching Chehalis ten days ago. He reported that his people would starve or die from exposure if not rescued at once. He left seventeen Indians snowbound, among the number being several women and children. When he and Agent Irwin returned with the rescue party they found eighteen Indians, Mrs. Caroline Scow having given birth to a boy in the snow banks of Mount Tacoma. She and the boy are doing as well as if both had had all the attention of civilization. They, together with ten of the more helpless Indians, have been sent to Fort Simcoe, on the east side of the Cascade range, all having been rescued by Chief Skimmut and Agent Irwin. Seven bucks were left in the snow, after being amply provided with flour and bacon, to secure their property and bring it out in the spring. Nineteen Indian ponies were starved to death during the storm. The Indians had been out on an annual hunting tour and were hemmed in by the snow falling a month earlier than usual. Deer meat secured during the hunt saved many of them from starvation.

WATER FOR RANDSBURG.

The great drawback to the development of the mines and consequent growth of the town of Randsburg is lack of water. Every effort has been made to find a supply in the neighborhood, but so far in vain, says the San Francisco Call; every drop used has to be brought from the cow wells at Garlock, near the base of Black mountain, some twelve miles to the west on the road to Mojave, and as may be readily imagined, it is both poor and dear, costing for drinking purposes some $2.50 per barrel, and for other purposes from $1.50 to $2. The permanent character of the mines so far developed and the absolute need of a sufficient supply of water and the certain return on money invested in an enterprise looking to filling this need, has attracted the attention of capitalists. Two San Francisco men of abundant means and large experience in mining development left for Randsburg, where they will meet others from Los Angeles, and with expert engineers the party will go over the ground between that town and Owens Lake, some sixty miles to the northwest in Inyo county, with a view of laying a pipe line to supply Randsburg with water from the lake. The lower part of the lake, as is well known, is rather too alkaline for ordinary use, but at the upper and near the mouth of Owens river the water is sweet, fresh and cool as spring water. This is the nearest point from which it is practicable to get water for the Randsburg district. The head waters of Kern river are but little more than half the distance to Owens lake, but the intervening mountains present difficulties which are insurmountable except at enormous expense, for relay pumping stations. The size of the pipe line will be the only limit to the supply, and there are no great engineering difficulties to be overcome in securing it. The necessary preliminary inspection has already been made of the several routes to the lake, and the most practicable about determined upon, subject to the approval of the parties interested financially in the promotion of the enterprise. Once a line of the proper size is laid the question of its paying well is settled. The charge for water can be made at just what figure under the present prices the owners choose to fix.

IDAHO'S NEW RAILROAD.

Colonel John E. Stearns of Nampa, Idaho, vice president and general manager of the Boise, Nampa & Owyhee railroad, now in course of construction, is spending a few days in the city with his family, says the Salt Lake Tribune. "The railroad, when completed, will handle all the mining and stock business of Owyhee county," said Colonel Stearns. "Although millions have been taken from the veins of De La Mar, Silver City and Dewey during the past thirty years, only a beginning has been made toward the development of the richly mineralized belt in which the three camps are located. There are vast deposits of low-grade ores which no attempt has ever been made to market, simply because of the lack of transportation facilities. All of these ore bodies will be developed and a number of new producers and dividend-payers will be added to Idaho's long list. At present it is only with difficulty that one can get into the country, forty-eight hours of rough staging being required for the round trip to Dewey in the best weather. Nothing but a high-grade proposition can be made to pay, and investors in consequence are wary of property in that section. From Rabbit Creek to Dewey will be the most difficult part of the road. Much rock and trestle work will be necessary, and for the twenty miles the grade will average 3 per cent. Though the stage distance from Nampa to Dewey is only forty-five miles, necessary detours will make our road sixty-one miles in length. From Dewey to De La Mar is five miles distant and Silver City three miles, both accessible by good stage road. Flint is distant twelve miles and South Mountain twenty-three miles. Neither of the latter two camps has been developed to any extent, although prospecting has indicated the existence of immense bodies of low-grade silver-lead ores. With cheap transportation for timber, lumber, fuel and supplies, there ought quickly to be a big boom in mining in the entire country tributary to the new road." Colonel Dewey of Dewey, which is known to old-timers as Booneville, is president of the Boise, Nampa & Owyhee company. He is well known to a large circle of Salt Lakers, having been connected with various big mining enterprises of the west for years past.

TRY CO-OPERATIVE CANNING.

A prominent representative of the Columbia River Fishermen's union was in the city, says the Tacoma Ledger, and says that the union is preparing to next season enter into direct competition with other cannerymen on the river. He says that $11,000 has already been subscribed toward the new project, and that actual work on construction of the plant, which is to be located at Astoria, will be begun in time to enter business with the commencement of the season next year. With this end in view a company of union men has been formed, known as the Union Co-operative Fishermen's Packing company, with a capital stock of $20,000. The cannery is to have a twenty-four-hour capacity of 2,000 cases, of forty-eight pounds each, and will run night and day through the entire season, giving employment to 200 boats. It will be twice as large as any cannery on the Columbia river. The visiting representative says the fishermen have decided that this is the only method they have for successfully competing with their nonunion opponents and that the new establishment will be run entirely by union men. It has the support of the federated trades, and unions have contributed all the money. It is to be run on the same plan as the canneries on Fraser river, three of which were put up last season. The end of Chinook salmon fishing in the Columbia river is only a few years distant, said the union visitor, as this famous variety has been caught so greedily that it is rapidly becoming extinct. Its fate will be the same as that of the sturgeon, which, ten years ago was so plentiful and now none can be found.

OPENING THE MOTHER LODE.

In connection with the Sierra Pacific railroad, which is to run out of Stockton into the mining section about forty-five miles eastward, another great enterprise is projected, says the San Francisco Chronicle, and one that will greatly tend to revolutionize the present situation along the mother lode of California, extending through the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne. The great factor will be the immense electric-power plant being put up on the Mokelumne river by an English syndicate represented by Prince Poniatowski. This will have a capacity sufficient to furnish power for all the mines in that locality and also for the latest project contemplated—that is, an electric railway about thirty miles long, to be operated between Jackson, San Andreas and along the mother lode to the north and south of these towns. The proposed electric road will be tapped by the Sierra Pacific railroad at a point somewhere between Jackson and San Andreas. J. W. Hartsell, who has been engaged to secure a right-of-way for the electric line, is now in San Francisco on a business visit. He is most enthusiastic on the subject. His headquarters are at Jackson. "Water power," said Mr. Hartsell, "is now mostly used by the mines, and the great trouble is that this power has always been controlled by the larger mines, and the smaller mines and those in which prospecting was to be done have not been able to get sufficient power to properly operate them. This electric plant of the English syndicate will furnish all the power required. Among the towns that will be greatly benefited by the new order of things are Jackson, San Andreas, Amador City, Sutter Creek and, in fact, all the towns in that section. The building of the electric road will be very expensive, owing to the uneven character of the country it will pass through. It will probably cost $10,000 a mile, but it will undoubtedly prove a paying investment as it will give that section of country an almost direct outlet to tidewater and to San Francisco and make it possible to handle all the products of that region to much better advantage. It will also, of course, greatly stimulate development of all kinds in the counties through which the mother lode extends."

THE DAKOTAS.

The new well at the Chamberlain mill has doubled its power since last fall.

It is rumored that the Milwaukee railroad intends to place fifty experiment stations in South Dakota to try a new system of subsoiling.

Aberdeen's new city directory, using the multiple system of estimate, as employed at Sioux City, St. Paul and Omaha, shows a population of 4,896.

The controversy over the railroad bridge at Yankton is said to be about over and as soon as rails and ties can be had, early in January, the three miles of track to the bridge site will be laid.

The Black Hills irrigation association has been called to meet at Sturgis on the 29th and 30th of this month. Ex-Senator Manderson and Governor Holcomb will be present and deliver addresses. It is expected that all of the Black Hills members-elect of the legislature will be in attendance.

A delegation of Sioux Indians from Crow Creek agency, with White Ghost, their head chief, as chairman, left for Washington to collect a bill of about $200,000 from the government. Last March the tribe sent a dun to Washington by telegraph. This not having been heeded, the Indians decided to interview the Indian bureau officials personally.

It is authoritatively stated that the Northern Pacific will make two extensions in North Dakota as soon as the snow is off in the spring. One will be from Leeds to Dunseith, an extension of the Jamestown Northern, which will open the best part of the Turtle mountain country. A longer extension will be on the Fargo Southwestern branch from Edgeley to the Missouri river via Kulm, Ashby and Eureka.

There is much excitement at Deadwood over the great strike at Ragged Top in the Dacey Shaft mines. The bed of ore continues to show evidence of fabulous wealth. It is the sensation of the Black Hills, and hundreds are flocking to the scene. It rivals in richness anything in the history of western mining. The ore is running over $150 per ton. The rich drift was started on the fissure, and the wonderful bed of ore was discovered within ten feet. The wonder is owned by Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins.

The local land office at Chamberlain has rejected the application of citizens of Gregory county to make entry of the townsite of Fairfax. The town was located several years ago, and aspires to be the county seat of Gregory county as soon as the county is organized. The townsite application was filed by the county judge of Charles Mix county, to which Gregory is attached for judicial purposes, through his attorney, John D. Rivers, and was rejected for two reasons. One reason is that the townsiters apply to make proof at once on 160 acres, and claim a population of only 50. This is premature, as final proof upon a townsite cannot be made until after the expiration of three months. The other reason is that 50 people cannot make proof on so large a tract as 160 acres. The case will be appealed to the commissioner of the general land office.

COLORADO.

A recruiting officer to raise an army for Cuba has secured a number of volunteers in Ouray.

The Fanny B., one of Cripple Creek's shippers, contains ore which yields $20,000 per ton, from a narrow streak. The average product yields $250 to $300 per ton.

Sam Twigg made a rich strike in Waterfall basin, near Ophir Station, the character of the ore being that of very rich silver. It has not been assayed as yet, but is of very high value.

A vein of ore fifteen inches in thickness has been discovered in the heading of the 460-foot level west on the Centennial mine which, according to the mill run, is worth seventeen ounces in gold to the ton. This level is being driven underneath the townsite of Georgetown. The strike has created considerable excitement.

A Denver man brought in from Perry Park, Douglas county, specimens of surface ore which seem to carry gold. Several claims have been taken up in the district and a town has been started. The district is known as Dakin.

Work will be started on the Lake tunnel which enters Straub mountain on the north slope, on the first of the year. This property is under the management of W. H. Dorsey, and has obtained assays running from $8 to $20 per ton.

The production of the Missouri mine, in Russell district, for November, was $1,200. A full force of men is working in this property, and a new strike has been made in the third level of a two-foot streak of smelting ore, which assays $83 per ton.

The committee appointed by the Northern Colorado Produce exchange to report on the number of carloads of potatoes in and about Greeley, report the number to be from 800 to 1,000 fewer carloads than for many years previous. This means high prices.

The report of the legislative committee of the Arkansas valley irrigationists is in the form of a bill and will ask for the appropriation of $50,000 for the construction of the Twin Lakes reservoir, and the appropriation of $50,000 for the continuance of the work of the state canal during the next two years. It was deemed advisable to take no final action on the report at this time.

Nearly all of the table land on the west of the North Platte river, excepting that which has been patented has been staked off into placer claims, and all the gravel thus far prospected is gold-bearing, some running as high as $18 to the cubic yard. The Independence Placer Mining Company has already expended a large sum in ditches, in which to convey water to their diggings, and will be in readiness to do a large amount of development work during the coming year.

All of the lessees working at the Golden Age mine at Jamestown, are taking out tons of good ore and it runs from $500 to $6,000 per ton. There are eighty-five men working at this mine, and the Nayno mine has about twenty men. The latter are taking out ore that will go from $1 to $9 per pound. There are more prospectors in the district now than have been before for fifteen years, and there is more development being done, with better success, than in any other camp in the county.

A small test shipment of ore from the Dictator mine on Silver creek, according to a report from Idaho Springs, returned $115 for 112 pounds of the mineral. The owner claims to have a fair-sized streak in the upper level of the shaft. If this is true, it can be considered as an important strike, for the mineral is worth $20,000 per ton. The mine has remained idle for a number of years, as are many others, but it goes to show that there are as many good lodes unprospected as have ever been opened.

WYOMING.

A steam sheep shearing plant will be erected at Casper in the spring.

A discovery of free milling gold quartz is reported from Evanston. The find is but eighteen miles from the city.

It is alleged that a pack of gray wolves attacked a ranchman named John Schoonyans near Medicine Bow and that he barely escaped with his life.

It is currently reported at Sheridan that Otto will contest the county seat in the near future and that considerable money has already been raised to carry on the contest.

A party of capitalists has been in Casper making arrangements for the development of a number of the best oil claims. Men have been put to work cutting timber for derricks.

The Laramie city council has ordered the survey of a line of ditch from the city to the east wall of what is known as the big basin, with the intention of using water from the basin natural reservoir for mechanical purposes.

The Meteetse stage driven has a very fine shepherd dog that killed a couple of porcupines a day or two ago near the Y. U. ranch and the consequence was that his head and mouth were completely filled with quills, so much so that the dog resembled an animated pin cushion.

The state of Wyoming, through Attorney General Fowler, filed a suit against the county of Laramie to enforce payment of the state's pro rata of uncollected taxes for the years 1889, 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895, aggregating, with interest, over $5,000. A similar suit has been begun by the state against Albany county and it may be that the two counties will combine in the test.

A new strike is reported from the Grand Encampment country. Robert Harrold of Laramie is the fortunate prospector and the mineral found is a red honey-combed quartz carrying free gold. The vein is forty feet wide. The new strike is south of the Summit mine, and in a locality considerably removed from the already defined limit of the Grand Encampment gold belt.

A force of men is engaged putting in a boom at Green river, under the superintendency of Mr. J. H. Haggarty, who is skilled in that class of work, having had a life-long experience. The boom will be 750 feet long, requiring 2,000 logs and 1,500 stone perches in its construction. The company will make a drive this coming spring of 2,000,000 feet, and the following year 5,000,000 feet. The company will put in a mill, equipped with all the modern and necessary machinery to turn out lath, shingles and lumber of every description.

W. T. Shaffer, editor of the Uinta Herald, some time since secured a patent on a single rail rapid transit railway, his own invention. The model has been thoroughly examined by engineers and experts, and is in every way a complete success. Mr. Shaffer has, however, made some improvements on the original patented idea, and contingent upon patents being granted on the improvements, he has arranged to sell his rights to an eastern city for $50,000, and the work of constructing street railways will be begun as soon as arrangements can be made. Mr. Shaffer declines to give further information at present, but is confident the deal will go through. The motive power used will be electricity, and it is claimed a very high rate of speed will be attained.

OREGON.

Out on Fifteen-Mile in Wasco county, all the farmers are busy plowing. The ground is in splendid condition, and a very large area is being turned over.

The new bridge across the Walla Walla river above Milton is now ready for travel. Since the collapse of the structure, persons living up the river have been compelled to ford the river.

When the Klamath reservation is thrown open for settlement, it is expected that several good gold mines will be opened up. Several finds with good prospects have been made on these Indian lands in the last quarter of a century, which are held in secrecy awaiting the time when the reservation will be thrown open.

J. H. Walker recently left at the Cottage Grove Leader office a sample of fine leaf tobacco, which he raised in his garden this year. He raised about 200 pounds, and will have his own smoking tobacco.

Fully 100 men are hard at work along the Alderbrook water front cutting wood for their winter's use, says the Astorian. During the recent freshet hundreds of cords of wood, and about 2,000 shingle bolts from the Cowlitz river were thrown up on the beach.

The sturgeon catch is getting quite good again, says The Dalles Chronicle. Sixteen of the big fellows were shipped away the other day, the five larger ones of the lot averaging 250 pounds each. Eight, all about the same size, weighed nearly 200 pounds each.

Reports from Hood River and Mosier indicate that considerable damage was done to fruit trees by the recent cold snap. It came so early that this year's growth of wood had not yet hardened, and the result was disastrous. An examination of the young orchards shows that the bark burst and turned black. The extent of the damage cannot be told until later.

A correspondent writes to the Eugene Guard from Wedderburn concerning a Lane county boy, a son of T. J. Cook: "Master Harvey Cook and his dog went hunting the other day and killed a very large panther, measuring nine feet, and also two large wild cats. The brave little boy is only 11 years old and is a fine hunter. He has killed two bears and ten deer and quite a lot of small game this winter. What county can produce a better record for a brave boy than Lane?"

Fisher and William Logan, brothers, were caught out in the cold snap of last month in Crook county while driving cattle. They left their cattle and tried to reach the cabin that was their destination, but, thinking they could not find it, they built a fire under a rimrock and remained there all night. It was the coldest night and others who were out say it was 34 degrees below zero. The men made themselves as comfortable as they could. They had no blankets and while sitting around the fire both fell asleep and after a while young Logan was awakened by his clothes catching on fire. On waking up he found that both of his feet were frozen. They also discovered when daylight came that they were in sight of the cabin.

Here is a Umatilla reservation Indian with no fondness for loud colors. He could not find a blanket or "Indian robe" of sober hues in Pendleton, so he went to the office of the woolen mill company and told Mr. Fell that he wanted a blanket. Mr. Fell informed the Indian that the company sold no goods at retail and that he must go to one of the stores. But the Indian said he wanted one made to order and would have it no other way; and finally he was humored and his order taken. It was for a pure white blanket, with a broad, dead black stripe running across, about eight inches from either end. This was made for him and he now proudly wears it on the streets as the only Indian in the world who does not like loud colors.

WASHINGTON.

A good many hop growers around Puyallup are making preparations to grow a crop of hops next year.

There are still about 3,000,000 feet of logs in the Gray's river boom that were brought out by the recent freshets.

The Palmer Mountain Tunnel company has completed the workshops at the entrance to the tunnel, in Okanogan county, and has put on an additional force of workmen.

A change in the management of the Fairhaven & New Whatcom street railway is under consideration, whereby C. X. Larrabee will secure control of the road, says the Whatcom Reveille.

The work of raising the Sturm shingle and sawmill, at the mouth of the Arkansaw creek, which went into the Cowlitz river the other day, is progressing slowly, owing to the water falling slowly and loose sand.

Since January 1, 1895, 363 mining companies have filed articles of incorporation in Spokane, with a total capital, according to the articles of incorporation, of $390,525,000. This is seven times as many companies as is the three preceding years, and five times as much capital stock.

It is estimated that to build the telephone line from eastern Washington to Puget sound points it will take 16,000 poles, 1,884 miles of No. 10 hard-drawn copper wire, 15,000 cross-arms and braces and 32,000 pins and insulators. The estimated cost of material and labor is $72,000.

In cutting wood, J. M. Hale of Cathlamet, felled a tree the other day that proved to contain a swarm of bees in its hollow. Mr. Hale sawed off a cut containing the bees, took the cut home, set it up, and now the bees are as contented as when their home was high in the big pine.

About two years ago a number of Hollanders settled in Snohomish county, purchasing land in as large tracts as possible and working the adjoining farms together. The colony is gradually growing and almost without exception the little groups of farms have prospered. A movement is now being started to bring over a number of colonists direct from Holland. The Hollanders have taken up the matter of flax raising and will plant a great deal of flax this year. They have also encouraged their neighbors to do otherwise, and will probably erect a mill in that vicinity in time to work next year's crop.

Starbuck is fully abreast of the times when it comes to a diversity of amusements. The other day about twenty Palouse Indians came to town and engaged the opera house for a war dance to be given that evening, which was well attended and much appreciated by many who had never seen anything of the kind before.

Cattle and hog raising is again coming to be an important industry of Lewis county. Ten years ago it took a good start, but other things appeared more profitable and there came a time when farmers brought to market hardly enough fat stock to supply the home demand for fresh meat. This year at least 1,500 cattle will be shipped out and probably 5,000 or 6,000 hogs.

The last season's work at Hall & Bishop's logging camp in Clallam county, is one to be proud of. At the beginning of the year two miles of railroad were put down and since then the loggers have been busy getting out logs. The season's cut amounted to 7,000,000 feet, most of which was towed to Hadlock and from there was distributed to different points on the sound and British Columbia. Forty men were employed in the camp throughout the year at an average of $2.50 per day. The men paid $4.50 per week for board.

David McLeod and a companion, while traveling along the state road in Skagit county, saw a hound chasing a half-grown deer. The frightened animal dashed almost into their arms and then sought shelter from the dog behind Mr. McLeod, who threw stones at the dog and drove him away. For this timely and humane act the gentle creature permitted himself to be captured and for ten minutes enjoyed being petted. When Mr. McLeod and his companion started again on their journey the young deer followed for a considerable distance, then turned aside and laid down in the deep undergrowth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The natural gas supply near Salt Lake is said to be exhausted.

Like Colorado, Nevada is now producing more gold than silver.

A Japanese drummer was in Visalia, Cal., recently. He carried ten trunks filled with Japanese goods.

Lehmi county, Idaho, talks of issuing $30,000 bonds to build a wagon road from the North Fork to Shoup.

Utah is to celebrate its first settlement with a semi-centennial from July 20 to 24 of the coming summer.

George Harvey, who was an English nobleman at Nogales, has been arrested as a common thief at Yuleta, Tex.

The southern Kootenai, B. C., shipments for 1896 amounted, up to the first of the month, to 27,200 tons, valued at $3,016,597.

The Timberline coal mines, near Bozeman, Mont., which have been operated nearly thirty years, have become exhausted.

In a tunnel being driven on the extension of the Alum Rock & San Jose railway, in Nevada, an excellent quality of coal was found.

Majave county mines, in southern California, are yet hardly more than surface diggings, but they have already produced $10,000,000.

A San Francisco cattle firm has bought hundreds of tons of hay in the Quin River valley, in Nevada, for $2 per ton, and is feeding 800 cows.

Good oil reports are coming in from Santa Barbara county, Cal. A heavy producer of light gravity oil has just been opened at Summerland.

Bisbee has become one of the most important cattle shipping points in Arizona. More than 7,000 head were shipped from there in the month of November.

Should Fort Whipple, in Arizona be rebuilt, as recommended by General Miles in his annual report, work will be given about fifty men for an indefinite period.

A high diver saturated his clothes with kerosene oil, set fire to them and dived from the steamship wharf seventy-five feet into the bay at San Diego without injury.

A large number of placer claims have been located on the Colorado river, below the mouth of the Virgin, which will be worked by a large force of men before spring.

The astronomers of the Lowell observatory, who have been working at Flagstaff, Ariz., announce that since August 1 they have discovered 150 new stellar systems.

Springville, Utah, has shipped 320 cars of sugar beets to the factory, receiving $4 per ton, or $27,000. This helps out a population of 3,500 in these hard times immensely.

Two adventurers are looking for a leather sack containing $20,000 in gold dust, which they claim lies buried somewhere along the bank of Walnut creek, in Contra Costa county, California.

On Grasshopper creek, near Bannock, at the original Montana placers that yielded $30,000,000, a boat with buckets on an endless chain brings up the golden gravel thirty-five feet. Over $250,000 has been spent on this new plan for placer mining, and big results are expected.

PEN PICTURES PLEASANTLY AND POINTEDLY PUT.

Drex L. Shooman didn't slip up on his Christmas present—because he had on a pair of shoes with "neverslip" soles on them—never needs to wear rubbers—keep feet dry—you never fall down—the pneumatic heels we put on any kind of shoe are great slip preventers too—these are two of the neatest and most useful inventions in the shoe line.

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