A California County Distinguished Beyond Any in the Land.

The Oneness of the Professions-A Genius Who Combines Legal Lore with Horseshoeing-Rattlesnakes That Hunt Pigs.

from San Francisco one must go into Ne- just move over on to another section. vada and take a long and most hazardous journey on a stage coach from Carson City.

sent them at Washington

ALPINE PLUCKS THE PRIZE who their officials are or get them mixed at home, as there is absolutely nothing to and call the clerk judge or the district attention to be gained by calling when I am away. "Yours respectfully." the county. There is not enough level land for a surveyor to set his tripod on. Besides there is no need of such an official, for there is plenty of mountainside for everybody, and there are no land disputes.

certain ranches, had crawled up to the highest mountain peak and looked down on fixed on the flying hog. them in order to assess them. Residents up there cannot dodge paying poll tax, be-The strangest county in the United cause they are all known. Taxes on real States is situated in central California, near estate are hard to collect in some cases, bethe Nevada state line. The county is Al- cause, when the land is offered for sale by simply seem to have an uncontrollable and pine, and it is almost inaccessible from the county, nobody will bid it in; and other parts of California. To reach it should somebody do so, the rancher would

Years ago Alpine county was the scene of extensive mining operations. Eastern The trip to Alpine from Los Angeles capitalists lost a great amount of money in takes more time than it does to go from gold and silver mines, and in the palmiest that city to Texas, or to Guaymas, on the day the county rang with the pickax of the Gulf of California. Yet Alpine county is miner and the thunder of the large quartz in the same congressional district as Los mills echoed from canyon to canyon. Angeles, and the voters in Los Angeles may those days Markleeville numbered about frequently have to await the returns of its 2,000 souls. It has twice been devastated election before they know who is to repre- by fire, and altogether shows few signs of its former prosperity.

The voting register of Alpine county con- In 1872 a company of New York capi-



THE BLACKSMITH JUDGE.

sists of two leaves, about 8x6 inches in talists erected a rock crushing and gold if close. However, any kind of sweets may size, and the ninety-six names occupy only extracting mill at a cost of \$125,000. One the two inside pages. The register was can hardly imagine the feeling of desolation printed in San Francisco, there belog no that strikes a person when he walks through printing establishment in the county. The delegates at the last democratic state and activity that once prevailed where convenion had a good laugh at Alpine's funeral silence now obtains. It is said that

down the house and caused uprearious mer-

The country throughout Alpine is largely edge that Alpine county can boast of one mountainous. There are only about 3,000 acres suitable for farming purposes in the whole 755 square miles of its territory. The population of the county is less than 350, and of these only about 100 live in families, the remainder living lonely lives in mountain cabins. The only town or village in the county is Markleeville, the county seat, whose population is but 143 persons. There is but one doctor in the

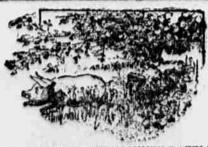
county, and but one barber and one lawyer. There are two merchants, nine professional gamblers, four barrooms, two postoffices and one hotel within the boundaries of the whole county. It is hard to say just what industry is

the most profitable in Alpine, but the two principal ones are mining and farming, forty-five of the ninety-six voters being engaged in these occupations. The major part of the farming consists of sheep raising. Thirty-seven of the ninety-six voters are naturalized foreigners.

The county clerk's office is a wooden structure about twenty feet square. The jail, which has not contained a prisoner since 1887, consists of but two cells. Whenever the sheriff makes an arrest, which i seldom, he chains his prisoner to a tree until he is tried. If the man is convicted he is sentenced to close confinement in Markleeville, and it is considered a breach of etiquette for him to try to leave town until his time is up. The county clerk and county treasurer is—or are—one man. Easy Times for Officials.

If a man wants to file a document or commence a suit he goes to the county clerk's ranch over the hills and transacts his business. One man recently had to spend an entire day searching for the clerk before he could be found to open his office for an inspection of the county's books. The clerk said he had not opened the office for six weeks, and that sometimes he had no business as a county official for four or five months. He declared that in ten years only eleven mortgages and fourteen deeds had been recorded in the county. In 1883 and 1886 neither a deed nor a mortgage was placed on record. The annual fees of the dual functionary average a little over \$30. He says he would like to resign his official position, but likes the honor of the offices

The county has officials just the same as the largest and most important counties in the state. A directory of county officers shows a blacksmith is the superior judge and the district attorney a miner. The county assessor holds the position of stable-



THE EMNITY OF THE COUNTY RATTLE SNAKE FOR SWINE.

man. Another miner is both sheriff and tax collector. A blacksmith sitting as superior judge and a miner acting as district attorney are novelties not often met with. The system of government is something

welding a tire and then approaches him.

When a lawsuit is to be tried the parties go to the blacksmith shop, or foundry, as it is called, and the judge takes off his apron, rolls down his sleeves and proceeds desk. Contempt of court is punished by

Where Trouble Comes In. GOOD REASONS FOR ITS EMINENCE Assessing is a serious job in Alpine

these deserted mills and thinks of the life When the name of the county when Edison's system of working ore by was called her one delegate, a big man electricity is adopted Alpine county will with red whiskers, rose up and answered "boom" again, for the ore is there, and with a grin, "All here." The scene brought all that is needed is a cheap way to work it. the old private soldier in the United States The few strangers that invade the limits volunteer service who is directly indebted

"Yours respectfully." Alpine county is noted for the size and known as the hog-hunting variety. If one Immense Collection of Trophies in the happened to be in Markleeville and saw a frightened hog running like a cyclone, its eyes hanging out, its tail curled up like a corkscrew and its whole being indicative of | SOUVENIRS county. Sometimes the assessor risks his wet somewhere, one need have no apprean overpowering desire to get in out of the life in getting to a ranch or mine. Stories hension, for not far behind and surely gainare told of instances where that official, ing on the bog one will find a rattlesnake fearing to endanger his neck in getting to gliding along, his head raised six inches above the ground and his glittering eyes

The snakes do not eat the hogs after they kill them, for even an Alpine county rattlesnake has not capacity enough to swallow down anything larger than a rabbit. They deadly hatred of swine, and kill them because they hate them.

NEVER CARES TO WANDER.

The Busy Bee Limits to Five Miles His Search for Raw Material. The range of the honey bee is but little inderstood by the masses, says the Baltigo for miles in quest of nectar, while others how any one can tell how far the bee may fly, but this is simple when understood. Years ago, when the Italian bees were first having marks different to the common bees already here, were easily distinguished, and after any beekeeper had obtained the Italian bees they could be observed and their range easily noticed. If bloom is plentiful near where the bees are located they will not go very far, perhaps a mile in range.

as they may go profitably. wonderful how the little honey bee can go so far from its home and ever find its way back to its own particular hive. If while the little bee is out of its home, or hive, the hive should be removed some ten or twenty feet, according to the surroundings, when it came back to where its nome was first located it would be hopelessly lost. If its home was in an open space, with no other objects close, it might find its way home, but, even should the hive be moved only a few feet, many of the bees would get lost.

miles. Usually about three miles is as far

So to move a hive, if done in the winter time, it would be all right, but if in the summer time it should be done after dark. or when the bees are not flying, and even then the bees should be stirred up some and smoke blown in at the hive entrance and a board or some object placed in front of the hive so that the bees in coming out may mark their new location. Bees, no doubt, are guided by sight, and also by sense of smell. They are attracted by the color of bloom, as, if they are at work on a certain kind of bloom, they are not likely to leave that particular kind of bloom for any other as long as they can find that kind. Again, bees are often attracted to sweets by their sense of smell, for they will go after sweets, even if in the dark, be placed in glass in plain sight, but if covered so as not to emit any smell, the bees will take no notice of them.

VOUCHED FOR BY THE PRESIDENT

Young Private Who Went In Without Examination or Question. Ralph Botkin, son of Congressman-at-Large J. D. Botkin of Kansas is probably of this almost inaccessible country acknowl- to President McKinley for his enlistment. When the first call was made for volun



THE SHERIFF CHAINS HI S PRISONER TO A TREE.

grave political fact. There are so few in- teers, Ralph, who is only 16 years of age

seek the man. The character of the hardy mountaineers who live in cabins far removed from the county highways is shown by an experience of the assessor last year. The assessor called at a man's cabin, but finding the owner not at home, left a notice, in reply to which he received the following communi-

Told All He Knew.

cation:

"Dear Sir-I hereby acknowledge your unwelcome visit of the 11th inst., and submit report as per written request stuck in crack of the door. "You will find my previous names and

patronymic subscribed to the tail end of this modest epistle. I will be 33 years old next Christmas. Occupation, mossback of the mossiest variety. My real property consists of the sw ¼ of se ¼ and se ¼ of sw ¼ of section 27, township 22, range 6 e. eighty acres more or less, etc. House costing about \$250. About three acres partly cleared. Purchase price of land, \$5 per acre. Will let you guess at the value of clearing, as I am not certain whether it will be a source of revenue or dead loss to me. Following is a list of my personal property "One second-hand stove, with serious rupture in starboard bulkhead abaft the firebox and minus port hind leg, \$1.50; one frying remarkable. If a man has dealings with pan, 10 cents; one coffee pot, 15 cents; one the superior judge he hangs around until coffee mill, 75 cents; one butcher knife, exhis honor gets through shoeing a horse or tra quality, 5 cents; one table, built of rough lumber and kalsomined with bacon grease, 80 cents; six jimcrow chairs, \$4.50; two red blankets, \$1; one gray blanket, 40 cents; one gunny sack, 4 cents; one dago hat, two years old, 7 cents; one walkto conduct the trial, using the anvil for a pominie shirt, 26 cents; one pair blue overalls, new, 75 cents; one pair hobnail shoes,

the offender.

Lawsuits are few. There is so little litischool districts. I would earnestly request gation that sometimes the people forget that the next trip you will come when I am

habitants that the office does undoubtedly went to the recruiting office to enlist, bu was rejected on account of a slight physical defect. He grieved a great deal, especially when he saw the Kansas troops of the command of Colonel Lindsey en route to Camp Alger. He went up to the lower house of congress to ask his father as a special favor to use his influence at the War department in his behalf. He was the only son and Mrs. Botkin, who was

ill, hated to see him go to war, so young Mr. Botkin, seeing that the boy was very anxious to enlist, called a carriage and both of them rode direct to the White House Mr. Botkin explained the situation to President McKinley, who after questioning the young man closely said that he would suspned the regulations in order to give such a brave young patriot a chance to serv his country.

"What do you want?" asked the presi "I want to be a private with the other

Kansas boys," said young Botkin. "You have mettle enough to be a gensaid the president pleasantly, Mr. McKinley called the War departmen up by telephone, and, after getting the ad-

jutant general of the army, he said: "Corbin, I have a young Jayhawker here that wants to fight for his country; assign him to Colonel Lindsey's regiment, at Camp Alger, without examination. I will youch for the fact that he is all right." into Camp Alger, reported to Colonel Lindsey, and was assigned to a tent with an-

other Kansas boy. It is probably the first time in the history of the United States that the president has been called upon to appoint a man to the position of a private in the army.

National Museum at Washington.

Washington's Camp Chest, Tents and Uniform, Jackson's Pistols, Grant's Sword and Field Glasses and

the Ellsworth Guns.

One government department which is watching the operations against Spain with interest, in the hope of securing some advantage from its results, is the National Museum. The museum already contains a large and interesting collection of trophies and relies won in former conflicts, but there s still room for a compartment to be de voted to the war of 1898 should results justify it.

One of the interesting relics now in th museum is the camp chest used by Washmore American, many supposing that bees ington throughout the revolution. It is compact affair about the size of a tourist's think that they go only a short distance, wicker chest for cooking of the present day It may be curious to many to understand two and one-half feet long, two feet wide one foot high and it contains an outfit cor sisting of tinder box, pepper and salt boxes. bottles, knives, forks, gridiron and plates introduced in the United States, these bees, Every bit of the outfit save one bottle, which is broken at the shoulder, looks strong enough to stand another campaign.

Near by are the tents used by Washington. three in number. One is a sleeping tent twenty-eight feet long, with walls six feet It is black; the buttons are well worn, high and a roof with six feet pitch. It is particularly around the edges, and so is the made of linen. The other two are marquee but if bloom is scarce they may go five tents of smaller size, one with walls, the other a shelter tent open on the sides. That the tenting material of revolutionary days zontal rain of bullets." It is the stump of Bees have been known to go as far as was of good stuff is proved by the excellent eight miles in a straight line, crossing a condition of these tents which sheltered the body of water that distance to land. It is great commander through all his severe ing the battle of Spottsylvania Courthouse campaigns.

Here also is Washington's uniform worn



WASHINGTON'S UNIFORM.

by him when he gave up his commission a commander-in-chief of the army at Annapolis in 1783. It consists of a big shad-belly coat of blue broadcloth, lined and trimme with soft buckskin and ornamented with broad, flat brass buttons; buckskin waistcoat and breeches. The size of the garments (which are in a state of excellent preservation) testify to the big stature of the Father of His Country and suggests that he had an eye to a fine appearance in his dress,

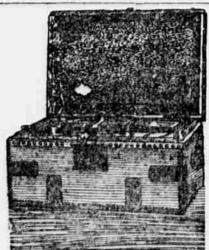
Mementoes of Jackson. Not far from these Washington relics is a collection of mementoes of General Jack son. At the foot of a lifesize painting o "Old Hickory" is folded his military coat of blue with brass buttons, lace trimmings, high collar and gold epaulettes. The garment was worn by him at the battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, when with M'frs & Jobbers of Foot Wear 2,100 American militia he overcame the British troops of seasoned regulars 5,000 strong. Below the coat is his case of pistols, looking strong and ready as if the had been rubbed and oiled daily since Jackson last fired them at the foe. They are stout flint-locks of large bore and substantial grip, such as one might fancy that warrior of Jackson's temperament would

Close at hand are two small flint-lock pistols taken from the British at New Orlenns. If the difference in size between th British pistols and those of General Jackson obtained as to all the other weapons used by the British and the Americans, it is small wonder that Jackson defeated the

Not far away there is a sword which was carried by Captain Seth Brett Thornton of the Second Dragroons, who struck the first blow in the Mexican war at Cassita and who fell in the last attack on the City of Mexico.

To go back a bit, mention should be made of the old service-worn canteen carried through the revolution by John Paulding, one of the three captors of Major Andre It is of metal with a cork stopple, is abou two-thirds of a foot long and nearly four inches in diameter. The label does not say so, but it is presumed that the canteen was for water, though it is known that the American soldiers in those days like som of other times were not averse to an occasional flavor of applejack in their water casks.

After a glance at a broad yellow sash worn by General Sherman at Atlanta and criticised since then as to its cut by the residents of that city, one spies two very interesting relics of the rebellion. One of them is a small, neat-looking double barreled shotgun minus the ramrod. It is th



GENERAL WASHINGTON'S CAMP CHEST

gun which in the hands of James P. Jack son, in Alexandria, May 24, 1861, caused the death of the gallant Ellsworth. Below That very night Ralph Botkin walked it is the weapon with which Brownell promptly avenged the murder of Ellsworth. It is a big musket, long and heavy, with capacious bore any Cowned with a saber bayonet big enough to split the heart of an

The Fing of Sumter. Resting quietly near the front of its case s the old flag which fluttered above Fort Moultrie and later over Sumter until Major Anderson was forced to haul it down. Near it is the first union flag raised by citizens of any of the seceding states after the

firing on Sumter, It was raised in New Orleans after the occupation of that city by General Butler.

Here also may be seen the pair of field glasses used by General Grant in the civil war. They are well worn, the ridges of the larger end being frayed by frequent removal from their case. Stirring scenes those glasses have looked on. Would that they OF FAMOUS CAMPAIGNS might have been possessed of kinetoscopic powers! There are other relies of Grant. notably his shoulder straps with four stars. No such are worn now. They are the straps of a full general. The office is two grades above that held by General Miles and is now extinct. Not a rolle of the war, but none the less interesting, is a beautiful sword presented to General Grant. The label informs one that it is "a Toledo blade, with guard of steel, ivory grip, steel scab bard, ornamented in gold and enamel, made in Toledo and presented to General Grant in 1873 by the Spanish republic."



JOHN PAULDING'S CANTEEN.

In another case are the uniform, sword and other regalia worn by General Hancock, "The Superb." And not far away, unostentatious as was their owner in his life time, lies the old office suit worn by President Lincoln to the day of his death back of the collar.

A few steps away is an illustration of the aptness of the phrase "a seething horia tree three feet in diameter, cut off five feet above the ground by bullets fired during the battle of Spottsylvania Courthouse. It stood inside the confederate intrenchments near the courthouse and was cut

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can wars at the museum, but those men- under them. tioned are perhaps the most notable. There was formerly a museum of war relics in the old War department building now oc-

omewhere in the present War department, any point in Porto Rico,

down by musket bails during the attempt which is too eramped for room to set aside to recapture the works previously carried by space for a museum. It is unlikely that the Second corps of the Army of the Po- | they will ever again be exhibited to Washington, as they will soon be returned to the There are many other relics of the Ameri- men remaining of those who once fought

Postal Cierks Go with Miles, WASHINGTON, July 21.-Postmaster cupled by a branch of the Treasury depart- | General Emory Smith made another extenment. Two sets of cannon at one time be- gion of the postal service today in establonging to that museum are now exposed to limbing Porto Rico as a military station public view. One is at the main entrance under the postoffice at Washington, D. C., of the War, State and Navy building and Postmaster J. H. Willett in charge. Faciltconsists of two smooth bore cannon brought | ties will be established for the transaction to this country by Lafayette to bark and of money order and registry business, the bite for our freedom. The other set was gale of postal supplies and the receipt and brought from England by the British, is dispatch of mails. H. M. Robinson of the surmounted by the royal coat of arms of Atlanta office has been appointed special Great Britain and was captured at the bat-tle of Stoney Point, July 16, 1779, where Hahn, J. H. Kemp, S. W. Kingsmore and they barked and tried to bite for our op- Edward Jifking as assistants. The four last named clerks have for some time been wait-Mort of the other exhibits of the old ing at Tampa prepared for this service. museum were buttle flags of the confederacy, The order will go into effect immediately which are now boxed up and stored away upon the landing of United States troops at

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