

NORTHWEST NEWS.

Topics of General Interest in the Four New States and Elsewhere.

The last general report of the postmaster general shows that Washington has 307 miles of steamboat mail routes, and the number of miles traveled annually by the mail boats is 300,000.

Al Harrison of Sweet Grass was in town on Friday, says the Bozeman Courier, and in speaking of stock he said they had wintered well in his locality and as far as he knew throughout the Yellowstone country.

Nearly the entire population of Dry creek are in Bozeman this week in attendance upon the district court, says the Courier. The title to the waters of Dry creek for irrigation purposes will probably be determined at this term.

J. C. Hannah sustained a heavy loss at his ranch on Rogue river, Ore., by a change in the channel almost ruining his fine orchard standing on the bank of the stream. His place, prior to 1862, was one of the finest bodies of land on Rogue river, but repeated freshets have reduced the quantity of bottom land more than two-thirds. The reports on the conditions of stock in Eastern Oregon vary greatly, says the Eastern Oregon Republican. In some sections the loss has been considerably above that of the average winter, while in other places the loss is almost nothing. The loss no doubt will be above average, but will not reach the estimates of any Eastern Oregon papers.

George Lewis was the greatest sufferer by the flood in the vicinity of Grant's Park, Ore. His place was almost entirely ruined but a few acres remaining of a fine \$3,000 ranch, although luckily his house and apple orchard escaped the waters. His barn and contents, including hay, implements, etc., were washed away, along with most of the fencing and good land on the place.

It is said that J. J. Brown, who has purchased the Spokane Falls Evening Chronicle for \$30,000, will endeavor to make the Chronicle an organ for the democratic party in the state. It is further reported that the object of the Chronicle will be to boom Brown for United States senator, to achieve which he declares he will spend any amount of money. He is several times a millionaire.

Uncle Sam Burd of Choteau, says the Fort Benton Press, has driven a tunnel in 30 feet on his mining claim at the foot of the main range, between Deep Creek and the Teton, west of Choteau, and has struck rock which assays well in silver and gold. Mr. Burd has long been convinced of the existence of good paying mineral in that section, and we hope he will strike it rich.

The Choteau Coal company has been organized with Nat Collins as president and Perry Aspling as secretary, says the Fort Benton Press. The company is now developing a vein of coal on Deep creek close to the mountains, 20 miles west of Choteau. The coal is bituminous and is said to be the finest coking and best blacksmithing coal yet found in the state. The vein is four feet thick.

McCoy, the mail contractor, has returned from the Big Bend to Walla Walla. He says it is impossible to describe the condition of the stock interest. He believes that there is not 100 head of cattle left in that region. The snow in places is 40 feet deep and it is four feet on the level. Father Armstrong lost a big band and has only one cow left. He is feeding her flour. In order to save their horses the men dig the snow away and the animals eat the brush, grass and roots. Large quantities of provender are being shipped to that section daily.

A well earned prize is that of John Carbis and Joseph Gill says the Boulder Age. They have been working on the Excelsior mine for six months without getting a cent. They have the best tunnel site in the district. This mine is about one-fourth mile from the Gregory mine, on the Wickes road. The mouth of the tunnel comes out in this and across the road and they have 600 by 300 feet of dumping ground, and about 100 feet for a run of an ore chute. When the tunnel was in about one hundred feet they came upon a pretty good lead which run from four to twelve inches for about fifty feet. An assay from the ore went \$35 in silver and 50 per cent. lead. Mr. Carbis let 50 feet upon contract and the lead has been opening as it goes on. On Saturday your correspondent accompanied Mr. Carbis and Mr. Gill to the mine, and found in the breast of this tunnel 2 feet 10 inches of solid ore which will run high in lead and bearing gray copper with natural silver. These gentlemen were overjoyed with their prospect; there is also an eight inch lead in the foot wall. The tunnel is now in 250 feet. They have 1,200 feet more to run into the mountain, with from 800 to 1,000 feet back ground to work upon. Your correspondent has some fine specimens from this mine bearing peacock and gray copper and a great amount of lead. The owners have been asked to stock the mine but they think it best to take out enough to pay them for their six months' work. Mr. Gill says he will not take less than \$30,000 for his half interest.

A correspondent asks for information, says the Laramie Boomerang, concerning the Rocky mountain sheep, adding: "I want such information that will interest a hunter—not such as is usually given in books." In accordance with our correspondent's wishes we will give a description of the animal as we remember him, without regard to the points usually given in books of reference. The male is strong, stocky and active in every outline. His postures are rather more defiant and pugnacious than that of the deer, elk or antelope. He presents a bold and warlike front, has a large, keen eye, and when frightened or suspicious has a nervous, quick action that seems half fear, half defiance. He has the gray-red color of the deer, which varies sometimes from a light to a dark brown. Nose and insides of legs light—almost white—with white buttocks and short black tail. We deem it unnecessary to describe his horns or head. They are very similar in profile to the domestic sheep—of course differing in color and the horns being many times larger and heavier. The female, also, has a front adorned with horns, resembling those of the female goat, only much longer and larger. Her color is practically that of the male—her build slightly more slender, and her bearing less noble and belligerent. As a game animal, for many reasons the Rocky Mountain sheep has few sur-

periors in the world. Its flesh is excellent; its color so nearly assimilates with that of the gray-red rocks of the mountains that, though standing against the face of a cliff in plain view, it is with exceeding difficulty that it can be seen. Its senses of sight and hearing are very acute; and as a climber its feet are marvellous. Without exaggeration, it is safe to say that outside of winged creatures the mountain sheep can reach seemingly inaccessible places with more ease and celerity than any other living creature. They have strong attachments for old haunts, and have often been known, despite their wild, untamable nature, to return to old feeding grounds after the same has been enclosed and pastured by horses, cattle and other domestic animals.

Her Hoop's Are Large.
From Munsey's Weekly.
Goslin's Miss Livewayt is well heeled, isn't she?
Dolly: "Yes; she is from Chicago."

On the Jump.
From Munsey's Weekly.
It is natural that the senate messengers should become senators in time.
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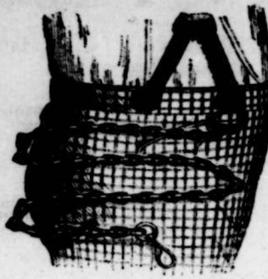
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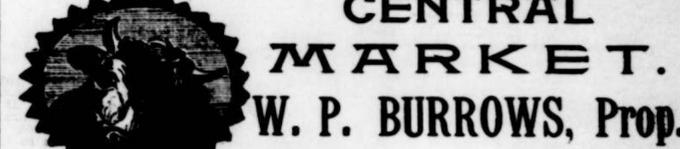
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