

NORTHWEST NEWS.

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

A gentleman acquainted with the sheep industry of Lincoln county, Wash., is reported as having stated that before winter set in there were 40,800 sheep reported within the bounds of that county, and that 10,876 perished during the winter, leaving a remaining balance of 29,924.

Auditor Kenney says that the money to pay for the new arsenal, which business men have been asked to loan until such time as it is allowed by the necessary legislation, has all been subscribed and the military can take possession immediately. The amount of the little bill is \$5,951.75, says the Helena Herald.

Willis Ware was drowned in the Cowlitz river Saturday, near Toledo, Wash. He was engaged in driving bolts, and was coming down stream in a boat. In order to keep from crashing into a heavy log he jumped upon it, but missed his footing, fell into the stream and was drowned. The deceased left a widow and five children, who reside at Kelson.

It has been decided by the owners of horses and the citizens of Deer Lodge, says the Silver State, to announce a two days' race meeting at the association grounds some time in June, probably the 16th and 17th, on which occasion \$1,000 will be hung up for contestants. The programme and purses will be announced later.

The Silver State says that Deer Lodge can boast of having more high bred and valuable horses than any town or city in the state. One can stand on the street and see more horses that will foot up a higher cash value than in any other place between here and Portland. Training is in full blast and scrapping at the track is an every day occurrence.

The Northern Pacific railroad company, as the result of the request of the Missoula board of trade for stopping off privileges at this point, says the Missoulian, have placed on sale a round trip ticket from St. Paul to Missoula and return at the rate of \$22.50. The ticket is good for 30 days from time issued and gives stopping-off privileges at all Montana points.

Clint Price of Gallatin was in the city last week and informs us that many farmers and stockmen are in a worse fix now than they were last fall, says the Bozeman Chronicle. They have no hay to feed their cattle and cannot turn them out, as there is nothing on the ranges for them to eat. The condition of things on the Gallatin, Madison and Boulder is quite serious.

Seattle is to have a Masonic temple costing \$250,000. It is to be a six-story building, with ample accommodations for all the local Masonic lodges, as well as handsome lodge-rooms for other secret societies, the ground floor being adapted to accommodate mercantile houses. The Masonic order will have a commodious lodge room, Masonic library, reception rooms, and a handsome banquet hall. It is thought that the commandery will occupy the entire floor for its work. The association will also endeavor to have in the temple the permanent location of the grand lodge.

It is told of Wilcox, the hack driver, says the Helena Independent, that last Sunday he went a gunning out along the Missouri and saw a duck, which he shot and brought down, but the pesky thing flapped its wings and fell into the river. He chased it along the bank, which was lined with snow and a thin sheet of frost, and followed the floating form of his prey for nearly half a mile. He was about to lose it forever, when in a sudden fit of eager desperation he plunged headlong into the cold, muddy stream and began a race with the current, which he overtook and finally landed his bird.

Reports from Jefferson, Deer Lodge and other counties are not as favorable as they might be regarding the water supply, says the Bozeman Chronicle. Hon. C. P. Blakeley, who has lately made a visit to the west side, says that there is very little snow in the mountains of that region and that the outlook is a serious one to placer miners as well as farmers who depend on water. On the other hand, the eastern end of Montana is abundantly supplied with snow and ice, which will gradually thaw during the summer and send down a continual stream of water to the parched realm of valley land.

The hunting season rapidly approaches and our sportsmen are getting their guns and rods ready for business, says the Bozeman Chronicle. Several fishermen have been out during the past week and returned with small messes. Ducks and geese are reported plentiful along the Madison and Jefferson, but our sportsmen are not anxious to kill them at present, preferring to wait until these birds have had an opportunity to recruit and gain flesh after their long flight from the south. The various guides and professional hunters of this city are getting their stock together for the summer's work and many of them have engagements for the entire summer with gentlemen from the East.

W. S. Kemple's friends in Helena will be surprised to hear of his resignation of his position as superintendent of the Rocky Mountain division of the Northern Pacific, says the Journal. Mr. Kemple's intentions for the future are not known, but it is hoped he will remain in Montana. His successor is S. G. Ramsey, so well known and popular in Helena, formerly in the general offices in this city, and later superintendent of the Idaho division. His promotion will be heard with pleasure here. P. W. Gilbert is appointed superintendent of the Idaho division. The Chief of Alene division will hereafter be a part of the Idaho division, and known as the Chief of Alene district. These changes are to take effect April 1.

A near approximate of the total indebtedness of Deer Lodge county is \$250,000, says the Silver State. If our memory serves us right, the bonded debt of the county is \$50,000. The floating debt is, therefore, about \$200,000. On the floating debt the county pays 7 per cent. interest. Those holding county warrants and other orders on the county, when there is no money in the county treasury, can usually get these orders cashed by individuals at 10 per cent. discount. In the event that \$100,000 of this debt could be bonded at 5 per cent., it would be an economic expedient, saving the county not only the difference between 5 and 7 per cent., but the occasional necessity of borrowing

money for cash transactions. An arrangement of this kind would supersede the necessity of employes of the county discounting their orders.

There have been several sales of patented farming lands in the vicinity of Fort Benton lately, and the demand for this class of property will surely increase during the spring and summer months, as immigration increases, says the River Press. Many unexperienced persons, who know nothing about farming, were seized with the agricultural fever, made locations and proved up on them under the impression they wanted to be farmers, and that they could learn the business in a short time. After a short time these people became convinced that they were not farmers, and never will be, and are willing to quit if they can find some one who is a farmer, and likes the business, to buy them out. This is the case in every new country and this country is just passing through that experience. We are glad to know that eastern farmers are coming in and buying up land for the purpose of engaging in farming. These people know what they are about.

Word has been received from Washington of the establishment of a new mail route to White Sulphur Springs, says the Bozeman Chronicle. For many years the mail has been carried daily from the railroad at Townsend to White Sulphur, but under the new regime Creamery will be the southern terminus of this route. The change will be made as soon as offices can be established along the new route. The change will be made as soon as offices can be established along the new route. This change will benefit a large number of people, whereas the former route was of use to only one ranch along the route. The change is said to have been made in answer to a petition from this city, which asked to have the route from here. Congressman Carter thought that a larger number of people would be supplied with mail with the starting point at the place named and his counsel was followed by the department, which has already ordered that the change be made.

Professor Bach was yesterday circulating a petition requesting Representative Carter to procure aid from the government in turning the Tongue river into its old bed or course, and away from the east or Miles City bank, which it has been cutting into the past eight years says the Yellowstone Journal. The petition was accompanied by a map showing the location of the bed of the river in 1878, and again in 1890, by which it is to be seen that in the period of 12 years the stream has encroached upon the Miles City bank some 400 feet more. The situation is becoming very serious, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Carter can secure the aid asked for. A very small appropriation would accomplish a great deal of good, while every year it is delayed the damage is greater and more money will be required to put matters as they should be. The petition was universally signed and goes to Washington representing the leading business men of the city.

Edward McVicker of Ellensburg, was found dead in his bed the other morning. He was 55 years of age and a bachelor. His death is supposed to have resulted from natural causes. Edward McVicker, says the Register, was a pioneer of the West, an argonaut of the early days of California, always highly respected for his good qualities. At one time he was a prosperous miner and the owner of the richest claims in the neighborhood of Helena, Montana. He was one of that army of brave and hardy pioneers who blazed the way across the country, endured the sufferings and hardships of the early days, and who did so much in developing the latent mineral resources of the great West and the land of the setting sun. Edward McVicker was well and favorably known to all old-timers on the Pacific coast, and his mortal remains were followed to their last resting place this afternoon by a number of his old associates in the mining days and many friends and acquaintances who knew him in this city.

Intimately Acquainted. From the Detroit Free Press. "Yes, we two boys were thrown together a good deal when we went to school in the country." "In the same class, eh?" "No; we rode the same mule."

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