Pulse of Western Progress.

There are two principal ways of going from the Pacific coast ports to the Klondyke gold fields, taking Seattle for a starting point, says the Chicago Record. One all-water route, by way of the mouth of the Yukon. It is fifteen days' voyage from Seattle to St. Michaels. One goes straight out into the Pacific toward Japan for 1,800 miles. Then one turns through Unimak pass to the Aleutian islands, and touches for a day at the port of Dutch harbor. Thence one sails away to the north across Bering sea and past the Seal islands, 800 miles farther, to the port of St. Michaels.

This is a transfer point, and the end of the ocean volage. At St. Michaels, after a wait of anywhere from a day to two weeks, granting that the river is open, one may go aboard a flat-bottomed river steamer for another fifteen or twenty days' voyage up the Yukon.

If one should arrive at St. Michaels as early as August 25, he would have pretty good assurance of reaching the mines before cold weather closed river navigation, but arriving later than that his chances would be good for either wintering on the desolate little island of St. Michaels or traveling by foot and dog sled the 1,900 miles to the mines after the river had frozen into a safe highway. As to the probabilities of the ocean route, a boat leaving Seattle or San Francisco by August 10 should make safe connections at St. Michaels.

The other way of getting to the mines, commonly called the Juneau route, is much more direct, but it is broken by various methods of transportation. The first stage is a four-days' trip from Seattle up the coast 900 miles to Juneau. This is the principal Alaskan port, a town of 5,000 inhabitants, and a very good outfitting point, as prices are but little higher than at the cities on Puget sound. Everything that a miner needs can be procured there in ordinary times, although such a rush as is expected might exhaust the resources of the town.

From Juneau there is yet another short stage by salt water—100 miles a little west of north, to the head of the Lynn canal, a long, narrow inlet. The landing at the head of the inlet is called Dyea, and has a trading post, where the things that one inevitably has overlooked in the first outfitting may be purchased. There is also at Dyea a village of 200 or 300 Chilkoot Indians, who make their living by packing miners' outfits over Chilkoot pass, a portage of from twenty to thirty-two miles, according to which one of the chain of small lakes one chooses to begin fresh water navigation.

The next thing, after getting safely over the pass, is to build a boat. Four men who are handy with tools can take the standing spruce, saw out lumber and build a boat large enough to carry them and their 4,000 pounds of provisions all in a week. It should be a good stanch boat, for there are storms to be encountered on the lakes, and rapids, moreover, that would shake a frail craft to pieces. The boat should have a sail that could be raised and lowered conveniently.

With boat built one starts from the head of Lake Bennett on the last stage of the trip—a sail of 600 miles downstream (not counting lakes) to Dawson City, at the mouth of the Klondyke. With fair weather, at the evening of the second day one reaches Miles canyon, the beginning of the worst piece of water on the trip. The voyager has passed through Lake Bennett and Takish and Marsh lakes. At the head of Miles canyon begins three miles of indescribably rough water which terminates in White Horse rapids.

After the rapids comes Lake LaBarge, a beautiful sheet of water thirty-five miles long, and in this connection a suggestion is desirable. Near the foot of the lake on the left side, is a creek coming in which marks a good game country. A year ago and in previous seasons moose were plentiful there and in the rugged mountains nearer the head of the lake there always have been good hunting grounds for mountain sheep. A delay of a week either in this locality or almost any of the small streams that flow into the succeeding 200 miles of river, for the purpose of laying in a good supply of fresh meat, is worth considering. Moose meat that can be preserved until cold weather sets in will sell for a fancy price.

The first trading post and settlement of white men to be encountered on the river is at Fort Selkirk, opposite the mouth of Pelly river. Thence it is a little more than a day's run down to Sixty Mile, and it takes less than a day to go from Sixty Mile to Dawson City.

There is another suggestion to consider before arriving at Sixty Mile. All along that part of the river are many timbered islands, covered with tall, straight spruce. With such an influx of prospectors as are expected at Dawson City before winter begins building logs will be in great demand. Cabin logs ten inches in diameter and twenty feet long sold at Circle City last year, in the raft, at $5 each. With an increased demand, and with better mines, the prices at Dawson City may be much higher. Four men can handle easily a raft of 500 or 600 such logs. Getting them out would be a matter of only a week or two.

EASTERN OPINION OF WESTERN FRUIT

Our markets, says the New York Times, for the past few days attested the final triumph of the California fruit growers. Eastern skeptics who maintained for a long time that no good thing to eat could come out of the Pacific Nazareth have been driven from one position after another. They have been forced to admit successively that the oranges and the grapes and the cherries of California were good to eat.

And they have retreated into their last fastness, the position that at all events the California fruit grower could not produce peaches that had any flavor. Now this citadel has also been carried. Peaches that were as much larger and handsomer than those of nature, but which were made of wood pulp, have not this season appeared at all. They have been replaced by peaches much smaller and less oppressive to the eye, but most agreeable to the nostrils and the palate. They smell like peaches—they taste like peaches. It is impossible any longer to deny that they are peaches.

We congratulate California growers upon the production of a fruit that is not easily distinguishable from the common product of Delaware and New Jersey. Thus far California has not sent us anything that rivals in flavor the choice specimens and varieties of eastern orchards. It is very possible that that is in store for us. In the meantime, the peaches we are now getting are undoubtedly fit to eat.

It is noteworthy that success has been attained at the cost of the pictorial quality of the fruit, for California peaches of 1897 are by no means as handsome or overgrown as their predecessors and are not to be easily distinguished from the eastern fruit by their appearance. California growers long ago mastered the difficulties of transportation and distribution in a manner very exemplary for eastern growers. To "lay down" so very perishable fruit as peaches in an edible condition across the continent from the place of its origin is a new triumph.

The question arises if peaches can be carried across the continent, why can't they be carried across the ocean? That has heretofore been given up as impossible. It is doubtless a fact that nobody has ever eaten on one side of the Atlantic a fresh peach that was grown upon the other. It may be reserved for Californian enterprise and ingenuity to solve this problem also.

Certainly the prize of success is very tempting. If Californian peaches, as good as those we are eating in New York, could be marketed in London, they could readily command from five to ten times the American price. After what the Californian growers have already accomplished, there is no reason why they should despair of attaining this crowning success.

UNUSUAL DRY SPELL.

Fourteen days without food and eleven days without water in a narrow cell, absolutely dark, at a depth of 200 feet below the surface—these are the things suffered by James Stevens in the caved-in Mammoth mine, at Goldfields, until early this morning, when the point of a miner's pick pushed its way through the last few inches of overhanging debris. The ray of hope it gave was almost as small as the ray of light, because the imprisoned man was within a few hours of death. For fourteen days quickly changing shifts of miners have been working with fever heat to release their comrade. Immediately after the accident, which occurred just a fortnight ago, they began digging. Their first efforts had to be abandoned after reaching a depth of forty feet, because the debris was unsafe to work in. Then they began a new shaft on the solid ground and after a week of digging they began to hear Stevens hammering signals to them. Last night they had reached a depth where they could hear the voice of the entombed man, and the voice cried out from the depths: "For God's sake get me out, boys; I am burning up with thirst." When, at 7:30 this morning, the miners reached their comrade, he was found in a pitiable condition and had scarcely strength enough to speak. He had been cut off by the cave with only a gallon of water and with no food, and with two candles that were soon extinguished, as he worked by their light to reach the vicinity of a small air shaft that might clear the foul air of the drift. He had retained consciousness throughout and told of the long, weary hours he had spent with the densest darkness about him and the far-off sounds of drills of rescuing miners serving to defend him from himself, for death was far preferable to the agonies of thirst he suffered.

SUMMIT OF HIS DESIRES.

The top of Pike's Peak is a dreary waste of granite. It is a big stonequarry one-fourth of a mile wide and a mile long. The top of the peak, according to maps on file in the land office, has never been surveyed except as to township lines, and no entry on public lands can be accepted until after subdivisional surveys have been made, says the Denver News.

Dr. A. G. Lewis of Manitou is the individual who has had his eye fixed upon Pike's Peak as a paying land speculation. The doctor is about to leave for Washington to attempt to prove that the government ought to issue him a patent for 160 acres of land, including the little stone house formerly used as a signal station.

The claim is based upon a filing made by Lewis under date of February 2, 1889, when, at the Pueblo land office, he filed an old soldier's declaratory statement upon the land in question. The filing was made immediately after President Cleveland's proclamation transferring the entire mountain from the war department to the Department of the Interior. Lewis will go to Washington loaded down with affidavits of prominent citizens of El Paso county, who will testify to his having legally taken possession of a quarter section on the very top of the mountain, and to his having lived upon it the required length of time and made the necessary improvements stipulated by the law for proving up on an old soldier's homestead. The doctor will attempt to prove that he settled upon the land in good faith while it was yet a part of the public domain, and that he had established his ownership to 160 acres there before the peak was converted by the government into a timber reservation.

The claim is one of the most astonishing ever filed in any government land office. The property is the highest piece of ground ever settled upon for homestead purposes in the United States. At its highest point it is 14,170 feet above sea level and is crowned with eternal snow. Dr. Lewis claims to have made his habitation on the summit for more than three years. Twenty or twenty-five years ago the spot was selected by the government as a location for a signal station. The station was several times abandoned, and at last the instruments were taken away and it was wholly given up to sightseers. In the latter part of January, 1889, President Cleveland by proclamation transferred the reservation of 130,000 acres on Pike's Peak from the military reservation to the Department of the Interior.

Dr. Lewis immediately located on the top of the moutain, although the peak was covered deep with snow and it required two days for the locator to make the journey to the top. The doctor posted the following notice on the door of the old signal station:

"I hereby take possession of and claim 160 acres of land on the top of Pike's peak."

The locator lost no time in proceeding to Pueblo, the nearest land office, and filing notice of location for a soldier's homestead. The notification was rejected, and an appeal was taken to the general land office, where the doctor was again turned down. He then took the case to Secretary Noble of the Department of the Interior. The cog road had begun to be built and Lewis closed an agreement with the railway company, by which its tracks were laid over the claim. President Cleveland heard of the attempt to capture Pike's peak, and he transferred the reservation back to the War department. Secretary Proctor soon afterwards transferred the reservation to the Department of the Interior and as time passed Lewis succeeded in having himself appointed custodian of the signal station, where he lived for two years until the government ceased to pay his salary. Then the reservation was once more transferred. This time it was included in the timber reservation, although there is not a stick of timber at the summit of the peak. It is still held as a timber reservation, but Dr. Lewis proposes to fight out his battle before the supreme court of the United States. The doctor is a native of Iowa, who served two years in the army during the rebellion.

GOLD IN THE SAGE BRUSH STATE.

Nevada is experiencing another mining excitement, and, according to reports received from the Sage Brush state, it is predicted that there will soon spring into existence a camp to rival Cripple Creek, Colo. Mining experts express that opinion.

The new scene of mining activity, as described by the Sacramento Bee, is located about six miles from the town of Wadsworth, and in order to have a title to print upon the maps it has been given the rather unpoetical name of McClayville. The mines are in what is known as Ollinghouse canyon.

The new camp is a puzzler to rock sharps or geologists because gold has been found in a slate formation instead of the customary quartz. Nine mining experts were at the new camp the other day and, it is said, they expressed themselves as being astounded at the richness of the gold and the great quantity of it in sight. The gold runs through the slate in veins and resembles strings or wires.

Like many other celebrated mining camps, McClayville was stumbled upon accidentally. The man who found it was in hard luck—out of work and out of money. One day he determined to walk across the country in search of employment. Becoming tired from his long tramp, he sat down upon a large rock to rest and meditate. While gazing upon the ground he espied a piece of slate, which he picked up and inspected, not with the hope of discovering any mineral, but through idle curiosity. Breaking the piece of slate in two, he was astonished to see veins of gold in it, and then, no doubt, visions of great riches flashed before him. A further investigation convinced the man that he really had discovered a bonanza, but he was as much mystified then as the scientists have been since over the fact that gold existed in the slate.

Since discovering the mine the man has taken out $1,200 in gold with an ordinary hand mortar. Of course, the news was too good to keep, and when it became known that a rich mining locality had been discovered, people began flocking to the camp. Today it boasts of two saloons, but the miners go over to Wadsworth to eat, and many sleep in that town, but a good sized crowd of gold seekers sleep under tents on their mining claims. A Sacramento man who came home from Wadsworth the other day told a Bee reporter that there was intense excitement in that town over the discovery of the mine. It is believed that a town of considerable importance will spring up at the new diggings.

COLOR IN A RIVER BED.

There is another source of Coeur d'Alene placer gold even more potent than the decomposing ledges with which the country is bound together, and that is the old wash. Beginning near Raven, and running down on the sidehill north of Murray and Eagle City, clear across the North Fork, and still on westward for an unknown distance, is the old wash. What the stream that created it, whence its source or whither it flowed, no man knows. Perhaps primeval man floated his boat upon its waters and with his stone weapons endeavored to slay the mastodon resting beneath the shade of the tropical verdure that lined its banks.

Everything regarding the era or nature of the stream flowing there is mere conjecture, but some things regarding it are well known. One is that it was a stream of no mean proportions. For a quarter of a mile in width the bedrock is covered with the rounded gravel washed smooth by its waters during the ages that it existed, and even after countless years since its springs dried up at their source or some convulsion of nature turned it into some other channels, have been washing the easily rolled stones down the mountain sides which are still 125 feet in depth—perhaps more in some places. Another thing certain about the old river is that its source was far away beyond the Coeur d'Alene mountains or the Bitter Roots, that hedge them on the east, for in great quantities among the gravel now choking its old bed are huge boulders of a rock that is entirely foreign to this region. Resembling a mixture of sandstone and quartz if such a mixture can be imagined, it is a rock that is unmistakable, and nowhere within more than 100 miles around is it found in any place except the channels of present or prehistoric streams.

Another thing known regarding the old river, more potent than all else, except, perhaps, to the student, is the fact that it traversed a country interspersed with gold-bearing ledges, parts of which are picked up and brought down with its gravel. Everywhere that the old channel has been cut it has been found rich in gold. Many of the smaller gulches about Murray were cut through the old channel, and above it their gravel was barren of the yellow metal.

The most economical way to handle this old wash was by hydraulic mining, but water was too scarce for more than a few to do this, and many others have taken the slower way of drifting. With gravel spreading from fifty to 500 yards in width, and varying from five to 150 in depth probably one-half of the gold would lie in a strip a rod wide and within five feet of bedrock. So, while the hydraulic miners would proceed to move the whole mass, wash it down the hill and sift out every particle of gold, the drift miner has taken his more laborious method and none the less surely secured for himself a competence if he possesses the faculty of saving what come into his hands. —Spokane Spokesman-Review.

WORLD'S LARGEST QUARTZ MINE.

There are quartz mines all along the Pacific coast line, but it is only recently that they have been worked to any extent. The locators of the mines were poor men, but have held their mines and thus it is that the development is slow. The wealth of the mines is becoming known, however, and the mines will soon be running in full blast. There are still richer quartz mines in the interior, but they must needs lie idle and undeveloped until that great civilizing medium, the railroad, works its way into the heart of the land to build it up and bring in the machinery. The largest quartz mine in the world is on Douglas island. It is owned by the Rothschilds, Mills of New York, father-in-law of Whitelaw Reid, and two California men. It operates 240 head of stamps, each working up three tons per day, or an average of 700 tons of quartz each day, as the product of all the stamps. The ore is low grade, averaging about $4 per ton; that means about $3,000 a day in pure gold. This mine has been in operation about three years and there has already been taken out of it more in gold than the United States paid for Alaska—$7,200,000.

REMARKABLE COLORADO CAVE.

A remarkable cave has been recently discovered by parties who were doing their assessment work on a group of claims on Cow mountain, Colorado. A man was picking in the bottom of a ten-foot hole when he suddenly struck the point of his pick through a rock into apparently unlimited space. He cautiously investigated and gradually opened up a pit that led to the other world to all appearances. Rocks dropped into the hole, however, struck bottom in about two seconds or less, showing that the cave was not deep at that point. The men got a rope and, fastening it securely above, descended to explore the immense cavern, which proved to be a veritable store house of ice. Stalagmites and stalacites of pure ice stood like cypress trees on the floor and hung like a ghostly fringe from the ceiling. Exploration was not carried very far as a yawning abyss was encountered at a distance of about fifty feet from the entrance. Chunks of ice thrown down the abyss could be heard rattling and clanking on the sides, but never a sound of the bottom being touched. The photographs were taken by flashlight and the pictures reveal the ice in crystal condition forming most fanciful figures. An effort will be made to open the cave to a more thorough exploration. The chamber where these pictures were taken is seventy-five feet high and about fifteen feet wide. Beyond this the cave widens and the interior seems abyssmal.

THE DAKOTAS.

The hay crop in the vicinity of White Lake is so abundant that it only brings $1.50 per ton in the market.

One of the best known loan agents in the state is authority for the statement that the people of South Dakota in the last four years have paid off $50,000,000 of their obligations.

The Deadwood and Delaware smelter is now receiving two full train loads of mineral daily and treating 300 tons every twenty-four hours. It has just completed ore bins to hold 3,000 tons.

Important discoveries of copper are reported from Jim Creek. The ore assays from 10 to 45 per cent in copper, besides carrying from four to eight ounces of silver and $4 to $5 per ton in gold.

Ore accidentally discovered on the divide between Rapid and Castle creeks, three miles north of Rochford, is assaying from $40 to $100 per ton in gold, and much excitement is manifested in that region.

The railroad from Yankton to Norfolk can be completed in ninety days. This does not include the steel bridge, though that structure can be put in in remarkably short time should occasion require.

Armour is having a veritable boom. Five or six new business houses will open there this month. A hardware man from Yankton is moving his stock, a Minneapolis man is building a $10,000 brick building and will open a department store. Trade is very good and the feeling cheerful. Crops are heavy.

Word reached Rapid City recently that an exceedingly rich pocket was struck in the bottom of the main shaft in the Keystone mine Friday. The pocket was about two feet thick and the ore, it is claimed, was fully one-half gold. After striking the pocket a number of exceedingly rich specimens were taken out.

The telephone line has reached Grandon on the extension toward Huron. In a very short time this city will be connected with the north part of the state. It is understood that the line will be continued on south and connected with the Yankton and Sioux Falls line, thus giving Huron telephone connection with all the south part of the state.

E. C. Tourtelot, as receiver of the Grand Forks Second National bank, which closed its doors some time ago, has brought suit against the wholesale firm of Nash Bros. for $3,000 on the ground that the firm drew that amount from the bank just before its close, knowing that the bank was insolvent and the amount necessarily an asset of the bank. The case is one that is entirely new in this state. The suit is brought under the national banking laws.

There is considerable activity in other minerals than gold in the hills at this time. Copper is being prospected with success at various points; the Harney Peak Tin company is paying up its taxes and gives notice that it will resume soon; the Illinois Steel company, which is taking 150 tons of manganese from Colorado daily, has investigated manganese properties in this vicinity and is expected to make offers for them; and work is being done on bodies of two rare metals, walfram and manacite, found in the southern hills. Two corps of the United States geological survey are now at work in the hills.

COLORADO.

Someone set off fifty pounds of giant powder near the schoolhouse in New Castle last week and nearly wrecked the building.

Cat gulch is enjoying a boom and prospectors are hurrying in, hoping to secure open ground. Everything indicates a rapid growth and development.

A strong flow of water was struck at the mill in Alamosa Saturday night at a depth of 744 feet. The well is cased down to the flow, and has a pressure of sixteen and one-fourth pounds to the square inch. The casing is three inches, and when reduced to one-fourth inch it throws the water twenty feet into the air.

The new pumping contracts of Leadville for draining the down town mines will increase her output to from 40,000 to 50,000 tons monthly. This is practically all smelting ore.

Beef shipments from Rifle are commencing early this season, and from present indications there will be fully as many cattle shipped from there this fall as there were last fall, as the feed is so good this year that everything will be beef.

Frank Lomaster had an adventure with a huge grizzly in the hills south of Salida last week. It seems the animal was after one of his cows, when he came to the rescue with a Winchester, and by firing eleven shots into the brute succeeded in saving the cow.

The new camp of Cameron, near Salida, has made two small shipments to the smelters and favorable returns were received. A few sales of claims have been made. The prospectors have no money to develop their holdings and progress in opening the camp is slow.

In the San Juan country, the home of the Tom Boy, Virginius, Smuggler, Union, Bachelor, Golden Fleece and Silver Lake group, among the greatest of the state, there are new discoveries and developments rivaling the best of their neighbors.

The officials of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway company have decided to illuminate the famous royal gorge with electricity, the lighting fluid being furnished from Canyon City. This is to be done for the benefit of travelers, whose business makes it necessary for them to pass through the gorge in the night.

Lessees are operating many of the silver mines of Aspen. The transportation tunnels of the camp are all utilized in working the mines. Another advantage is the successful concentration of the ores by machinery set up near the mines. The Smuggler and Little Annie are both paying good profits by the use of concentration mills.

New pumps have arrived in Leadville to assist in draining the downtown mining area, but it will be six months before that section will be in full operation. The Bimetallic smelter was blown in last week, having been idle since last November. Several shafts are sinking to locate ore chutes in the second contact. These are of the nature of prospecting and indicate the faith of the mining men in the permanency of the ore deposits.

A new hoisting plant has just been installed at the Mammoth mine, at Dumont, and sinking of the shaft will now be resumed from the 240-foot level. The streak of smelting ore in the bottom of the shaft is ten inches wide and will exceed $80 per ton. The Hiawatha tunnel is being driven by the Pittsburg crowd to cut this and other veins in the same hill at a great depth.

Another big strike of free gold has been made at the Gold Medal mine, and in conversation with the Times correspondent this morning Manager Emigh admitted that it was the biggest thing so far discovered in that property, and during the year some very rich mineral has been taken out. The new streak measures from two to eight inches wide and will run $1 per pound. There is also four feet of mill dirt lying parallel with it.

The gamblers of Denver, driven out of their last stronghold, Colfax, by the Fire and Police board, and having no hope of being allowed to reopen in Denver, have decided to establish a Monte Carlo on the Jefferson county line, and almost opposite Manhattan Beach. Connected with this resort will be a race track upon which races will be run at night. Colonel Hatch will be at the head of the racing scheme, while Joe Gavin is the chief mover in the Monte Carlo project.

On Wednesday last Mrs. W. J. Fellows of Saguache presented her husband with triplets, three bouncing girls, weighing thirteen and one-half pounds. At the first meeting of the county commissioners after the news became known the board passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That on account of the birth of triplets in the family of our fellow citizen, Joseph Fellows, this board to show the gratitude of the people of Saguache county, hereby makes a donation of $25 to said Fellows as a token of reward for his efforts to increase the population and to show to the world at large what inducements the glorious climate of the San Luis valley can offer to encourage immigration and that others may put forth more efforts in the same direction."

A gigantic enterprise is soon to be started in Ouray, which is the building of an electric line of railway from the town of Ouray to the famous Virginius mine and Revenue tunnel. The facts have long been kept quiet, but the surveys have been made and other details arranged, and the belief is among the best informed men that the road will be in running operation in a year from now. If built, the road will be eight miles long and will largely follow the present wagon road to the mines. It will be of the cog-wheel pattern, as portions of the distance to be traversed would necessarily have grades too steep for an ordinary electric road. The principal use will be to bring to the railroad the immense tonnage of the Virginius mine, but it will also carry passengers, and as the route is through the finest scenery in the state, it is expected that it will be attractive to tourists.

CALIFORNIA.

The returns of the United States mint for California give the gold yield for last year in that state as $17,181,562.

Several sugar beet colonies are to be established by Major Winchell of the Salvation Army on land donated by Claus Spreckels.

It is estimated that the delay in freight moving caused by the Christian Endeavor excursions cost the fruit growers of California $100,000.

The cost of transportation of oranges has been materially reduced during the past year by shipping in ventilator cars to El Paso and there transferring to refrigerators.

The total value of taxable property at Los Angeles will not exceed $58,000,000, which is $2,000,000 less than was calculated upon by the assessor. The tax rate will not exceed $125.

California is estimated at about 40,000 bales of hops; the long spell of dry, hot weather has not been beneficial to the plant, which, with indifferent cultivation, will make the crop as above stated.

C. P. Huntington has presented the State university at Berkeley with the Cowan collection, 600 bound books and 3,300 pamphlets covering the states history as a province of Spain. Some of them are almost priceless.

The sugar factory at Chino started up last week with a force of 480 men. The largest beet crop in the history of the factory will be manufactured, requiring a run of 150 days. It is estimated at over 110,000 tons and refined into sugar will make 33,000,000 pounds of standard granulated. Last year's sugar product was 22,000,000 pounds.

Jamestown and the entire country are excited on account of the rich strike in the Tanzy mine, operated under lease by Colby & Beckwith. The mine is located on the Mother lode just this side of Sonora. The workmen struck a pocket and in ten hours they had taken $31,000 in gold from the pocket, and there is more to follow.

Unruly convicts at Folsom are now given "the spook treatment." The cell nearest the scaffold is said to be haunted. Prisoners are thrown into this chamber and by means of terrible threats delivered in a sepulchral voice through a telephone transmitter two of the worst characters under Warden Aull's care have been compelled to yield up a secret that has been bothering the officers of the prison for several weeks.

Mining men have decided on a rather novel way of securing the gold in the Sacramento river at Redding. They will stretch a wire cable across the river and miners clad in complete diving suits will obtain support while they go down into the river and work the bed thereof.

The Japanese house built up in a redwood tree on George T. Marsh's grounds in Mill valley has served for a couple of romantic honeymooners. They had to climb a twenty-foot rope ladder to reach it, but then they drew the ladder up and no one could disturb them with rice or old shoes.

A half carload of survey stakes has arrived at Los Olivos, to be used in a resurvey of the famous College ranch. Negotiations are pending whereby a large portion of this ranch is to be sold to a German colony. The agency for the property has recently passed from the hands of Supervisor de la Cuesta to Rev. Father Stockman of Santa Barbara.

A new parasite has made its appearance in some of the lemon growing districts of southern California. From its fine, silvery appearance it has been designated the "silver mite." The disease makes its first appearance in the form of a white mold, which a few days later assumes the look of fine powdered sugar, spreading over the entire surface of the lemon.

It is the general opinion that the acreage of oranges now in bearing in Southern California is sufficient, whenever all conditions are favorable, to produce a crop of 12,000 carloads of oranges, which is between 4,000 and 5,000 carloads more than have been supplied by that state during the season now closed. All appearances now indicate that next season will witness the expected full crop, although for some days past there has been some dropping.

A monster wild boar was killed on the Myers & Hubley ranch on Bear river, near Colfax, last Friday. The animal was very ferocious and three hunters who came upon him fired a number of rifle balls into him before they struck a vital spot. The hog measured six feet four inches in length and, while it was not fat, weighed over 300 pounds. The tusks of the hog measured over two inches. The animal had destroyed many fruit trees, breaking down peach trees three inches in diameter and consuming the fruit.

At Randsburg, Kern county, the excitement still runs high over the placer diggings and the country has been located in every direction. The valley where the nuggets were found swarms with men. Some of them are doing well. In most cases the pay dirt runs from $3 to $8 per day to the man, although it has gone as high as $80 in a single day. It is necessary to go down fifteen feet or more to bedrock, where gravel is encountered in which the gold is found. The particles vary from mere "colors" to the size of a grain of wheat.

IDAHO.

A large party of homeseekers from the east visited Nampa during the past week.

The school population of Pocatello now exceeds 1,000, an increase of more than fifty over last year.

Owyhee county has sold $61,000 of 6 per cent bonds to the First National bank of Caldwell at par.

A party of fourteen Quakers from different eastern states have been investigating the resources of Elmore county, with view of establishing a colony.

The Oneida Herald understands that fishermen are using giant powder in Cub river just above Franklin and are killing trout by the hundreds every week and shipping them out of the state.

The fruit crop of Idaho will be an enormous one this year. The early peaches and apricots are just beginning to move, and will be unusually plentiful this year, as well as apples, pears, plums, prunes and grapes.

Portneuf valley farmers have lately been victimized by lightning rod swindlers. They paid $70 each for insurance against fire by lightning, under the belief that they were receiving a straight fire insurance policy for a period of ten years.

Boise proposes to get into line with other western cities by adopting the carnival fad. It is proposed to hold a three day's festival in the latter part of September. There will be exhibits of state products and a big program of amusements and sports.

The Bingham Placer Mining company, whose property is at Gibbonsville, is now washing over 2,000 cubic yards per day. Recently 50 cents worth of gold was taken from a pan of gravel taken from a point near bedrock, which would indicate a valuation of about $30 per square yard.

When the two counties were segregated, Canyon assumed approximately 38 per cent of the indebtedness and now claims that she should have the percentage of any saving made by Ada county on the warrant indebtedness outstanding at the time of the settlement between the two counties, and asks for a share of $12,000.

For over thirty years prospectors have been searching for the ledge that fed the placer mines at Grimes Pass, four or five miles north of Pioneerville. The mines have turned out large quantities of nuggets, some containing from $200 to $300. Six weeks ago a Mr. Wells and his two sons began prospecting for the ledge, and half a mile above the placers have discovered what they are confident is the coveted treasure—a vein two feet thick of very rich ore. Several nuggets have been taken out and the gold has the appearance of that taken from the placers. They are now developing the new find and constructing an arastra in which to crush the rock.

UTAH.

Stockholders in the Mercur recently pocketed a dividend in the sum of $25,000, which increases the total to $750,000.

The assays from the silver vein recently encountered in the Little Pittsburg show forty-four ounces in silver and $1.40 in gold per ton.

During June the camp of Bingham, Salt Lake county, sent in to the Valley smelters 3,140 tons of crude ore, as against 3,300 tons for May.

Prof. Emmons and other experts of the United States geological survey are now hard at work on the survey of the Tintic mining district. The work will take at least three months.

The power plant in Provo canyon is going to be rushed to completion. What is known as the temporary plant, with about a fifteen-foot dam, will be put in by the first of the year.

In regard to the proposed annexation of San Juan county to Grand, those who were in favor of the scheme have been convinced of its impracticability and have abandoned the idea, at least for the present.

Vegetable shipments to Montana points are beginning now, Salt Lake City being the source of supply for the mining camps. Carloads of potatoes are leaving for Butte every day. Early cabbages and other vegetables are being shipped, and the prospects for high prices are very good.

In the Daly ground the Ontario-Daly drain tunnel has just opened up a fine body of high grade gold-silver ore on the 1,700-foot level, fully 700 feet below the present deepest workings of the properties. Full operations have been resumed at the Marsac mill of the Daly company and thirty stamps are dropping.

One of the greatest mines in the world today is the Ontario, a silver property in Utah, that is in the first ranks of all mines in point of current dividends, having paid an amount that grades up close to the Homestake, $90,000 having been paid since January 1, this year. The mine is capitalized at $15,000,000, stock having a par value of $100 per share.

WYOMING.

There are 124 convicts in the state penitentiary at Laramie, the largest number in the history of the institution.

Shipments of range cattle from Wyoming to the Chicago, Omaha and Denver markets will commence this year about the middle of August, and promises to be exceedingly heavy.

The strike in the eastern coal fields is beginning to have an effect upon the coal trade of the western mining region. The mines of Wyoming are all running heavier than for a year back.

Something like 200 cars of green fruit from California have passed through en route to eastern markets, and hundreds of more cars are on the coast waiting to come east. These will be brought east in special trains of twenty-five cars each and will be rushed through on passenger schedule.

The Casper oil refinery has received a new 150-barrel still from Hudson, N. Y., which is now being put up. Three hundred iron tanks have also been received for handling oil between the wells and the refinery. The number of teams hauling oil will be now doubled and the product of the refinery greatly increased.

The flockmasters of Natrona county propose to make a test case under the new state law which requires a sheepowner moving his sheep from one county to another to file in the county into which he moves a certificate of his assessment in the county which he is leaving. Several sheepmen have moved their sheep into the Big Horn mountain ranges in Johnson county and have not complied with the law have been notified by the Johnson county authorities that the law must be complied with or the offending parties will be arrested.

Six-dollar gold bearing lime rock somewhat similar to Mercur (Utah) ore, is the latest production reported from the Upper Platte mining district. It has been tested and found susceptible to cyanide. The ore body is a large one. Nothing ever found in the Utah camp can show record of such surface indication or values. It is the intention of the owners to have a cyanide plant on the ground as soon as practicable. The Sheldon plant, put in last summer at the old Downey stamp mill at Gold Hill, will probably be hauled out and put to profitable use.

Among the possession left by Robert Gordon, the young Scotchman, who was shot some weeks since in the sheep camp of Kenneth McRae, is a violin 176 years old. It is small size, made from fine tenacious and elastic pine, found chiefly on the southern slopes of the Alps. It is a fine instrument in a splendid state of preservation, without split, crack or any other injury. The old musical relic bears the inscription "Antonius Stradivarius, 1721," in old English text letters on the inside. This celebrated violin maker, who lived to the ripe age of 88 years, made this instrument sixteen years before his death.

Some idea of the magnitude of the capacity to handle coal in this city may be gained by noting the vast number of cars handled by the switch engines. The yards when full contain 1,900 cars and during the past week the average number of empty and of loaded freight cars on the tracks was not less than 1,400. The miners are working steadily and the outlook is very bright for the entire summer. This means much to our people, as they have put up with great inconvenience and hardship resulting from the very idle times for the past two or three years.—Rock Springs Independent.

Ranchmen are agitating the question of wolf extermination. Governor Richards is in correspondence with scientists, hunters and others with a view to inventing a way to rid the plains of Wyoming of these pests. The last state legislature appropriated $30,000 to be paid for bounties on wolves and thus far $4,000 has been paid out although the money has been available but a short time. The animals do thousands of dollars worth of damage on the ranges each year and although war upon them has been waged with increasing vigor from time to time, the pests seem to multiply and do as much, if not more, damage than before.

MONTANA.

The amount of gold washed this season will, it is estimated, be greater than in ten years.

Some excitement prevails in Lima and Dell over the discovery of rich copper leads in the Sheep creek basin. Many claims have been located there.

The Ashley Lake Irrigating company is at work on what will be the largest irrigation enterprise in the county so far. The ditch will be about nine miles in length and will cover some 6,000 acres of land northwest of town.

The wholesale butchers of Butte have formed a trust to maintain prices and the only firm not in the combine has brought suit against it for $10,000 damages, claiming that the trust has prevented retailers from buying meat from the plaintiff.

Bozeman has for the past week or ten days experienced a sugar famine, not a merchant having sufficient to supply his demands, and being unable to purchase any in the neighboring cities. Relief came Saturday, when a carload was received from the refinery.

The Ranchers' Stock association is the latest organization to be perfected in northern Montana. For many years an association of this kind has been needed and much talked about, but the Bear Paw country is the first to take up the idea and put it into execution.

Big Timber Pioneer: There is up to date over 3,000,000 pounds of wool stored in the warehouse at this place, and wool is coming in every day at a rapid rate. Before the season for wool hauling is through there will be over 5,000,000 pounds of wool shipped from this place.

Advices from Diamond City tell of an abundant water supply for placer mining and an unusually large output from Confederate gulch is assured. The season opened fifteen days earlier than usual and the prospect is that mining operations will continue up to August with all the water needed.

Heretofore people have always referred to the year 1890 as the great building year in Butte. Hereafter the year 1897 will be known as the great building year, for already so much building has been done and so much is under way that there is no doubt of the present season being the greatest for building in Butte's history.

Among the slate formation on Ruby creek, a tributary of the Madison river, there are a number of small veins of black graphite, some of it being of good quality. Little or no attention is being paid to them, but the day is not very far distant when they will have a value, as graphite is being used more generally as year after year passes by.

As judged by this year's assessment, Teton county is more prosperous now than last year. The assessment as returned by the county assessor to the State Board of Equalization shows an increase over that of last year of $144,396. The total assessment as returned is $1,749,726, of which $1,053,444 is taxed against personal property and $696,282 against real estate.

The Anaconda Copper Mining company has begun the exploration of a number of silver properties to great depths. The object is not to mine silver, but to ascertain if the mines do not contain copper at greater depth. The Anaconda mine itself was a silver mine at the surface, but at a depth of 300 feet the mine turned into a copper producer. It is believed that other silver properties may at greater depth turn into copper ore. The Lexington, one of the richest silver mines in the district, is showing copper ore in the lower workings.

The silver smelter in Great Falls has secured the output of the Snowslide mine at Libbey, amounting to about twelve tons of concentrates daily. Superintendent Smith believes that with this, the ore from Fort Steele and the increased production of ore at Neihart, most of which comes there for smelting, he will be able to keep two furnaces running full time all the summer.

John T. Sucath of Fort Benton has just completed a Missouri river craft of somewhat novel construction. It is a twenty-two-foot boat of regulation design, but is fitted with a stern wheel arrangement for the purpose of up-stream navigation. The wheel will be worked by a sprocket chain attached to a lever movement within the boat, the motive power being furnished by human muscle.

WASHINGTON.

Along the Little Spokane river, six miles from Spokane, a mining camp is forming on account of the discovery of some high grade silver lead ores.

The Pacific soldiers reunion began in Westport, Chehalis county, last Thursday, and will continue six weeks. A large number of outsiders are expected this season.

Under the law passed by the last legislature making all corporations in the state pay an annual license of $5, many of the corporations heretofore organized have taken steps to disincorporate.

Judge Richardson of the superior court of Spokane, Wash., says he is not only in hearty sympathy with the Debs movement and ready to aid it financially, but he also intends joining the organization.

Washington is now the smallest of the Pacific coast hop-growing states and promises a crop in Eastern Washington of about 12,000 bales of choice quality, and in Western Washington of about 8,000 bales of indifferent quality.

Thomas Douglas and John Douglas will establish in Aberdeen, a foundry and machine shop. The building is now being put up, and the lathes, planers and drill presses have been shipped from the east. The plant will cost about $10,000.

The continuous rains of the past week have played havoc with thhe berry crop, though raspberry picking has been going on right along. Many of the growers have made but light shipments, realizing that the soft, water-soaked berries would not stand the journey to the east.

At State Creek, in the Cascades, large free gold-bearing ledges have been discovered. Roads are building and three stamp mills are being erected. In the same district galena carrying a large percentage of silver has been found. The famous Boston mine, with a ledge from forty to fifty feet wide, will take its place among shipping properties.

For the first time in the Palouse country the potato bugs have put in their appearance, and in some localities are doing much damage to the plants, says the Garfield Enterprise. They are not, however, the voracious striped, round-backed Colorado bug, that did so much damage throughout the east. These are the black