

**Runaway On the Grade.**

The team of A. M. Smith, the New Pine Creek Miller, ran away on the grade near the ranch of R. K. Funk in Goose Lake Valley, last Thursday. Attorney J. W. Moore was driving up the grade at the time and another party was just behind him when the frightened animals dashed down the road. Mr. Moore saw the team coming and avoided a collision by getting off the road, but the vehicle behind him was not so fortunate in giving the right of way, and the runaways dashed into the "back-action" of the travelers coming north and all piled up in confusion on the roadside. One of the runaway horses fell in the mixup and that ended their mad career. Strange to say there was not a particle of damage done, not even a strap being broken. Mr. Smith was returning home from Lakeview at the time, and becoming chilly wrapped the lines up and alighted, walking along by the side of the team, when a horse came up behind and frightened the team, with the above result.

**Three Big Cattle Deals.**

Three of the largest cattle deals made in the West during the past year were consummated at Salt Lake, Jan. 11. The transactions involve a total of 10,000 head of cattle, and the aggregate consideration is over \$250,000. The most important sale was by John Sparks, of Reno, Nev., to M. K. Parsons, of Salt Lake, acting for himself and associates. Mr. Parsons buys the Nevada man's entire output of steers and heifers for the year 1900, estimated at 7500 head. Mr. Parsons also purchased the herd of 1500 head of the McIntyre-Black Polled Angus steers. The Burt Bros., of Salt Lake, sold to Mr. Parsons 1000 head of steers out of their herd at American Falls, Idaho. The prices were not made public, but they were the prevailing prices for these grades of cattle, which makes the above aggregate sum.

**Cougars Atter Prey.**

Mountain lions are being driven, by the snow, down from their lairs into the valleys in numerous sections. A short time ago Henry Cullens, a Hot Spring Valley rancher, killed a big lion in his feedyard, and a few nights later another monster was seen at the Croughton ranch, near Glenburn, in Fall River valley. One night last week at Frank Wilson's ranch at Crooked Creek, this county, a cougar killed two colts, and tracks of several big fellows have been seen in various directions. A cougar or mountain lion, will go far and overlook most any other kind of stock, in order to get a horse or colt for his prey. They like horse meat, and when hungry are so ferocious that young colts are easy victims.

**The Resourceful Northern Country.**

Stock shipments continue to be made over the N. C. O. in train loads, despite the general impression that all the beef and mutton for this season had gone to the shambles, says the Reno Journal. The north is an exceedingly resourceful country. The stockmen up there sell every hoof they have, but if the market advances, they somehow meet all orders. Where do they come from? The mountain tops and valleys, the plains and gorges of northern California, eastern Oregon and northwestern Nevada cover a good many thousand square miles and have resources in stock raising unlimited.

**Important Ruling.**

The case of Geo. Durkee, respondent, vs. Jesse D. Carr, appellant, in the Supreme Court of Oregon—an appeal from Klamath county, the judgment of the lower court was reversed. The case is an important one. It was an action for damages on account of the failure of the defendant to supply water for irrigation of land rented from him by the plaintiff, who, in the lower court, obtained a verdict for \$1090. The court below is reversed because the agent of the defendant, who made that lease of the land, had no authority to bind the defendant to furnish the water for irrigation.

**To Whip the Editor.**

"What are you crying about?" asked a kind-hearted stranger of a lad standing in front of a newspaper office, weeping as if his heart would break. "Oh, pa's gone up stairs to whip the editor." "Well, has he come down yet?" pursued the gentle Samaritan. "Pieces of him have," said the boy, with a fresh burst of tears, "and I'm expecting the rest every minute."

**Hiawatha Up to Date.**

Thus departed Hi. A. Watha To the land of the Dakotas, To the land of the mighty blizzards; Three months later he, returning, Carried with him a divorcelet, And unto his ex-wife, Minnie, He did straightway give the ha-ha! As she went back home to mamma, In the village of St. Louis,

**UNDERGROUND CHAMPAGNE.**

**Subterranean Cities Where Workers In Wine Labor Year In and Year Out.**

Visitors to France may go out of their way to gaze upon the quaint architecture and crumbling houses of Epernay, or the roman antiquities and grand old cathedral of Rheims, but the real towns of Champagne are to be looked for underground. These are the bustling, busy places where the business of Champagne is carried on. They are of vast extent. American and British workmen would probably not trouble themselves to obtain employment in underground Champagne. Day after day the work-people leave the outer world for 11 and 12 hours at a time to discharge duties which, if not particularly arduous, must be wearisome by reason of their monotony.

An intelligent Frenchman assured a writer in the Royal Magazine that he had worked below ground for nearly 45 years. His duties consisted in shaking bottles to dislodge the sediment. He said that he had shaken 55 bottles a minute each working day of 12 hours for these 45 years, and then asked the writer how many bottles he had shaken. It is no great wonder that after a moment's consideration the visitor took to his heels. Underground Champagne has a reputation for producing good wines, but according to the writer the business tends to sour the dispositions of the workers. He found most of them taciturn, not to say misanthropical. In one cellar at Epernay he came across an old man who assured him that the place was filled with ghosts and goblins.

It is hard to realize that underneath the primitive villages where the vineyards grow there are springing up subterranean cities of great importance, but this is the case. Men must search below, and not above, ground if they would understand the life of the people of Champagne.

**SHOT DEAD BY A CORPSE.**

**How a Rifle in the Hands of a Dead English Sergeant Killed a Boer Soldier.**

A Boer commando retook those lines where those who died for us were lying, and as they marched among our dead they saw a sergeant lying at full length, shot through the brain, yet even in death the man looked like some fighting machine suddenly gone out of order, says the London News. His rifle was pressed against his shoulder, his left hand grasped the barrel on the under side, the forefingers of the right hand pressed the trigger tightly, the barrel rested out upon a rock and his death-dulled eye glared along the sights, for dissolution had come to him just as he bent his head to fire at those who shot him, and now his hands had stiffened in the unbendable stiffness of eternal sleep. A Boer soldier saw the sergeant as he lay, and with rude hands grasped the rifle by the barrel and tried to jerk it from the dead man's grip, but as he pulled he brought the rifle in line with his own breast, and the unyielding finger on the trigger did the rest. The rifle spoke from the dead man's hand, and the bullet, passing through the Boer's heart, laid him beside the Briton.

Sounds like a journalistic lie, does it not? Read it in a novel, and you would laugh, would you not? But it is the eternal truth, all the same, for the comrade of the Boer who died that day, killed by a dead man, told me the tale himself, and he was one of those who planted the dead Dutchman on the slope of Spion kop.

**LAST OF THE MODOCS.**

**That Formerly Warlike Tribe Has Dwindled to Pitiful Seventy-Seven Members.**

Another good Indian has been made by the death of a Modoc brave, and now the bucks of the tribe have been reduced to the fatal 13 in number. Thus have dwindled the fighters of the most warlike tribe of men that ever arrayed themselves against an enemy. They have been the Ishmaelites of the Pacific slope, and therefore they were called "Modocs" by the other tribes, for "modoc" means "enemy."

The entire tribe has dwindled to 77 members, all wretched beings, with no thirst for war, but an ambitionless, indolent and dull set of beings that have cast aside every virtue that they ever possessed and have taken on every vice that civilization has offered them. This remnant, mostly women and diseased children, that has dwindled from a fighting power worthy of United States opposition to the very verge of extinction, is now quartered on a small reservation in the Quapaw country south of Kansas City.

These last of the Modocs are prisoners of war, held by the government, but allowed great freedom, for they are not likely to wander from the supplies they are provided with, for if they should they would starve to death.

Only one among them shows any of the spirit that once actuated the tribe. He is Sam Boll, about 100 years old, and he is willing to take the warpath again.

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