

West Shore

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The WEST SHORE offers the Best Medium for Advertisers of any publication on the Pacific Coast.

Saturday, March 26, 1900.

THE question of the admission of Idaho has about narrowed itself down to strict party lines. The democrats have concluded they can not afford to oppose it in the interest of the Mormons, and have assumed the position that if a republican state be admitted, a democratic one must come in as a political offset. Their programme is an omnibus bill admitting Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona, and the idea is embraced in this of throwing upon the republicans the onus of keeping Idaho out if they defeat this bill. This is the same disingenuous course pursued last winter, the object of which is, in reality, to keep the territory out while appearing to favor its admission. But lightning runs too fast in these days, and says too much, for such methods to be fully successful. However, the republicans must be careful, and even generous, in their course or this plan will have the desired effect; for, if the two democratic territories make a showing of an ability to properly maintain a state government, and the republicans still oppose their admission, then the latter will be open to the same charge of rank partisanship they make against the democrats, and will, in fact, be responsible for Idaho's exclusion. It is useless to hope that party advantage or disadvantage will be ignored in this matter, but both parties must be careful to what extent they permit their factions zeal to carry them. Idaho will be a great state, and no party can afford to shoulder the responsibility of keeping it out of the union.

George W. Cable advises the south to try the experiment of equality of public rights once before deciding to deport the negro. He says when every state shall have made a fair beginning in that direction, all talk of federal buy-outs at elections will cease. He thinks every man in the nation who, in whatever party, believes in free government, should let it be

known that in 1892 he will strain every nerve to give the nation a president and a congress that will establish equal rights for all Americans peaceably, promptly and forever, provided by that time a fair beginning in that direction be not made in every state in the union. These are wise words from a southerner to southerners, but will probably have no more effect than the blowing of his breath against a stone wall. Mr. Cable has given much thought to the negro problem and written many essays upon it, the chief effect of which has been to bring him into disrepute in his own section, though one of the most cultivated and able men of letters the south has produced. Candid words of wisdom are not what the hot heads of that portion of our country are looking for.

Talk about the "power of the press!" Look at the case of the World's Fair. With all great metropolitan journals using their columns freely, and with nearly every illustrated paper in America—the humorous, the would-be-humorous and the can't-be-humorous—devoting their pages, week after week, to pictorial representations of the "proposed" site in New York and misrepresentations of Chicago, the latter has walked away with the prize. It shows how superior is practical and harmonious work to an impractical and inharmonious press. Gaining the fight under such circumstances is one of the best evidences that Chicago has the means and ability to make the fair a greater success than it would be made in Gotham.

If any one thinks the Gray's harbor cities are not wide awake to the advantages of a railroad, he is referred to the great subsidies raised there to induce Hunt to build his line from the Northern Pacific to the harbor. It is one of the greatest exhibitions of intelligent and liberal enterprise ever made in the west.

And now it is asserted that the Louisiana lottery company, having been given the "mitten" in North Dakota, is coquetting with Montana. Like the dove from Noah's ark, it finds no dry place for the sole of its foot, and will have to return to New Orleans without even an olive branch.

With a city hall to cost half a million, a chamber of commerce building, and a library building costing half that sum, Portland will have under way this summer three semi-public structures that will be of great ornament to the city.

The narrow gauge system of the Willamette valley will be made standard gauge this year, as was generally supposed would be the case when the property fell into the hands of the Southern Pacific.