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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page
Amber and its Uses.....	82
Beef Juice vs. Beef Tea.....	68
Be Somebody.....	68
Castellated Rocks of the Missouri.....	74
Chinese, or India, Ink.....	81
Chronology of Events.....	80
Clothing Made of Glass.....	82
Editorial.....	61
Electric Watches.....	82
Fremont and the Modocs, No. 1.....	79
Great Northwest, No. 3.....	71
How Sheep Winter in Montana.....	87
Intelligence of Ants.....	88
Literary Notes.....	65
Large Nose.....	68
Linkville, Oregon.....	65
Make a Beginning.....	74
Mean Man's Thoughts.....	87
Montana's Productiveness.....	86
Northern Idaho.....	61
Notes of the Northwest.....	65
Origin of "California" and "Oregon".....	82
Our Industries and Resources, No. 2.....	73
Half-past at Empire City.....	89
Ham's Horn Cave.....	81
Receipts for Soiled Linen.....	82
Sulphur Lake.....	82
Sun River, Montana.....	65
Second Hand Food.....	86
Tacoma, the "Terminal City".....	76
Three Swans.....	85
Tree Planting.....	88
Woman's Opinion.....	87
What Chi-amen Have Done.....	87

passage of a bill giving title to 160 acres to any settler upon Government land requiring irrigation to make it valuable, who will sink an artesian well. A flowing well, while it might not be sufficient to irrigate a quarter section, would furnish water sufficient for all the stock that could graze upon a township. By this means much land now comparatively worthless could be rendered suitable for agriculture or much increased in value for grazing purposes. Large expanses of land are valueless for cattle ranges, because of their remoteness from water courses, which would otherwise afford grazing for thousands of cattle. The workings of the Timber Culture act have been found to be impractical, and a repeal of the act has been advised by the agents who have investigated them; but there seems to be no practical objection to an artesian well act of a somewhat similar nature. There will be this essential difference: Timber culture filings are invariably made upon land already valuable for agricultural purposes, the more so that it is devoid of timber; and in this way many thousand acres of the most fertile prairie land have been "gobbled." The construction of an artesian well, however, on land otherwise valueless, adds just that much to the cultivable area of the country and consequently to its wealth and resources. Nor is there in this proposition any smattering of the "Desert Land Act," by means of which vast tracts of Government land have been acquired by speculators and capitalists; for the act would limit each individual to 160 acres. Even in case capitalists should acquire title to large tracts through the dishonest means now used to secure extensive bodies of land under the pre-emption and timber land laws, the actual construction of a flowing artesian well upon each quarter section would be necessary to secure title. Some legislation of this character by Congress would not only be of great assistance to Montana, but to certain portions of nearly every Western State and Territory.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

The publisher of THE WEST SHORE invites contributions upon subjects of general interest or essays upon special topics affecting the welfare of the Great West, also short stories, descriptive sketches, etc., particularly those relating to the region to whose development the magazine is devoted. All manuscript should be addressed: "Publisher of THE WEST SHORE, Portland, Oregon," should give the full name and address of the sender, and state the value placed upon it. If accepted, the price will be at once remitted without waiting until the article is published, since the publisher reserves the right to use manuscript purchased at any time. Notice will be sent within a reasonable time of the acceptance or rejection of contributions, and manuscript not accepted will be returned upon receipt of postage for that purpose.

To MEN contemplating a removal to this region, expecting to depend upon some form of unskilled manual labor for a livelihood, we have but two words of advice to offer: "Don't come." Completion of railroad lines has left us a surplus of that character of labor. Farmers desiring to secure homes, persons with small or large capital, intending to engage in some mercantile pursuit or industry, mechanics, especially those whose trades are in the line of building, and skilled labor in any of the branches of industry which are developing here, will find this country an inviting field; but unskilled labor is not desired. Professional men and those seeking genteel employment must make up their minds to encounter much competition in securing business or situations.

The artesian well at Miles City, Montana, has been extended a distance of 100 feet further, with the result of securing a strong flow of pure, soft water. The wells at Billings and Helena have not been so fortunate, but there is no reason to doubt their ultimate success. The value of artesian wells to Montana cannot be overestimated, whether for watering stock, for irrigation or for the water supply of the growing towns and cities; and as soon as it is practically demonstrated that they can be successfully bored in a region as extensive as that embracing Miles City, Billings and Helena, many will, no doubt, be undertaken. The Montana papers urge upon Congress the