

# THE WEST SHORE.

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## THE WEST SHORE.

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THE recent decision of the Oregon & California to grant to small shipments of fruit the same low special rates formerly only given to car-loads, shows that the company is willing to take advice when its force is realized.

HARVEST is now well under way, and the indications are that the anticipations of an immense crop will be fully realized. The quality of wheat is very superior, the many ills that grain is heir to having considerably spared the farmers of this region their unwelcome presence. The increased acreage in the Willamette Valley is about 10 per cent., while east of the mountains it is fully 25 per cent. The surplus for shipment will be the largest in the history of the Northwest.

THE section of the State constitution soon to be voted on in Montana, by which mining property is exempted from taxation, appears to be class legislation in its most dangerous form. To place such a provision in the fundamental law, where it is almost impossible to alter it when its injustice is fully realized, is the height of folly. It is hard to understand why a State should deliberately decide that half its property, and its greatest and most prosperous industry, should be exempt from taxation, and all the burdens of government be imposed upon but a portion of the property and the weaker and more embryo industries. The mining interests may be powerful enough to thus throw the burden of taxes from off their shoulders, but the injustice of so doing is so glaring, and the results will be so harmful, that even they will admit the error in a few years.

### COLLAPSE OF THE CŒUR D'ALENE MINES.

The mining excitement has reached such a low ebb in the much vaunted Cœur d'Alene gold fields that the *Eagle*, the only survivor of the three papers started there a few months ago with such a flourish of trumpets, has concluded that it is folly to attempt any longer the old trick of making a tallow candle do duty for a parlor stove. There never was a time in the history of the camp when enough gold was taken from the ground to pay for the food consumed by the deluded people in the mines. Under the heading "Some Sound Sense"—a very encouraging title, and one which must realize its lonesome position in a paper which has made the booming of the mines its sole object in life—the *Eagle* says:

Never in the history of mining excitements in Idaho Territory has there been so flat a collapse as now prevails in Cœur d'Alene at this writing. And to what must we attribute the present state of affairs? Is the country a failure? There are many men here who will tell you decisively that towards fall a great many more mines will be opened and producing, and that a large amount of prospecting work will be going on on the creek claims and on the quartz lodes, which will put business on a good footing once more. There is more or less of truth in all these statements. That gold exists in paying quantities in our placer fields, and that there is gold, silver and lead in the quartz leads, there is no doubt. It has been proved that there are at least a score of quartz mines near town that would pay enormously if properly worked. The period of exaggeration has gone by. If the truth had been told from the start there would have been a larger influx of capital seeking investment, and more purchases of claims would have been effected. The truth always pays best. The lack of confidence in mining is caused mainly by the falsehoods of fools and knaves who think they can see millions in a ten-foot hole, and immediately proceed to develop by digging another ten-foot hole. What Cœur d'Alene needs is more work and less talk. There is no necessity for falsehood and exaggeration, and it will not deceive the kind of men we need in this country. There are many good prospects for sale in Cœur d'Alene at prices reasonable enough for any man who desires to develop. We say good prospects, because we know whereof we speak, and we advise those who desire investments to examine. When these prospects pass into the hands of men with money and energy we shall have many good mines, providing these men have some knowledge of the business of mining, and do not expect to get a fortune for nothing.

This confession of previous exaggeration and present realization of the error of such a course is extremely refreshing. Apparently total depravity does not exist, even in the Cœur d'Alene, however firmly hundreds of deluded and financially stranded "pilgrims" may be convinced to the contrary. The closing statement that the only permanently valuable features of the camp are a miscellaneous collection of prospect holes, which are for sale to any one who has money to invest, and that the only hope of prosperity is in a large influx of practical quartz miners, supplied with ample capital for developing the ledges, settles definitely the status of the camp. There are throughout the West at least a hundred good mining districts which are in that condition, and some have been so for the past twenty years. For every man who has capital to invest in developing a quartz mine on an extended scale there is waiting, somewhere, a thousand "prospects," hundreds of them as good as the best which Cœur d'Alene can offer. The supply of prospect holes now on hand will meet all the demands of capital for many years to come. They are a drug in the market. In view of the stupendous fraud perpetrated upon the public by the over-zealous boomers of this alleged bo-