

since passed into antiquity. Nothing but the establishment here of great enterprises that will foster the industries of this region, and compel the development of its varied resources in such a manner as to draw everything hither, because this is the best and most profitable place to which they can go, will continue Portland in her position as the metropolis of the Northwest. If she does not do this other places will; and even if she does, she will probably have to compete with other cities striving to attain the same object. To make an effort is to live; to sit in supine idleness is to die, and one who is not blinded by ignorance can see that she is dying fast.

Why is it that so many stores are vacant and the placard "To Rent" is nailed to the windows and doorposts of so many houses? Why are many of our merchants failing or closing out their business? Why are firms from other cities who have branch houses here closing them up and withdrawing from the city? Are not these alarming symptoms of commercial dissolution? It is not so in Tacoma, Seattle, Astoria and other places where the business men are possessed of public spirit, and demonstrate their right to live by doing something for themselves. Look at Tacoma; study our illustrations of that thriving city; read what we have to say about her enterprise and her progress despite the hard times, and then compare her with Portland. It has been the fashion of our business men to turn up their noses and smile sarcastically whenever Tacoma was mentioned; and many of them do it yet. They affect to compare her with Kalama, St. Helena and other would-be rivals of times past. What suicidal folly! Napoleon once said that the worst thing a general could do was to underestimate the strength of his opponent. This fatal error Portland is committing. Soon the Northern Pacific will reach Puget Sound across the Cascades, and then what? Tacoma and Seattle will bound forward under the impulse thus given them. Eastern Washington and a portion of Eastern Oregon will be as accessible to them as to this city, and it is no secret that those sections are antagonistic to Portland. Nothing but hard work, enterprises such as she has never yet displayed, and energy far greater than she seems to possess, will be of avail to keep her in the position she now occupies. A radical and immediate reformation in her business policy is all that will prevent Portland from dropping into the second, and even third, place in a few years, while her despised rivals win the prize she now holds.

The loss of stock on the great ranges during the past winter has not yet been definitely determined. One thing, however, is certain—it is far less than was asserted by alarmists a few weeks ago. A strong effort has been made to discourage the importation of "pilgrim" cattle into Montana, the positive opinion being given that they would be unable to "rustle" on the ranges as the natives do, and would die of starvation. In the height of the season reports were widely circulated that this prediction had been verified, and pilgrims and "trail cattle" from Texas were dying by the hundreds. Later reports show to the contrary. It seems that the mortality among the pilgrims, though naturally greater than among natives, from present indications, will not generally exceed five per cent., though, in instances, it may reach ten. In view of the fact that the past season was one of unusual severity, this is quite encouraging to those who desire to stock their ranges with superior breeds from the Mississippi Valley. In Idaho, Oregon and Washington, where only native cattle are found, the mortality is generally reported as not in excess of three per cent. The loss on sheep cannot be even approximately estimated. A few bands here and there have been almost annihilated, while others have been subjected only to the usual casualties. This great variation is due chiefly to the topography of the country in which each band was located, as well as to the distance from food at the time the severest storms occurred. As a rule, sheep have passed the winter in good condition and with a low rate of mortality. When the season has all been summed up, it will be found that another powerful argument has been made in favor of keeping a supply of hay on hand for emergencies, even if it is necessary to fall back upon it only once in three or four years.

In view of the rapid contraction of cattle ranges by the encroachment of settlements, and the consequent annually increasing necessity for feeding stock more or less during certain portions of the winter season, a means of procuring and storing food economically should receive the attention of stockmen. Alfalfa seems to be just the thing needed. It takes deep root and stands dry weather splendidly when it has once been well started. Better than any other grass it thrives on dry land. With irrigation from three to five, and even six, tons to the acre can be cut from a good alfalfa patch, two to four crops being cut yearly. It is exceedingly nutritious, and for winter feed for cattle cannot be excelled. In Colorado three hundred thousand pounds of alfalfa seed were put in the ground in 1884, and the same quantity will probably be planted the coming season. This

will make thirty thousand acres of that clover in the State. It is a great crop in Nevada and Utah, and should be cultivated extensively in every cattle country in the West. Something about this grass, which is also known as "California, or Chile, clover," will be found in another column.

To those who have been led to believe by some of our worthy "Commissioners," who have already turned their backs on New Orleans, that the Oregon exhibit is a magnificent and creditable one, we extend a cordial invitation to call at THE WEST SHORE office and examine photographs we have procured of the display. These show beyond question that the exhibit is far inferior to that we see every year in simply the Agricultural Department of the Portland Mechanics' Fair. And this paltry collection represents the great State of Oregon in the World's Fair! There seems to be a conflict between the assertions of those gentlemen and the camera; but we are reminded of the characteristic remark of *Salim Scudder*, that "the machine don't lie." What little is shown is good, and reflects great credit upon Mr. Allen that he has made so much of so little.

OREGON, "the land of big red apples," seems to take a front rank at New Orleans in the quality of her fruit display. Out of nine entries of apples for competition she won six first premiums. Had our Commissioners been able to display such a lavish quantity of fruit as would have made an impression equal to that created by its quality, Oregon's fruit reputation would have been made. A universal favorable opinion of our fruit means thousands of dollars annually to our orchardists and dealers. Instead of "sample lots," fruit should have been taken in quantity, as it is to be hoped it will be to the great agricultural exposition to be held in Louisville. No expense should be spared to give Oregon fruit a world-wide reputation.

THE attempt made by the men in charge of the land affairs of the Northern Pacific to kill the town of Yakima cannot be too severely condemned. The road passes through the city limits of Yakima, and yet the company will neither establish a station there nor stop its trains. Nearly four miles beyond has been laid out an opposition town on the company's land, with the avowed intention of killing the old place and building up the new. The citizens of Yakima have appealed to the courts to secure justice, and though the final result will probably be in their favor, if they carry the contest through all its stages to the Supreme Court, still it is to be feared that in the meantime they will suffer irreparable damage.

THE Senate bill for throwing open the Umatilla Reservation has passed the House, and will probably become a law. It is made subject to the ratification of a majority of the male adults living on the reservation, who, it is generally understood, are in favor of the measure. This is what the people of Pendleton and other towns on the border of the reservation have long desired, as it will throw open to occupation thousands of acres of fertile land tributary to those places, whose settlement will add much to the business, population and wealth of that region. Pendleton especially will be benefited by it, as the best land in the vicinity of the city is embraced in the reservation.

ADOPTING the suggestion of the late *Duke of Trocadero*, that when one by any means becomes possessed of an idea he should, as a matter of charity, "give it to the Board of Trade," THE WEST SHORE would like to bestow a small one upon that body. Let them endeavor to devise some means to keep our business men out of the relentless clutches of their wives and mothers. The number of attachments and assignments lately caused by such heartless relatives are calculated to make an ordinary man feel that it is dangerous to get married, or even to be born. Protection in this instance will be in the interests of free trade. Let us have it at once.

IN a region that a few years ago knew only the wild steer, coyote and cowboy, two new counties were created by the late Oregon Legislature, Morrow and Gilliam were carved out of portions of Wasco and Umatilla, with county seats at Heppner and Alkali respectively. Still another county will probably be created in Eastern Oregon by the next Legislature, embracing Harney Valley and the southern end of Grant County. The work of development progresses with giant strides.

DURING the deadlock on financial questions in the late Oregon Legislature, a genuine effort was made at a compromise by Hon. T. J. Black, who introduced a bill permitting borrowers to contract to pay taxes upon mortgages. This bill passed, though amended so as to restrict contracts to eight per cent. Mr. Black is entitled to the thanks of the people for thus wisely urging a relief measure upon which both factions could agree.