

THE WEST SHORE.

2th Year.

Portland, Oregon, January, 1886.

No. 1

ESTABLISHED 1875.

THE WEST SHORE,

An Illustrated Journal of General Information, devoted to the development of the Great West.

Subscription price, per annum \$2 00
To foreign countries, including postage 2 25
Single copies 25

Subscription can be forwarded by registered letter or postal order at our risk. Postmasters and News Agents will receive subscriptions at above rates.

L. Samuel, Publisher, 122 Front St., cor. Washington, Portland, Or.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Editorial.....	3	The Blue Bandit.....	21
Notes of the Northwest.....	36	The Eastern Craze.....	28
Oregon Sue: A Legend of '53.....	3	The Spirit of the Water.....	4
Portland (Illustrated).....	11	"The Unique City of Astoria".....	28
Stray Leaves from a Baby's Journal.....	23	What Every One Should Know.....	35

THE WEST SHORE wishes its many readers a happy and prosperous new year.

WITH the current number THE WEST SHORE begins the twelfth year of its existence. Its career has been one of constant progression towards a higher standard, resulting in an ever widening field and an increasing popularity. The expressions of good will and commendation from both the press and private individuals and the number of unsolicited subscriptions received have been greater during the past month than at any previous period. The art department begins the new year with an increased force and additional facilities, so that it will be able to present work of the highest order of perfection. As an evidence of this, attention is called to the colored supplement sent out with this issue, as well as the numerous regular illustrations. The work was all done in THE WEST SHORE establishment by its regular force of artists, and is equal to the finest executed in the United States. It is the publisher's intention to give other art supplements from time to time, which will in themselves be worth more than the subscription price. In every respect the volume for 1886 will be superior to its predecessors.

GRATIFYING evidences of returning prosperity are noticeable on every hand. Portland merchants have been enjoying a brisk holiday trade and the wholesale houses have been doing a large business. From all over the Northwest come reports of a healthy state of business, with the assurance that the coming year will be one of prosperity. This region was the last to greet the "hard times," the least troubled by their visit, and will be the first to bid them adieu. The enormous crop of 1885 is now being marketed at paying figures and a still larger acreage has been sown for the coming season; new regions are being opened up by railroads; immigrants are pouring in; the lumber trade is reviving; several new mining districts of great promise have been discovered and are being rapidly developed. In view of these things, and the noticeable effect they have already produced, it requires neither a prophet nor his descendant

to predict for 1886 a year of great prosperity throughout the Northwest.

TO SUPPORT his ruling that patents shall not be issued in pre-emption cases until he has made a personal examination, to accomplish which it has been estimated will require two hundred years for the cases already before the department, Commissioner Sparks makes the broad assertion that from 75 to 90 per cent. of pre-emption entries in Washington and Oregon are fraudulent, and bases this upon the reports of "special agents." These special agents rank with the crooked detective and the despicable railroad spotter. In order to demonstrate a necessity for their existence and to perpetuate their hold upon a "good thing," these Government spotters find it necessary to send to Washington most alarming reports of crookedness; yet even these zealous agents have not reported to Commissioner Sparks one-quarter of the percentage of fraud he claims, and his assertion is merely a broad effort to bolster up his absurd decision. That the pre-emption law should be abolished is generally admitted; but that patents should be withheld from those who have complied with its provisions as it now stands, until the Commissioner can investigate them, is an idea too absurd and too full of injustice to be entertained.

AMONG the numerous handsome and costly buildings illustrated in this number is the United States Custom House and Post Office, shown on page 7. It is a solid stone edifice, and was erected in 1875 at an expense of \$325,000. The growing needs of the city demand now a still larger structure, and Representative Hermann has asked Congress for an appropriation of \$500,000 for a Custom House to be erected in Portland. The illustrations show many other buildings of attractive architecture, large size and costly construction, giving a good idea of the substantial character of Portland's business blocks.

ONE of Portland's most worthy institutions is the Orphans' Home, supported by the charitable contributions of the people, and managed by the Ladies' Relief Society. Some years ago the Home was started in the northern portion of the city, but two years ago the present commodious building (illustrated on page 7) was erected in South Portland, where it occupies a healthful and beautiful site, commanding a view of the river and the country eastward to the summit of the Cascade Mountains.

"SHADOWS" is the title of a small volume of poems by George K. Camp. The poems are short, but in them Mr. Camp displays a cultivated mind and a true poetical spirit. It is by far the best contribution the Pacific Coast has yet made to lyrical literature. A. L. Bancroft & Co., San Francisco.