

Now that the committee in charge of the erection of the Skidmore Fountain is moving in the matter, it is not out of place to suggest that it consider the merits of White Bronze, which is being so extensively used for memorial monuments, statuary and fountains in the East. It is highly recommended for durability and general beauty of appearance, and can be fashioned into most graceful designs. The subject should be examined by the committee before deciding upon the material to be used in the proposed fountain.

ST. PAUL is luxuriating in her Ice Palace and Carnival at a season when the fruit trees of this region are budding, the flower gardens and green lawns receiving the gardener's care, and the winter grain is growing rankly in the fields. If they enjoy their icy sports as well as we our glorious spring weather, our congratulations are given them freely and heartily. In the one we can never hope to rival them, nor they us in the other. If ice blocks of sufficient dimensions could ever be procured in Portland, the palace would be a goose-pond within twenty-four hours after the warm breath of the Chinook touched it. We will have to build our ice palace of wood and paint it.

THE benefits the Oregon Pacific's Yaquina Route is conferring upon the Willamette Valley are becoming better appreciated daily. As a route from the Valley to San Francisco, both for freight and passengers, it is becoming so well known and well patronized that another steamer will soon be put on to run alternate trips with the *Yaquina*. The road will soon be extended from Corvallis to Albany, which will open to the route a much larger field than it now covers, which will probably be further increased by other extensions. The Oregon Pacific is doing good work for the producers of the Willamette Valley.

NOTWITHSTANDING the failure of the Bedrock Flume Company, the Cœur d'Alene miners are highly elated over the prospects of the various districts in that region. The quartz ledges of the South Fork, Carbon Center, Beaver Creek, Prichard Creek and Eagle Creek districts promise grand results, such as will make Cœur d'Alene one of the leading mining regions of the West. A mass meeting was held at Murray a few days ago, for the purpose of sending a memorial to Congress, asking that all of the Idaho Pan-handle lying north of the Clearwater Divide be annexed to Montana instead of Washington. As a reason for this it is urged that the business interests of that region are in Montana rather than Washington, that the former Territory is a mining country and the latter an agricultural one, the Clearwater Divide forming a natural line of division between those two forms of industry in the Pan-handle, and that the miners of Cœur d'Alene are chiefly former citizens of Montana, who would prefer to become again connected with that Territory.

MESSRS. R. L. POLK & Co. have just issued a new directory of the City of Portland, East Portland, Albina, Vancouver, LaCamas, and minor suburbs, which is complete and accurate in contents and a splendid specimen of work. In every respect it is an improvement upon the directory of 1885, which was far superior to any previously issued in Portland. It should be in every business office in the city.

THE lectures, or essays, of the Social Science Course should receive more attention than they do from our people. They are given in the chapel of the Church of Our Father, corner of Yamhill and Seventh. The price of single admissions is twenty-five cents, while course tickets for the entire five lectures are sold at seventy-five cents. The series for 1886 embraces essays by Miss Kate N. Tupper, Rev. R. W. Hill, Archbishop W. H. Gross, Prof. J. B. Grossman and Mrs. G. W. Chandler. These lectures administer to the intellectual wants of our people and should be well attended.

THE Washington Improvement Company has let a contract for the construction of a cut and tunnel to connect Lake Washington with Lake Union, just north of Seattle. The cut will be five hundred and fifty feet long, and the tunnel eleven hundred feet. The present object of the company is to float logs from Lake Washington to the Sound; but it is the intention soon to convert the connection into a canal, by washing out the earth, which can easily be done, as Lake Washington is fourteen feet higher than Lake Union, and the distance between them only a quarter of a mile. This will enable vessels to enter Lake Washington, which will then be the best location for a sheltered inland navy yard the United States can find. Wood, ship timber, coal and iron abound in the vicinity. Its superiority over the Mare Island location, in every detail, is evident.

THERE are a few apparently respectable men who are either actively engaged in the anti-Chinese demonstrations, or are lending the law-breakers moral support in the form of approval of their acts, whenever they fall short of actual riot. There are not many of these, and when their cases are considered critically it is found they are but a squad of axe-grinders, who think they are doing good political work by making themselves "solid with the boys." In this they are grievously in error, and were that all, no one would take the trouble to allude to them; but, unfortunately, their connection with the agitation misleads those not familiar with the exact status of the movement, to believe that responsible citizens are engaged in this lawless crusade. Such is far from being the case, and our Eastern friends are assured that the business men, property holders, industrious and reliable working men and respectable citizens generally, are almost unanimously opposed to every form of violence, intimidation or unjust treatment of the Chinese or any other foreign element in our midst.