

# THE WEST SHORE.

12th Year.

Portland, Oregon, August, 1886.

No. 8

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

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Postmasters and News Agents will receive subscriptions at above rates.

L. SAMUEL, Publisher, Nos. 171 and 173 Second St., Portland, Or.

Entered for transmission through the Mails at Second Class Rates.

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THE Oregon State Fair will commence on the thirteenth of September and continue to the eighteenth. Appearances indicate that in many respects the fair will be superior to previous ones.

THE eighth annual exhibition of the Portland Mechanics' Fair Association will be held in this city continuing from October seventh to the twenty-third. It is again under the superintendence of Mr. A. S. Whiting, who so successfully managed its affairs last year.

FROM the annual report of Mayor Yesler, of Seattle, it appears that the assessed valuation of property in that city is \$5,576,475, while the total indebtedness is but \$10,813. Total payments into the treasury during the year were \$63,832. The city is certainly in splendid condition to take advantage of the tide of prosperity again setting in on the Northwest coast.

THE artists and presses of THE WEST SHORE are crowded with work to the utmost capacity, notwithstanding this is supposed to be the dull season. The quantity of bank and commercial work of all kinds, catalogue illustrations, colored labels, maps, portraits, etc., that has been turned out by this establishment since the first of June is surprising, and the superior excellence of the work astonishes everyone not familiar with the fact that THE WEST SHORE has one of the best organized artists' corps, and its establishment is one of the most thoroughly equipped for fine work, to be found in the United States.

At last Portland is to have the much-talked-of reduction works, not through the graciousness of our large capitalists, but by the enterprise of men of smaller means. The Portland Reduction Works Co. has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$50,000.00. Two blocks of ground in East Portland have been purchased and the contract let for the erection of buildings. Arrangements have been made for machinery, which will consist of a small test mill and a forty-ton smelter. As much of this machinery as possible is being procured in this city. It is expected that the works will be in full operation before two months have elapsed. The metallurgist of the company will be Mr. H. O. Lang, and Prof. J. E. Clayton, of Salt Lake City, well known throughout the mining regions of the West, will be consulting engineer and examiner of mines.

FOR some unexplainable reason the business men of Portland take delight in being "worked" with "advertising rackets." They seem to recover rapidly from the shock of finding themselves gulled by some traveling sharp, and are prepared to receive the next one with open arms. They are beginning to fight a little shy of the man with the express chart, the hotel album, the railroad folder, the programme for traveling shows, and the hundred and one smaller "fakes," but when a man comes along like the "manager and proprietor" of Lloyd's map, the "president" of the *U. S. Magazine* Publishing Co., or the chief bottle-washer of the "Manufacturing, Commercial and Business Enterprises of Portland," they seem to be unable to do enough for him. Officers of our mercantile organizations endorse him over their official signatures, without a shadow of authority for so doing, and our merchants follow their example. To be sure the chief bottle-cleaner talks in a very high sounding strain about the great benefits he expects to confer upon the city, but when the froth is all blown away, it is seen that he is simply running an advertising scheme which can not possibly be of the most remote advantage to Portland. As a result of his labors we will have a book of advertising puffs, in which he who pays the most will receive the most, and from which he who pays nothing will be omitted entirely. This threat of omitting parties is freely made for the purpose of forcing them to contribute to the support of the work, and only has the least weight because of the endorsements given by the business men alluded to. In other words, by their ill-considered recommendation of a stranger about whom they know nothing, and a work about whose "peculiarities" they are equally ignorant, they are permitting him to use their names to extort money from our people. In justice to themselves they should withdraw their endorsements and apologize to this community for ever giving them.