

ly been earned by two explorers in the Kimberley district, in the extreme northern end of the colony. The port of that region is Derby, on King's sound, at the mouth of the Fitzroy river, and the news from that place is that great numbers of people, the majority of them totally unfitted, by nature and experience, for the rough life of the mines, are thronging the route to the new gold fields. The roads are rough, the water supply scanty, and provisions and supplies of all kinds are held at exorbitant prices; yet, as has always been the case in mining excitements, thousands of "pilgrims" start for the promised land without an adequate supply of either money or provisions. The auriferous region is quite extensive, and the discovery of quartz ledges is by no means improbable. The

Kimberley district is a country about four and a half times the size of Scotland, with splendid rivers, and with millions of acres of pastoral and agricultural land. The climate has been commended by explorers as one of the finest and most healthful in the tropics. Last year the population numbered only about one hundred white men; the blacks, who are not numerous, are tractable. Sheep, cattle and horses thrive well, so that, whether or not the gold fields fulfill the expectations of those who seek their fortunes at the gold fields, there is a fine country to develop. Derby consisted lately of but a few huts and tents, and is the station of the government residents. Should the rush to the gold fields continue, doubtless this will be changed.

Editorial Comment.

With this number, THE WEST SHORE enters its thirteenth consecutive year of publication, and the first in its present form. The radical change in its size, style and general appearance has not been made without much careful consideration of all reasons which could be advanced for or against such a step, nor without a full knowledge of the great additional expense of publication in the new form. As the quantity of reading matter and illustrations is increased over one hundred per cent., the change involves a like increase in the amount paid contributors, compositors and artists, and for presswork, binding, paper and postage. The publisher, however, feels justified in taking this advance step, since the rapid increase in the subscription list indicates the wide and spreading popularity of the magazine. The numerous evidences of this esteem constantly being received are exceedingly gratifying, and earnest efforts will be made to so improve the magazine in every particular that it will receive, and merit, even wider popularity. There is room for a magazine that will represent the best there is in the West, either in its intellectual, social, industrial or natural features. THE WEST SHORE will be an "Illustrated Western Magazine," and as such, will endeavor to keep a little in advance of, rather than behind, the progress of the country. It will seek to be and do more, rather than less, than is expected of it, and in this way, be-

come an accepted representative of the West, for which no one will be called upon to apologize.

The question of school books, now that it is before the people, ought to be considered carefully and in a practical manner. That the published text books are deficient in such matter as pertains especially to the history, physical and political geography and geology of Oregon, is admitted; and this fact is the fountain head from which proceeds the movement to create a distinct series of text books. There is a practical method of supplying this defect without embarking in the manufacture of text books on a large scale. Let a volume be compiled, which will embrace, properly arranged, all the special information desired to be taught in our schools, and let this one volume be in the hands of every pupil of a certain grade, to be used in connection with the other text books, and made a part of the regular course of study. In this way the study of history can be made to include the history of Oregon; that of geography, the geography of Oregon; that of geology, the geology of Oregon. For convenience and economy these subjects may all be combined under one cover, and yet be kept as distinct as though each was given a special volume to itself. In this way the desired end may be quickly and economically attained. This volume can be produced at