

West Shore

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The WEST SHORE offers the Best Medium for Advertisers of any publication on the Pacific Coast.

PORTLAND, OREGON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1889.

A GAIN has the folly of purely speculative mining been impressed with a heavy hand upon many people, in the failure of the Big Bend Tunnel & Mining Co. This company expended \$2,000,000 in constructing a bed rock tunnel 11,600 feet in length through a high hill around whose base Feather river runs, in Butte county, Cal., for the purpose of draining the river a distance of ten miles, with the expectation of finding the gravel in its bed rich in placer gold. The river bed has been laid bare and has proved to be full of rocks, to remove which costs as much as the gold extracted is worth. Legitimate mining enterprises are of great benefit to the country and add millions of dollars to the nation's wealth, but it is such purely speculative schemes as this that have caused mining everywhere to be looked upon as an uncertain and hazardous business. As usual in such cases, the stockholders who furnished the money had no practical knowledge of mining, and it is doubtful if many of them had the faintest conception of what was being undertaken. Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, of patent medicine fame, was president and the largest stockholder. The thousands who have made a tunnel of their bodies for his patent nostrums can now have the satisfaction of knowing that their money has made a tunnel through a California mountain. If the people could reverse matters by drinking the clear waters of Feather river and turning the elixirs through the tunnel, its construction would be a blessed boon to the afflicted instead of a monument to human folly.

The Pacific coast is afflicted with many things of which it is impossible to speak with a feeling of pride, and a few things that are calculated to make all decent men hang their heads for shame. Of these latter the mania for prize fighting is the most conspicuous and the most to be regretted. It finds its chief support in

the greatest center of population and business, the city of San Francisco, from which its demoralizing and brutalizing influence spreads throughout the coast. A few days ago, at one of the "clubs" organized for the patronage of this disgusting "sport," two men, little more than boys in size, fought until they were both so badly injured and exhausted that they could scarcely stand, and then the crowd of "gentlemen" who had assembled to witness this disgusting spectacle, hissed and taunted them in the most heartless and brutal manner. It is impossible to conceive of a sport more beastial in its effects upon the rising generation, and the authorities in San Francisco are sadly remiss in their duty in permitting it to continue. Nor is theirs the entire blame, for the better elements of society should rise up in righteous wrath and sweep these "clubs" from existence and purge the community of this mess of corruption.

One of Portland's opportunities that ought to be improved is the projected railroad from Vancouver to the Yakima country. Such a road would place Portland in direct and independent communication with a region that is rapidly becoming the most populous and productive in Washington. Even if built no farther than Yakima it would be of vast commercial advantage to the city, but its extension to the Okanogan mines and other sections of Eastern Washington would render it still more beneficial. Near the Klickitat pass, through which the line has been surveyed, have been discovered vast coal measures, and thousands of acres of as fine timber as can be found on the Pacific coast lie contiguous to the line. No road projected in the northwest has more weighty reason for its construction than this, and the business men of Portland should interest themselves in thus securing entrance to what will one day be one of the best fields it will have at its command.

Possibly our business men do not feel any interest in the deep harbor convention which met at Topeka on the first of October, hence the failure of Oregon and Washington to send delegates. If such be the case, their apathy must be attributed to ignorance. Our great agricultural, pastoral and mineral industries have a direct interest in the establishment of a deep water harbor on the coast of Texas, the prime object of the convention. Besides this, much could be accomplished for our own harbors by establishing a general community of interest and union of effort with other states west of the Mississippi. This is the third year that we have neglected our plain interests in this matter, and it is to be hoped that we will be represented when another such body assembles to consider so important a question.