

Land grabbers are trying to make a great haul in Tacoma, and it is the duty of every citizen of the new state to see that it is only a water haul. Immediately adjoining the city is a section of school land, worth, at ruling prices, \$2,000 per acre, or \$1,280,000. This is the property of the state by gift of the general government for the support of common schools, and it is the robbery of the coming generations of school children that these sharks have undertaken. Through the section runs a gulch, in which is found placer gold in small quantities, and on the strength of this they have filed mining claims to cover the entire section. Even if there should prove to be gold in paying quantities in the gulch, the upland portion of the section is free from it; but this is the most valuable portion, and its capture is the real object of the movement. The press of Tacoma should take a firm stand in opposition to this bold scheme to rob the school fund of the most valuable section of the government grant, both because the public interests demand it and to protect itself from a charge of collusion with the schemers.

Rapid transit will soon become one of Portland's metropolitan features. Already several steam and electric motors lead from the city to various suburban tracts, but in the streets of the city itself the plodding car horse is the only power relied upon. A change is being made rapidly. On Second street the Fulton Park motor line is being constructed, and on Washington the rails are being connected for the purpose of converting the line into an electric road. On Fifth street work is in progress on the cable road, which will run up that street from G to Market and out the latter to Portland Heights. No doubt the Third street line will be compelled to adopt the electric system to meet the competition of these other roads, and every citizen will rejoice to see the managers of that line exhibiting a little more life.

When Joaquin Miller gets through claiming to have named, discovered or originated everything on the Pacific coast, which time will probably be coincident with his death, there will be more attention paid to those who knew about these things when the romancing mock poet was in short pants. A man who seeks to acquire credit for deeds he never did, for thoughts his brain never originated, and for poetry he never wrote, ought to receive less attention from sensible and cultivated people; and he would, were it not that the lions of literature let their deeds speak, while the braying ass lifts up his discordant voice in his own praise on the street corners.

This is a world of disappointments. When we read a few months ago that Princeton college would

send an expedition to Oregon to secure specimens of our fossils, we were infused with new hope and began to believe that there was a future in store for Oregon after all; but, alas, woe be unto us! They came no farther west than the John Day, and were satisfied with a few tons of old bones, never coming far enough to even get a glimpse of the genuine Oregon fossil, who is still here to stop the wheels of progress, vote that a judge shall receive no more salary than a ditch digger, and raise thistles on his city property.

The hotel spirit seems to have taken a firm hold upon the people, and every town and city that feels within itself a desire to grow and prosper is giving vent to this feeling through the erection of a large hotel. Portland's example in this respect is being followed everywhere, and the result will be that in a year or two every city of 5,000 people in the northwest will have a hotel the equal of which can not be found in eastern cities of less than five times the population. The benefits derived from these hostelrys by the towns possessing them have been so great that they are now looked upon as a necessity everywhere.

Nothing serves to impress upon the minds of the present generation the marked change that has taken place in the northwest since the pioneer period, than the occasional assembling of the men and women who laid the foundations of civilization. The pioneers of Southern Oregon, who passed through an ordeal of Indian war such as no other portion of the Pacific coast has experienced, must feel a special pride in the result of their labors and sacrifices, when they view the lovely Rogue river valley as it is to be seen to-day, with its hundreds of farms, orchards and vineyards, and its many prosperous and growing towns.

Absorption of British gold in America does not seem to be confined to the selling of breweries and flouring mills to English syndicates. On its last trip from Australia the *Alameda* brought \$2,500,000 in English sovereigns in payment for goods, and these representatives of royalty will go to the mint and become full fledged American eagles. This incident shows how valuable is our trade with the Australian colonies, and the story could be repeated in every quarter of the globe if the government would give our merchant marine the assistance it requires.

Louisiana has been defrauded by her state officials by an over issue of bonds and forgery to the amount of a million of dollars. One who remembers the bloody and revolutionary way in which the "corrupt carpet bag government," was overthrown in 1876, will naturally wonder to what extent its usurping successor was an improvement.