

West Shore

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

L. SAMUEL, Pub., 171-3-5 Second St., PORTLAND, OR.

Entered in the Post Office in Portland, Oregon, for transmission through the mails at second class rates.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES---Strictly in Advance.

One Year,	\$4.00	Three Months,	\$1.25
Six Months,	2.25	Single Copies,	.10

☞ Copies will in no case be sent to subscribers beyond the term paid for.

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

PORTLAND, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1889.

LYNN and Boston have both been visited with fires rivaling in the extent of loss those of Seattle, Ellensburg and Spokane Falls. While it is a matter of deep regret everywhere, especially the disaster at Lynn, by which several thousand hands have been suddenly deprived of work as the winter season is beginning, and while our sympathies for the sufferers would be expressed in a substantial and generous manner were assistance from the far west required, yet we can not but feel a sense of relief that two such fires in such old communities, so well provided with means of protection, must remove the impression from the minds of eastern people that the fires in Seattle and her sister cities were the result of any peculiar condition that there existed. If eastern cities can burn down great blocks of brick and stone buildings, why not western ones as well? Our western cities are just as careful about having a good water supply, fire department, electric alarm system, etc., as eastern communities. In fact, take them city for city in proportion to size and population, and there are few in the east that are so well protected against fire as those of the Pacific. The same comparison will hold good in regard to electric lights, telephones, street cars and all modern metropolitan conveniences. There is another idea suggested by the incidents following the fire at Lynn, and that is that in the west the purse strings are pulled much more easily and quickly than in the east at the cry of distress. When it was known in Boston that within a few miles of them many thousands of people had suddenly been deprived of a livelihood, a public meeting was held and \$5,000 subscribed. There was not a city of 10,000 people in the northwest that did not promptly send twice that sum to aid her sister cities in the hour of their need, and only stopped sending because more had already been sent than was needed. On the whole, one's lines could

easily be cast in less pleasant places than among the people of the Pacific coast.

Secretary Rusk's reasons why an American citizen should feel thankful are a summary of a few of the conditions which prevail in this country and nowhere else in the world. His reasons are, "that we are thriving under the best system of government ever known; that we are a people imbued with a spirit of brotherly love, which finds expression in so generous a response to calls for assistance from scenes of flood and fire; that the prosperity of our nation is based on the peaceful avocation of agriculture, and that famine is a word which has no terrors for us. With fifty bushels of cereals for every inhabitant of the land, we have enough for ourselves and our herds, the stranger, foreigner and millions that stay at home to dream of paradise and plenty in America. We can sell this year more cotton than we grew thirty years ago. We can spare more wheat than was grown in 1850. Four pounds of wool are grown for every one that was clipped in 1860. We have added to our store of fruits in such abundance as to initiate an export trade. We are searching the world for a market for our surplus production."

It was scarcely to be expected of a state so young as Montana that it should at one bound reach the pinnacle of political uncertainty and have a double legislature. This shows how thorough had been the preparation for statehood. The senate is equally divided, politically, and neither side will "round up" with the other for organization. As there are only eight on a side they can not resort to a ball game to determine which shall rule. By the issuance of certificates to two sets of candidates from Silver Bow county the lower house of the legislature is two. The factions meet in different halls and make wry faces at each other. The democratic governor sits on his pedestal and smiles and smiles. It will not be surprising if the people become tired of this aping of the ways of the effete east and send a few Bronco Bills from Pizen Thunder down to Helena to straighten the kinks.

The scheme of certain western congressmen to maintain a united headquarters in Washington, where shall be exhibited samples of the products of their states and a display of their natural resources, with maps, pamphlets, pictures, etc., presided over by gentlemen well informed on all subjects connected therewith, is certainly a good one, and, if properly managed, ought to be of great benefit to their several states. The opportunity it will give to educate a few of the eastern congressmen on western subjects and dispel the Egyptian darkness now enveloping their minds, will not be the least of its advantages.