

West Shore

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Saturday, December 28, 1889.

THE movement for the admission into the union of Idaho and Wyoming seems to be assuming tangible form first in the senate. The committee on territories of that body have already decided to report favorably on a bill, all the republican members heartily supporting it. As both territories will probably make republican states, as party issues are now laid, vigorous opposition from the democrats may reasonably be looked for. Notwithstanding this it is hoped to pass the measure through the senate by the fifteenth of January, which will get it into the house reasonably early in the session, where the opposition will probably be even stronger than in the senate. There are no reasons, other than political ones, why these two territories should not at once become states, but politics always have been, and probably always will be, an important consideration in the creation of new states, and the minority will always struggle, no matter how unjustly, to prevent an addition to the strength of the opposing party. The territorial struggle, however, will soon be a thing of the past, for unless Uncle Sam make an accession to his dominions, he will have no dependent territories on his hands by the end of the century, save Alaska and some portion of Indian territory. If Idaho be admitted with the constitution framed last fall, she may become a state before the spring flowers bloom.

Senator Butler, of South Carolina, wants congress to appropriate \$5,000,000 for the transportation of negroes from the southern states to some portion of the United States, South America, Africa or South sea islands, where they could be colonized and have their own government. This is about as absurd and chimerical a scheme as has ever been brought to the public attention. The impossibility of a mass of ignorant

negroes thrown upon their own resources in a new country being able to accomplish anything must be patent to everyone. There is but one solution of the negro question. He must be given his civil and political rights where he lives now. With these and the school book he will soon cease to be a menace to honest and intelligent government, and as a citizen and property holder there will be little reason for wanting to deport him to distant wilds.

Senator Pearce, of North Dakota, publishes a card warning charitably inclined persons against giving contributions to persons representing themselves as agents of a relief committee, and denies that there is much destitution in his state. While it is at all times well to be certain that charity funds fall into proper hands, it is questionable whether Senator Pearce's card is in good taste. It has the appearance of being published as a sop to his state pride, without due consideration of the condition of his constituents who are not as well able to live on pride as Senator Pearce. There is destitution in North Dakota, and Senator Pearce should not interfere with those who are disposed to relieve it.

Reading the list of names selected by the Oregon congressmen for the federal offices of that state sounds like the reciting of a page of an old political directory. There are very few who have not "been there" before in some capacity, but notwithstanding this fact the people are to be congratulated, for nearly every one has made a good record as a capable and honest official. A great improvement in the manner of conducting the various offices, especially the Portland post office, is looked for when these men take charge.

According to figures of the *New York World*, compiled from statistics received from the state and territorial treasurers, the total wealth of the United States is \$61,459,000,000. This is a sum too vast for human comprehension, and is more than the total wealth of the whole world a century and a half ago. We are the richest nation on the globe, and probably wealthier than any of the great kingdoms of ancient history or of prehistoric civilizations. One wonders, with all this wealth, why it is so hard to make a dollar.

The lynching of eleven of Kettle Jack's gang in Wyoming relieves that territory of a band of out-laws apparently as bad as the Plummer gang that was so summarily disposed of in Montana and Idaho in the early days. While in one sense their taking off was a blessing to the territory, Wyoming must be careful about a too sudden reduction of her population, as she will need them all to squeeze into the union with.