

West Shore

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Saturday, January 25, 1900.

WORD comes in a delightfully indefinite way from Minneapolis of the equally delightfully indefinite plan of a number of Minnesotans of whom Secretary Windom is said to be one. It is that a syndicate has been formed "which has in view the purchase of the pine lands in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, and the improvement of the same by making the timber accessible. The scheme has not been divulged in all its details, but it is stated that there is an immense amount of capital, nearly \$100,000,000, behind it. The scheme involves some of the most difficult engineering feats ever attempted. The California pine is of a very superior quality, and it is only necessary to devise some practicable method of getting it down from the mountains. It is confidently believed that a successful plan has been arranged by Hon. C. M. Loring, who is now in San Francisco." As there are millions of acres of timber land in the Sierras the effort to buy it all will be a big one. Probably the person furnishing the information was but poorly informed as regards the size of California.

Those republican papers which, because of a fear that Arizona will become a democratic state if admitted, gravely argue against her admission on the ground that her people are not desirable citizens, either display the rankest partizanship in a most contemptible way—hypocritically—or the densest ignorance. If the former, then there is no hope for them; but if the latter, they should send a representative to that region, and they will find the American element in the majority in numbers, power and influence, with all the machinery of government administered by men just as able, just as upright and just as capable of making a good state constitution as are to be found in the four republican states recently admitted. Vulgar partizanship has always governed the admission of states into the union, and some republican papers, while holding

up their inky hands in horror at its display by the democrats, seem to be guilty of the same sin in even a worse form.

In Maine, there are 144 towns with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,500 in which no newspaper is published. In all New England there are more than 500 such places. Nothing shows the radical difference between the stagnation of the east and the vitality of the west than this. In the west there can not be found a town of 500 people without a paper, nor a town of from 1,000 to 2,000 without two or three of those reflectors of intelligence and enterprise. And yet there are men from New England, right in the midst of populous communities without a paper, constantly coming west to find a location for one. If any man wants to establish a paper in the west he must either go into a town of less than 500 people or else meet the competition of one or more that have preceded him.

A Wisconsin man who has been convicted of murder says that his victim scoffed at the bible and he killed him so that he could cut out his heart to see if it were black. Having satisfied his curiosity he should divulge the result of his experiment so that scientific research of that nature will not require another victim. Even a bible scoffer might be a useful citizen and too valuable to be wasted in the vain effort to acquire anatomical knowledge already in the possession of science.

It was proposed in Olympia to organize a "holier than thou" society. It was to be an anti-boodle or anti-boodler society, it is uncertain which. They either proposed to "hate the sin and love the sinner," or hate the boodler and love the boodle. It did not progress far enough to render this point quite clear. On general principles the man who jumps upon his seat and yells "fraud" at the top of his lungs will bear watching in a quiet way.

The outlook for salmon packing on the Columbia this season is very dark. The Fishermen's Protective Association has fixed the price of fish at \$1.00 and \$1.25, at which rate they cannot be put up at the ruling prices in the market. Cannerymen are making no preparations for work, and the indications are that the fishermen have "protected" themselves to death.

Papa Huntington says if he were a young man with from \$10,000 to \$100,000, he would go to the Congo country and make millions in trading in ivory, skins, precious stones and rubber. Why not give his son-in-law a stake and send him there, unless the natives object to associating with him?