

## DAVID P. THOMPSON.

ON the first page of this issue of *WEST SHORE* is presented the portrait of one of the best known business men of Oregon who has been identified with the growth of the state for more than a third of a century. No man not a practical politician is better known from one end of the state to the other, and whenever his name appears in connection with an enterprise it is taken as a guaranty of the success of the undertaking. Mr. Thompson never goes into anything blindly and he does not believe in failures. His reputation as a man of capacity, of strong opinions stoutly maintained, of great executive ability and of successful conduct of all he undertakes, has made him a prominent figure in the ranks of the republican party of Oregon, not because of his political work, but because the people recognize in him the character of man such a great party should select for the highest executive office.

Four years ago Mr. Thompson was strongly urged to accept the republican nomination for governor, but declined to do so for various reasons, the chief of which was that he is engaged in so many enterprises requiring his careful personal attention that he could not give the necessary time, either to the canvas or the discharge of the gubernatorial duties if elected, without great detriment to important business interests. The defeat of the republican candidate for governor in that election served but to make the candidacy of Mr. Thompson still more desirable, and now he is being more strongly urged to be the party standard-bearer in the coming campaign. What his decision will be and whether he will feel that duty demands of him the sacrifice of personal interests and convenience can not now be predicted; but the sentiment that with D. P. Thompson at the head, the republican state ticket will be successful in June, is one that has taken deep hold upon the members of that party throughout the state.

Mr. Thompson is a man of the people, one who has reached his present high position by native talent and hard work. As he tersely puts it, he is "a blacksmith by trade, a surveyor by profession and a banker by occupation," and this briefly sums up the story of his life. The mental and physical qualities that can transform a young blacksmith into a surveyor and then into a banker and director of numerous large enterprises are just the kind needed in the man who is to fill the chair of the chief executive of the state. He was born in Cadiz, Ohio, where he attended the public school and high school and learned the blacksmith trade. Being ambitious he studied surveying and finally adopted that profession. He was in the engineer corps of the Steubenville & Indiana railroad, under Gen. Jacob Blackwelder, since chief engineer

of the Union Pacific. In 1853 he came to Oregon, and during the pioneer times was not ashamed to use his muscles to aid his brains in giving him a start in the world. For twenty years he held the position of United States deputy surveyor.

During the war he was an officer of the First Regiment Oregon Cavalry Volunteers. During his busy life Mr. Thompson has been called upon often to fill official positions. He has served as governor of Idaho, four years as state senator for Clackamas county, three terms as mayor of Portland, presidential elector in 1884, representative for Multnomah county two terms, and twice as Portland school-director. His earnestness, energy and practical common sense have always made him a central figure and influential factor in everything with which he has been connected; and if he shall become the governor of Oregon he will guide the state wisely in the path of substantial progress, instead of being the incubus and drawback the occupant of the gubernatorial chair has often been in the past.

Both Barnum and Talmage have been abroad this season. The latter has been as keen as the former in making an advertisement of his trip. He has brought back from the holy land some historic material to be used in his new church, and regarding which he says: "I brought home for my new church in Brooklyn a pulpit from Mars hill, Athens, a stone presented to us by the Grecian government through Mr. Tricupis, prime minister, and the queen of Greece, who treated us as though we were princes, although we had not a drop of royal blood in our veins. I brought, also, a stone from the river Jordan, to be sculptured into a baptismal font; also a stone from Mount Calvary (I rolled it down from the Golgotha or 'the place of a skull,' with my own hands), and a stone from Mount Sinai—these last two to be the corner stone of our new church, and it will not take a very profound thinker to know that we mean by that the law and gospel." To make his collection complete, the mountebank preacher ought to have brought some of the dirt floor that Ananias died on and a stone or two from the temple Christ drove the money changers from.

The Baisley-Elkhorn Mining Co., of Baker City, Or., shipped to the Commercial National Bank of Portland this week a gold brick weighing 493 ounces and valued at \$7693. When Portland's new smelter begins work bullion bars will be a common sight.

Cheney has been given a state normal school by the legislature, and Ellensburgh, Lynden and Chehalis are also seeking the same distinction. This would locate one in each geographical division of Washington.