

West Shore

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

Saturday, June 14, 1890.

WHAT is there about the old silver dollar we have known so long that congress should suddenly place it upon a royal throne and fall down to worship it? Only a few years ago the "dollar of our daddies" was the butt and jest of the country, and now our national law givers are prostrate in the dust before it. Silver is king, and the lesser potentates of the past, iron, cotton, etc., are but shadows upon the curtain of time, dimmed by the effulgence of this royal luminary. The coinage of silver, even free coinage, if confined to the product of our own mines, is something the great majority of the people and press of the United States favor more or less ardently, but the extravagant claims made for that metal and the wonderful blessings enumerated as contained in its royal robe by its eloquent advocates in congress strike the ordinary man as supremely ridiculous, especially in view of the fact that the majority of thinking men gravely doubt the financial ability of this country, even with its unrivaled prosperity and its marvelous material resources, to maintain the value of silver unaided by the other commercial nations of the world. It were better that we approach the question of free coinage more cautiously, that instead of jumping at once to the extreme so eloquently demanded by the radical advocates of silver, we reach it gradually and by safe steps. If the radicals would permit this they would exhibit a wisdom and sound conservatism of which their bombastic speeches contain no trace. As long as it is a grave question whether this country can maintain free coinage the test should be applied guardedly and in a safe manner. To commit the nation to unlimited free coinage, while it may not mean financial ruin on the one hand, certainly can not bestow upon the people the blessings so enthusiastically promised by the worshippers of this newly created king.

Now that the republican party has carried the legislature of Oregon by such a commanding majority it will be responsible for enacting some law that will give us a better electoral system. From one end of the state to the other there is a demand for reform in our rotten political methods. The political corruption of Portland is so notorious and unblushing that even the conservative residents of the rural districts recognize the necessity of a change, while every decent man in the city demands it. So long as the state has no registry law and no law for a uniform ballot these corrupt political methods will prevail, and every close election will be decided by fraudulent voting and bribery. The voters of other towns are as much interested as those of the city, for every illegal or purchased vote in Portland nullifies the vote of some honest elector in another precinct. The first great step to be taken is the passage of a good, strict registry law, one that will absolutely prevent all but legal voters from going to the polls, and with this should be an official ballot and isolated polling places, such as are the essential features of the Australian ballot system. To this reform the men elected to the legislature from Multnomah county are personally and positively pledged, and they can not fail to accomplish it unless they are opposed ignorantly by members from other districts, who do not realize that the political corruption of Portland affects all portions of the state alike.

Investigation is being made into the Lower California filibustering conspiracy by the department of justice through a special agent. The San Francisco *Chronicle*, which first exposed it, has prosecuted investigations of its own and claims to have secured possession of letters, maps, diagrams and a full list of recruits who were to compose the expedition, which it offers to produce before the proper authorities. The movement is supposed to have been in the interest of the Mexican Land & Colonization Co., an English enterprise, whose valuable concessions in Mexico will probably be revoked if it be proved that the company was connected with the lawless project. The United States cannot permit its soil to be used for the assembling of an expedition hostile to a friendly neighbor, especially when it is done in the interest of foreign capitalists, and the *Chronicle* deserves much credit for the active part it has taken in exposing this conspiracy before it had progressed far enough to cause serious trouble to the government.

More miles of railroad will be constructed the next twelve months with Portland as a starting point than from any other city in the United States.