

West Shore

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

Saturday, June 28, 1890.

LANDLORDISM in America, especially upon the plan common to England and Ireland, is something no thoughtful man wants to see established in America, yet it is gaining a rapid foothold. We have not only made our country "an asylum for the oppressed of all nations," but we have welcomed with open arms the oppressor as well. With equal hospitality we have opened our arms to receive rent-racked tenant and the plethoric-pursed landlord; with this difference, however: In the case of the tenant we have got the man, and in the case of the landlord we have let his money get us. Having acquired title to, or possession of, thousands of acres of American land, the English capitalist sits in his easy chair at home and draws the profits, without contributing to the support of the country more than the property is taxed for. Our liberality has been too great. It is time this universal refuge idea be abandoned, both as to immigrants and non-resident landlords. Not an inch of American soil should be owned in fee simple by one who is not a citizen and bound loyally to support the government. It is bad enough to have American landlords, too bad in many cases, but to have alien ones is not only unendurable but unnecessary. In the west, where great areas of country have been fenced in by corporations, much of it illegally, it is unbearable to think that settlers are excluded for the benefit of subjects of a foreign power who have no interest in the country save for the income they may derive from their investments. In view of this condition of affairs a hearty support ought to be given to the bill now before congress providing that an alien can secure no better title in the United States than a lease for a term of five years, and confiscating the property of all alien land owners who do not become citizens before the expiration of ten years.

However hypocritical republican partisan papers may claim were the motives actuating President Cleveland, it is certain that more attention was paid to the genuine spirit of civil service reform during his administration than has been the case since Harrison has occupied the executive chair. The spectacle of an official as high in the councils of the administration as Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson advocating partisan action on all occasions and in all elections, no matter how insignificant, was never witnessed while Cleveland was president. However little it may have pleased them personally, it is certain that they understood that they must do or say nothing to compromise their chief in the position he had assumed as a champion of civil service reform, and with few exceptions they refrained from extreme partisan expressions and actions. Partisanship, blind, unthinking and slavishly loyal to leaders, be they good or bad, is one of the worst evils of our political system. A firm adherence to principles is commendable, for without it no reform can be accomplished; but an equally firm adherence to party, when that party has ceased to represent principles, is the root of many of our political evils. Upon this is based all the political iniquity of party leaders, and without it political bossism is impossible. It is no wonder that Mr. Clarkson, who represents that wing of the republican party that has maintained control by "political methods," should advocate partisanship in its most odious form. It is one of the hopeful signs of the times that intelligent voters are yearly throwing off the galling yoke of party and demanding that some attention be paid to principles and the men who represent them. Party slavery holds out no promise of progress to the nation, nor will party slave drivers give us the many reforms in political and social conditions the great mass of thinking, patriotic people deem essential to the nation's future welfare.

The power of the press was never better shown than in the raid of the *Chicago News* upon the gamblers of that city. The mayor and the police department seemed to be so thoroughly in the hands of the sporting element, to which the mayor was indebted for his election, that they denied that there were any gambling houses in the city, though their existence was a matter of public notoriety. Finally the *News* took the matter in hand, swore out search warrants before an honest and fearless justice of the peace and made raid after raid upon the various dens, capturing wagon loads of implements, which were promptly condemned and destroyed. Even during the actual progress of these raids the police held their noses in the air and refused steadfastly to see anything after they learned that the raids were legal and they could not interfere to protect their friends. Even the notorious Mike