

Who is building the Pacific Short Line, from Sioux City to Ogden, is a question that puzzles every one. Here is a road being constructed at a rapid rate, at the cost of millions of dollars, and no one can say in whose interest or who is furnishing the money. The president of the Illinois Central, generally credited with it, strenuously denies that either his company or himself has a cent invested in the enterprise, and officials of other roads are equally explicit in their denials of ownership. As the road will cost less than half the debt of the Union Pacific to the government, as it practically parallels the latter road and would be a most dangerous and expensive rival to it, and as the officials of the Union Pacific do not seem to worry much about it, there are many who believe that it is being built by the Union Pacific, which will turn its present line over to the government for its debt. This is not a novel idea by any means, since it is a matter of public knowledge that the officials of the Central Pacific have done just that thing, except the final act of letting the government take possession of the old and almost useless line through Nevada and the mountains of California. It may be that the government will be compelled to go into the railroad business earlier than the nationalists even hoped for, by which the question of government ownership of railroads may receive a little practical demonstration before the country is committed to it as a national policy.

Those papers that have joined WEST SHORE in its strong condemnation of "athletic clubs," and have pointed the finger of scorn at San Francisco and California as the paradise of prize fighters, can congratulate themselves that they have at last aroused the slumbering spark of pride and respectability in some of the officials of that state. Governor Waterman has instructed the attorney general to have prize fights stopped, and as the latter official has declared himself as heartily in sympathy with the movement it is more than probable that the San Francisco bull pens will be closed. It is no credit, however, to the people of San Francisco that they permitted these brutal fights to continue until the murder of a man in the ring led the state authorities to do what the local officers should have long since done. To be sure, Mayor Pond refused to approve an ordinance licensing "athletic clubs," on the grounds that these contests were contrary to law, but it turned out later that there was good reason for the milk in that cocoanut, as the mayor made no effort to stop the fights, and the only result of the veto was to save the clubs the license fee, which appears to have been the sole object of that worthy official. The people of the Pacific coast have become tired of apologizing for their chief city, and

hope that in the future San Francisco will not give them such abundant cause to be ashamed of her.

It is something of a reflection upon the state of Oregon that her young, but prosperous, neighbor should have a better equipped national guard than she. The national guard of Washington, consisting of two full regiments, is now in a brigade encampment of ten days' duration, on the shore of American lake, near Tacoma. These regiments are fully equipped for field service and have both fatigue and dress uniforms. Oregon not only has no field equipments, no overcoats, no dress uniforms and no money for an encampment, that most essential part of practical military instruction, but its appropriation is now exhausted for the year, and the national guard must get along the best it can without state help for the next six months. If the legislature at its next session would make a special appropriation to cover the expenses of these six months, the tax for next year would yield money enough for an encampment. The trouble arose in the legislature which passed the national guard law, by which the law went into effect the first of July, 1887, and the appropriation did not become available until January, 1888, leaving the guard half a year in arrears. Until this evil is corrected the national guard of Oregon will remain a financial cripple, and can not possibly become the efficient military body the law contemplates and the tax payers expect.

Wall street doubts the wisdom of the silver bill, and so do a great many men who never saw Wall street; but the doubts of that little thoroughfare will have little effect in the west, where the general sentiment is that anything Wall street is opposed to must be a good thing for the people. It spurs them on just as the report that the English parliament objects to the American tariff bill encourages the supporters of McKinley's measure. The influence of England in America and of Wall street in the west is by far the most effective when exerted quietly.

Now is the harvest time of the cyclone in the Mississippi valley. They are so frequent and deadly that there is danger of their rendering the census enumeration worthless. Those who escape them and are not subsequently mangled in a railroad accident have reason for self congratulation.

Now that there are competing companies seeking a lottery franchise in Louisiana, there is little doubt that a charter will be given, since the sum first offered was considered enough to buy the state, and the high bids that will be brought out in the competition must prove irresistible.