

# West Shore

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

WEST SHORE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PUBLISHER,

L. SAMUEL, General Manager,

PORTLAND, OR., AND SPOKANE FALLS, WASH.

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1890.

The organization of the "West Shore Publishing Company" has been completed by the election of the following directors, all well known business men of Portland: L. Samuel, president and manager; J. Frank Watson, vice president; E. A. King, secretary; H. C. Wortman, treasurer; Chas. E. Ladd, Herbert Bradley and T. F. Osborn. The aim of WEST SHORE will be to present to its readers an art and literary journal that will not only be creditable to the region in which it is published, but will aid materially in building up and developing its resources. This work its increased facilities will enable it to perform still better than in the past.

FROM every portion of the great Mississippi valley come reports of a failure of crops. Wheat, corn and potatoes, those three great staples, are not one-half an average, except in a few favored and not extended localities. Fruit, also, and hops fare no better. In marked contrast with this is the condition of agriculture in the Pacific northwest. Reports from every section are to the effect that the harvest has been a bountiful one, and that this, in connection with the higher prices prevailing, causes a feeling of easiness in business circles. Yet this was not unexpected. During the forty years that agriculture has been carried on in this region there has never been a crop failure that was at all general in its nature. The conditions of agriculture are almost perfect: A rich and responsive soil; copious rains in winter to saturate the ground, with frequent showers during the most important portion of the growing season; absence of hot, dry winds or of a burning sun to scorch vegetation after the rains have ceased; cool summer nights, permitting crops to mature slowly and perfectly, and, finally, what is one of the best features of all, an almost certain exemption from rain during the harvest season, permitting a leisurely and sure gathering of the crops. In the light of these facts it is no wonder that people are pouring into the Pacific northwest by thousands. The wonder is rather that they do not abandon their eastern homes by the hundreds of thousands and literally overflow this land of promise in a perfect avalanche of eager humanity.

The question of taxing credits will again be argued by the legislature next winter. Legislation based solely upon theory can not be too quickly modified or repealed when trial has demonstrated that the theory does not accord with the practical results. The taxing of credits has not added to the taxable wealth of the state, has not relieved the owners of real estate of any of the burden of taxation, nor done any of the things originally claimed for it. On the contrary it has, in connection with the

usury law, kept out of Oregon millions of dollars that otherwise would have been invested in the state, and thousands of people who would have located here as manufacturers or workmen. If Oregon is to make half the material progress her abundant resources entitle her to, this law must be repealed.

A call has been made by the chamber of commerce for a convention of the various commercial organizations of Oregon to be held in Portland, September 27, for the purpose of organizing a state board of trade. This move is a good one, and such a body will have great influence upon the general welfare of the state. As an illustration, it is undoubtedly true that had Oregon possessed a state board of trade a recount of the state could have been secured and the injury inflicted upon it by the inaccurate census have been avoided. This, however, is but one of many ways in which a body could advance the interests of the state. A multitude of permanent and transient questions will call for constant action.

A national reform party has been organized in St. Louis. Though not so comprehensive in name as the universal reform club of Oregon, it does not fall far short of it in declared principles. Many of its objects are most worthy and have the endorsement of a majority of the American people, but when they are but one patch on a crazy quilt platform they amount to nothing. Let a party be formed that will have for its war cry protection to American labor, free American schools and restriction of immigration and naturalization, and it will have something to call out the enthusiasm of the people.

Land Commissioner Goff has made proper haste to issue a circular countermanding his recent one to land offices withdrawing from settlement lands in the arid belt. Congress has repealed the act of 1888, upon which it was based, except so far as securing reservoir sites and water supplies is concerned, and now the lands of the Pacific northwest are again open to the genuine and industrious settler. It is a matter of no small satisfaction to WEST SHORE that it materially aided in achieving this result.

The most absurd exhibition of mossbackism yet given in Portland emanates from the city council, which is seriously considering the question of imposing a special tax upon real estate dealers. Utterly inequitable and unconstitutional in principle, it shows such a lack of comprehension of the forces that are causing the growth of the city that it is astonishing even in a mossback.

By the recount of Supervisor C. E. Meech, supervised and approved by Special Census Agent Leland, the municipal district commonly understood as comprising Portland is shown to contain 69,000 people. An intelligent recount of Oregon would give the state not less than 50,000 greater population than the botch work of the census bureau now credits it with.

The sudden death of a gentleman who was educated for the ministry, but preferred to employ his talents as a base ball umpire, while it may have extinguished a bright and shining light in the firmament of the national game, certainly did not dim the electric effulgence of the pulpit.

The reason why a city government is corrupt or mismanaged, is because people will nominate and elect men to attend to the business affairs of a city whom they would not personally employ to manage a sausage mill.