

# West Shore

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1890.

Read about Portland's great exposition.

We want something more than "whereas" and "resolved," on the world's fair question.

Reed not only knocked all precedents of the Speaker's desk to flinders, but he splintered the desk itself.

If any one wants to king it a little while the king of Portugal would probably turn his job over to him at a moderate price.

Much space is devoted this week to Portland's great exposition. Next week the Spokane Falls exposition will be illustrated and described, after which WEST SHORE will again have its usual diversity of contents.

With but few exceptions the press of Oregon has taken up the question of a proper representation of the state at Chicago, in a spirit of intelligent enterprise. If something creditable be not done it will not be the fault of the press.

Shall the future citizen be able to speak English, is the question at issue in Wisconsin. The democrats, in their eagerness to secure the foreign vote to help them beat the republicans, have endorsed the proposition that it is of no concern to the state whether its citizens shall do so or not. There are too many loyal, honest Americans in the democratic party who will not support such a principle to permit it to succeed.

Probably no city in the United States has such a lot of "home-made" sidewalks as Portland. They are the crudest, roughest, homeliest affairs ever put under the foot of man to try his sole. Whether it is because the sidewalk commissioner is cross-eyed, or because he never pays any attention whatever to the details of his business, or both, is unknown; but it is a fact that the new walks put down this year are a disgrace to a Russian village. The boards vary in length all the way from one to six inches, and are as uneven on the top as a worm fence. Some are thicker than others, making a surface like a corduroy road. Different grades are maintained, so that the luckless pedestrian either stubs his toe against the higher and leaps forward like a kangaroo, or steps down with a jar that makes him wonder where the earthquake is. It certainly can not be more expensive, or take much more time, to lay a good, smooth sidewalk, with the ends of the boards evenly matched on both sides, than to put down one of these sidewalk poems in blank verse. The manner of selecting the property to be contaminated by association with one of these pedestrian nightmares might be improved upon. There are walks, especially in front of vacant property, where it is only at the risk of breaking his limbs that one can venture after dark, where broken and missing boards make pedestrianism even by daylight a work of caution. Neglecting these, the authorities have frequently, torn up walks that were, to say the least, far from being dilapidated, and laid down the crude affair that passes for an official walk, when, had the owner known of what was to have been done he would have put down a good walk himself.

Upon this important matter of good sidewalks a volume could be written. With the moist climate of this region our people should endeavor to lay down stone or artificial stone walks. They are the best in appearance, and are the most economical in the end. The frequent rains of winter

rot and swell the boards of a wooden walk, which are still further warped out of position by the long season of dry weather in the summer time. Artificial stone is not affected in this manner, and extremely cold weather, such as might damage a walk of that kind, is unknown here. It is a shame to see the miserable wooden walks that hedge in the elegant grounds of some of our rich men. A citizen should take as much pride in the appearance of the sidewalk and street in front of his residence as in his lawn. When the time shall come that our residences are not only surrounded with green lawns and beautiful flowers, but are bordered with neat stone sidewalks, with only a low stone wall or short hedge between the grounds and walk, then the residence portion will cease to look like an overgrown village.

The last intrenchment of mossbackism seems to be a few of the country papers, whose managers, either because they have not the ability to comprehend the strength and volume of the progressive movement, or are demagogically catering to the ultra-conservatives and anti-progressionists with the hope of gaining their approval and support, foolishly seek to oppose the movement for a proper representation of the state at the Columbian exposition. They will learn by dear experience that the element honored with their sycophantic eulogies approves but little and supports nothing, and a few years hence they will be seen desperately clutching at the tail of the procession as it disappears around the bend and leaves them hopelessly stranded in the barren desert of mossbackism.

It is gratifying to see such representative bodies as the State Horticultural Society and the Portland Chamber of Commerce pass resolutions in favor of a legislative appropriation of \$250,000, because it shows that the live members of those bodies have a just appreciation of what the true interests of Oregon demand; but resolutions are not deeds, and action is what is wanted. This is not a Portland matter, and it is wise that the Portland chamber do not take the initiative, lest their conduct be misconstrued and the object aimed at be defeated. The whole state is interested. It concerns one section as much as another, and can only properly be handled by an organization in which each county in the state is represented. The proper body to initiate the movement is the Oregon Board of Commerce, for the reason that it is the most representative of the whole state of all the organizations within its limits.

While it is true that the Oregon Board of Commerce should assume the initiative, it is not wise that it should undertake to handle the question itself. There are too many sections unrepresented in that body to render such action advisable. Nothing but a convention that shall be composed of delegates from every county can take hold of this matter with a certainty of securing complete public confidence in its ability and representative character, without which perfect success is impossible. Such a convention can be called by the officers of the Board of Commerce, the president of which fully appreciates the importance of practical action. This convention can organize an association, in which every county shall be represented, that shall have charge of the state's interests at Chicago. The two worthy commissioners, as has been stated in these columns, are not necessarily charged with the duty of attending to the state exhibit. In fact, they are not charged with it at all, and will not be unless the legislature make an appropriation subject to their disbursement. It was to arouse the public and the gentlemen themselves from the mistaken idea that they were, and to change the drift of events that was tending in the direction of so making them, that WEST SHORE sounded the note of alarm, happily with so gratifying an effect.

Politics must be rigidly excluded from this matter from first to last. We want no executive appointees, no men elected by the legislature nor any set of men whose names have been inserted in an appropriation bill by any sort of slate-making hocus pocus. Universal confidence can only be secured by placing the matter in the hands of a completely non political body composed of representative citizens from every county in the state. It would seem to one in the least acquainted with the details of legislation and the nature of the body to assemble at Salem next January, that the only hope of securing an adequate appropriation lies in the ability to present to the legislature a well digested scheme for its useful expenditure. Two important questions will be asked: "What are you going to do with so much money?" and "Who shall be entrusted with its disbursement?" These must be answered satisfactorily or there will be no appropriation large enough to accomplish anything with, and possibly none at all. The necessity of organizing an Exhibit Association in the manner several times pointed out in these columns seems too evident to require discussion. Such an organization of representative men can go before the legislature with a comprehensible outline of what they expect to do, with some hope of securing the money necessary to carry out their plans. Otherwise, so far as the legislature is concerned, the whole movement will be a dismal failure, resulting, at best, in the appropriation of a small sum to be expended by the commissioners or some other non-representative appointees.