

# West Shore

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1890.

WEST SHORE'S motto is, "Organize."

Read about the great exposition at Spokane Falls.

Disappearing guns have been invented. This is evidently an effort to create a closer sympathy between the soldier and his weapon.

The latest advices from the census bureau are to the effect that the clerks threw more beer bottles out the back window than they did names out the Portland schedules.

WEST SHORE will issue a large and beautifully illustrated holiday number. Advertisers should take advantage of the opportunity to reach so great a number of the most prosperous and intelligent people as will receive that elegant issue.

Grand larceny of 50,000 people is what Oregon charges against Superintendent Porter and his beer guzzling subordinates, while the indictment from the country at large calls for 6,000,000 of people either feloniously abstracted or lost by criminal carelessness.

Those congressmen who speculated in silver and find their wind-earned salaries slipping away from them, will receive little sympathy from the people, who are, somehow, impressed with the idea that a legislator should not base his speculations upon his vote in congress.

"Do men gather grapes of thorns and figs of thistles?" is a question that receives a complete answer in the following editorial comment in an Idaho paper immediately after the late election: "That this county is democratic is proved by the small republican majority."

That the laws of the state when passed by the legislature should be published for the information of the people in the columns of the newspapers, the only place where they will be seen, requires no argument. The legislature at its next session ought to provide for this being done.

Some of the Chicago papers still give vent to their spleen at the director general of the fair. The enemy in the household is the most harmful, and the evil results of this course will surely be felt. The commonest instincts of patriotism should make such reprehensible conduct impossible.

According to the official returns promulgated by the census bureau, Oregon contains 239,559 people west of the Cascade mountains, and 72,881 east of that range, a total of 312,440, being fully 50,000 less than the true population, the loss of which can be charged to the contaminating influences of politics.

The Columbia Waterway Association met in its sixth annual convention at Oregon City Wednesday last, and passed its usual resolutions. It is going to take something more than resolutions to open the Columbia river, an achievement WEST SHORE deems of the most vital importance to the people of the northwest.

New Orleans has just had a little experience with un-Americanized foreigners. When congress shall consider the immigration question, and it

must do so very soon, the movement for restriction ought to receive warm support from the Pelican state; but as politics is stronger than principles, it may be otherwise.

Little sympathy will be felt for the census officials who have been charged with a deliberate attempt to falsify the returns for political ends. They have shown such ignorance, incapacity and spitefulness in the Oregon matter, as well as in others, that one can but believe them morally capable of such an effort, however mentally unfitted to accomplish it they might be.

It is now just four weeks since WEST SHORE, with an eye single to practical accomplishment, called for a representative organization to handle the world's fair question. Now that the free discussion called out by its vigorous cartoons and comments has somewhat cleared away the mists surrounding the question, other papers are recognizing the strength of its position and are adding their voices to the call for an organization. Practical action without further loss of time is what it needed.

Six months ago a wedding ceremony was performed in Portland, and last week the circuit court issued a decree of divorce on the ground of extreme cruelty on the part of the husband. It does not require a long essay to show the weakness of our divorce laws as illustrated by this incident. Here is a man whom the court has officially declared unfit to continue in the matrimonial state, one who has demonstrated his incapacity in the brief period of six months, and yet there is no bar to his entering it again. When either a man or woman so behaves that it becomes necessary for the courts to dissolve the marriage bond, the decree of dissolution should also be a decree of perpetual debarment from matrimony of the guilty party. If such were the law we would not see such disgusting and debasing matrimonial careers as that of a recent resident of Portland, who has been married seven times and divorced five times. Society should protect itself against the demoralizing example of such brutes, as well as against the possible transmission of these instincts to an undesired posterity. The trouble is not so much that divorce is too easy to obtain, but that it is too easy to get married.

Probably nothing will have a greater effect in causing an increase in prices of various merchandise than the campaign speeches of free traders and the editorial assertion of free trade papers that prices are compelled to go up in consequence of the McKinley bill. Merchants will not be slow to follow the suggestion and mark up goods and keep them up as long as the deluded public will stand it. But the law of competition and the sober common sense of the people will soon begin the work of scaling the prices down again, and it will not be long before the markets will be adjusted to the real conditions of trade, when it will be learned that only certain lines of imported goods have actually been affected, and those are chiefly such as may be classed as luxuries. Under the stimulus of a better market caused by the natural tendency to use home made goods in preference to the imported article, the former will be made in greater quantity and of better quality, and will, ere long, under the well known laws of competition and increase in quantity of manufacture, decrease in price. The experiment to be tried in the manufacture of tin is the only doubtful feature, and if this shall be a success it will prove well worth all it will cost.

The argument against such a censorship of the press as will deny the use of the mails to harmful books and papers, that boys who want blood and thunder literature will "get it somehow," is purile. Admitting that its circulation can not be entirely stopped, the throwing of so serious an obstacle in the course of the muddy stream must seriously retard its flow and to that extent lessen its destructive power. These publications are issued for profit, and if the profits be lessened, the number of publications will naturally be less. The reading of flash and demoralizing literature has not obtained the hold upon the people that the drinking of liquor has, nor is it entrenched in ages of education, nor does it wear the buckler of social custom. The demoralizing influence of a certain class of literature upon the young is unquestioned, and its effect in the increase of crime is very marked. If such publications can be denied the use of the mails, their numbers would be materially lessened and the evil reduced in quantity. This is not a prohibition of reading. Other less harmful, and, possibly, even elevating, literature would take its place, and there would be little incentive to surreptitious purchase or supply of the proscribed publications. They would simply be eliminated by the substitution of a sufficiently higher class of literature to remove the greater portion of the evil all thoughtful people recognize and deplore. Nor would there be any complaint from the body of the people, whose literary appetite would be easily satisfied with the better mental pabulum. Even the publishers themselves would have little ground for objection to the law, since they could make just as much money publishing the better class of literature, the total demand for reading matter being not in the least diminished.