

West Shore

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1890.

Amelie Rives-Chandler is "courting obscurity" in Paris. If she is half as intense in her courting as her characters are she will get it, and a thankful world hopes she will cling to it.

Olympia has now been finally chosen as the permanent capital of Washington, and that state may well be congratulated upon selecting so beautiful and prosperous a city for its seat of government.

It is rather amusing to hear Senator Sherman speak of how different things are in the "east" (Pennsylvania) and the "west" (Ohio). It reminds one of the geography he studied before the war.

There are evidently many in this region who are sorry they went to hear Joseph Cook lecture. He failed to sustain his reputation, as all people do who have been mounted on too high a pedestal by their fellow mortals.

"Blow a hole through the beautiful sky!" was the injunction the principal of an Oregon college recently gave the school band when about to serenade the officials of a new railroad, and the affrighted officials aver that the band actually did it.

The melancholy days may have come elsewhere, but not in the Pacific northwest, where beautiful sunny days, growing grass and blossoming flowers add to the pleasures of life, and where Jack Frost has not yet sent out his white line of skirmishers.

After all it is a great relief to learn that Stanley is made of common clay, with ambitions, jealousies, spites, concealments, selfishness and a capacity for prevaricating like his fellow mortals. The fever of hero worship, when it rises to a great heat, generally ends in a chill.

Superintendent Porter is endeavoring to gather census statistics by sending blanks all over the country for Tom, Dick and Harry to fill out. Statistics procured in such a way will be but the veriest trash, albeit fit companions for the enumeration schedules already prepared.

Honduras is in a state of revolution, the people seeking to rid themselves of President Bogran, who showed himself to be a tool of Barrillas, the despicable ruler of Guatemala, in the recent trouble in Central America. Every friend of a government by the people wishes them success.

Lodge thinks it was the McKinley tariff bill that exploded with such disastrous effect. McKinley has not said much, but doubtless he has on his private journal entered up a big charge against Lodge's force bill. At all events, McKinley gained largely in his own district, while Lodge lost heavily in his.

Hon. W. J. McConnell, so prominently mentioned in connection with the United States senatorship in Idaho, did good work for the republicans in Washington during the recent campaign. Mr. McConnell is an able and energetic man, and Idaho will honor herself by sending him to represent her in the senate chamber.

The ad. compositor of a contemporary seemed to have a pretty correct idea of things when he set the advertisement of a quack doctor, announcing that he would "be at Portland" soon. He omitted the space between the first two words, and thus informed us that the doctor would "beat Portland," and he doubtless will.

Those papers that compare the population of Alaska, 38,000, with that of Nevada, 44,000, do the latter a great injustice, since they fail to recognize the fact that the former is composed almost exclusively of Indians. There is a brighter day coming for Nevada, when her sterile soil shall have been quickened into life by the vivifying power of water.

The department of agriculture puts the average yield of wheat in Oregon at fifteen bushels per acre. This is utterly absurd. It is doubtful if a single field in the state averaged as low as that this season, while many of them produced forty bushels to the acre. The gathering of such statistics is chiefly valuable to the clerks who secure a job thereby.

Republican politicians and organs are very anxious for an extra session of congress so that the new apportionment can be made by the republicans, as the democrats can not be trusted to do it honorably. Of course the republicans can be trusted. The man up a tree has yet to see any set of partisans that could be trusted to do justice to opponents.

If WEST SHORE shows its "partisan republicanism" when it punctures a little piece of democratic demagogy, what does it show when it knocks a hole in some republican party clap trap? This query is addressed to a few partisan political papers that can not be made to believe that there is anything in their party that can be honestly criticised by an independent paper.

If, as reported in dispatches from New York, Charles Francis Adams is to be ousted from the presidential chair by the influence of Jay Gould, Mr. Adams will retire with the record of having taken a bankrupt road and by perfectly legitimate means made it one of the strongest railroad systems in the United States. Unlike Gould and other shining lights of Wall street, he has proved himself a railroad saver and not a railroad wrecker.

The Pacific northwest has not only to be thankful for a bountiful crop the present year, accompanied by good prices, owing to less fortunate conditions elsewhere, but for most delightful weather in October and November, with conditions highly favorable to another large crop next season. With enough rain to put the ground in good condition for plowing and with a full month of beautiful sunny weather in which to turn over the soil, the acreage of fall sown grain ought to be larger than ever before.

Now is the time when the republican papers preach sermons on the corrupting influences of the ignorant foreign vote, and yet, when the next election comes, they will pay no attention whatever to that most vital of our national questions, but will pitch in tooth and nail to maintain the shadow of the glory of a party name. What the nation wants is for some great leader to break away from the bondage of party and raise a new standard around which all who love country more than party may rally for the coming struggle for the salvation of the nation.

The accident to the Southern Pacific train near Salem Wednesday night was the first that can be called a great disaster that has occurred in the Pacific northwest. It was caused by the giving way of a trestle over which the track crosses a swampy piece of ground, and was preceded by no signs to indicate that the trestle was not perfectly secure. During the past year the company has relaid its entire line in Oregon with steel rails, ballasted the road bed, repaired the bridges and trestles and made the road equal in every respect to the best in the country; and yet, after all this, a trestle has suddenly gone down under a train with most disastrous and deplorable results. It would seem as though human effort and precaution were powerless to provide for safety in railroad travel.

One of the beautiful workings of the system of deductions for debt in listing property for taxation is shown by comparing the tax rolls of the counties of Coos and Yamhill. The former has gross assessments of \$2,863,365 while the other has \$8,166,009, more than twice the former. Yet after the deductions have been made, Coos has still \$2,140,450, while Yamhill's has dwindled to \$3,912,064, being \$50,000 less than last year. Coos county pays state tax upon seventy-five per cent. of its gross valuation, and Yamhill pays upon only sixty-three per cent. No doubt even greater discrepancies will be revealed when reports are received from the entire state. This question is aside from that of unequal assessment of property, and under the deduction system it will never be possible for the burden of state support to be born by each county in proportion to its wealth, the richer counties shifting an undue proportion of the tax upon the poorer ones.