

West Shore

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1890.

Attention is called to the announcements on pages 317 and 318 of the new departments of "Poets of the Pacific Coast" and "Puzzlewits," to be commenced in January; also to the word contest now in progress. The Holiday WEST SHORE, issued last week, was the finest of any in the United States. Copies sent to any address upon the receipt of twenty-five cents.

The doom of the seal is sealed.

It is highly flattering to Mr. Parnell to compare him to Caesar and Napoleon, even if it be only to prove that he is not crazy.

Steamboat racing has "broken out" again on Puget sound. West Shore will next week have something to say about the criminal recklessness of steamboat officials who indulge in this reprehensible rivalry.

The guns of the *Charleston* made as much noise firing a royal salute to King Kalakaua as they would for Kaiser Wilhelm. Guns are no respecters of persons; all you have to do is to pull the string and hear them bang.

An Oregon legislative tragedy in two acts is depicted on the last page so strongly that it needs no word of explanation. In their efforts to hit capital the farmers of Oregon have not only failed, but have dealt themselves a blow, the bad effects of which increase from year to year. The weapons must be cast aside.

Comment upon the president's message by the press of the United States is about as interesting as a symposium upon yesterday's horse race. The democrats looked it over to see where they could discover a flaw, and the republicans sought eagerly for some scintillation of genius in statecraft; and being both disappointed they burst into scathing sarcasm or stomach-turning laudation so pointless and so witless that ordinary mortals must needs flee to the woods in disgust.

Washington has a military Foo Bah who could give that much-titled minion of the Mikado a few points. Not content with being the adjutant general, quartermaster general and commissary general he aspires to the unmilitary title of "general manager and supreme dictator," with the idea that the national guard of the state was created for his personal amusement, to be worn on his watch chain for a charm. The sooner the national guard rids itself of political generals and official dampfools the quicker it will become an efficient military organization.

Mr. A. N. Cumming, at the conclusion of a long article on "America and Protection" in the London *National Review*, sums up the situation as follows: "Protection or no, America is now established as one of the most prosperous nations, and this in defiance of all known economic laws." Would it not be wise for Mr. Cumming to see if his "known economic laws" have not been improved upon instead of defied? The theologians are constantly revising their creeds, the physical scientists their theories, and possibly Mr. Cumming and his brethren might do worse than follow these examples. Surely political economy is not an exact science.

There has been war during all this Indian Messiah craze. To be sure, the people have heard little about it, but General Miles has been in the thick of the fray, the scene of hostilities being the departments at Washington. For the first time in our history the military has done something more than turn their guns upon half-starved and desperate savages. General Miles has had an experience with the Indians and has given the subject of their treatment so much study that he is peculiarly fitted to handle the present difficulty. He knows that this trouble and three-fourths of all the Indian wars of late years were caused by the failure of the government to keep its

treaty stipulations with the Indians. Hence, when matters became serious he began to make war in Washington instead of in Dakota, and, doubtless, the one war did much to prevent the other. The revelations of this campaign are another proof that the Indian bureau should be transferred to the war department. The Indians will receive far more humane, just and honorable treatment from the army than they ever have from unscrupulous and speculating civil officers.

The Conger lard bill is bad class legislation in so far as it imposes a tax upon lard compound on the ground that its production injures the pure lard industry. If chemistry can find a cheap substitute for any article now in use, provided that it be not less wholesome, legislation ought to encourage it to do so, rather than impose a tax upon the product. This movement is of the same sort as those against glucose and oleomargarine. Science, in her work of giving man cheaper food and clothing and added comforts and conveniences, ought not to be impeded simply because the producers of older and more expensive ones see ruin to their business in the adoption of the new. The business of manufacturers of many lines of goods is constantly being lost because of some cheaper substitute being placed on the market, and yet they do not appeal to congress to tax the new article. There is only one safe and equitable rule for legislation on this subject, and that is to require that all articles of food or merchandise shall be truthfully labeled, and this applies as much to imitation walnut furniture as it does to imitation butter or lard. Compel every article of merchandise, either food or otherwise, to be sold for just what it is, and then let the people themselves decide whether to buy or let it alone.

The Farmers' Alliance meeting last week developed the fact that this organization is a delightfully inconsistent body. Its resolutions in one place say: "Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand that our national legislation be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another;" and to show how little they actually believe in that sentiment another resolution demands that the government loan money at two per cent. on real estate and non-perishable farm products, which is the most pronounced class legislation ever demanded by any organization. The man who manufactures unperishable furniture or unperishable woolen blankets has as much right to demand money from the government at two per cent. as the man who raises unperishable wheat. Another resolution demands that "all national and state revenues be limited to necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered." If this be done how will the government have money to loan? Lending money is certainly not a "necessary expense," nor is it "economical" for a government to collect money from the people, worth to taxpayers at least five per cent. in their business, in order to loan it to a special class of citizens at two per cent. Other principles enunciated are of a more general and fundamental nature, and would call for the support of honest and patriotic citizens everywhere; but they can not be efficacious to bolster up an organization whose chief aim is to secure a special advantage for one class of citizens at the expense of all others. Let the Farmers' Alliance drop its selfish aims and come out boldly upon the broader and more vital doctrines it endorses, and it can found a political party that will command both the respect and votes of the people.

On the center pages of this number are given views of Vancouver barracks as it is, and one of the Hudson's Bay fort and military post as they were in the "auld lang syne." The old trading post was associated with the early and romantic history of the great northwest. At different times it was presided over by such worthies as Dr. John McLoughlin, Peter Skeen Ogden, Sir James Douglas, Dougald McTavish and James Graham. The military post also has its traditions. One chapter of its history is given on another page; but that is only an episode. Many famous military men have been stationed there—Wool, Harney, Wright and the explorer, Bonneville; General Grant was for a long time post quartermaster; General Fry, the first adjutant; Geo. B. McClelland fixed the latitude and longitude of the place; Angur, Ord, Alvord, McFeeley, Hodges, Sully, Morrow, Hunt, Steele, Howard, Miles, Gibbon, the dashing Phil. Sheridan and the reckless Phil. Kearney. All these names appear on its returns. General Rufus Ingalls has been connected with its history from first to last. Loring, Walker, Crittenden and Pickett became leaders in the lost cause. From there Kearney and Stewart hastened to meet the first rising of the Rogue river Indians, in 1851. From there Angur, Ord, Kautz and Reynolds (killed as a general at Gettysburg) were sent in haste to save Lane and A. J. Smith, in 1853 and 1855. From there Haller, Raines and Wright started on their campaigns against the Indians, in 1855-6. There Ingalls and Eckerson fitted out and armed the Oregon and Washington volunteers, who, with the regulars, saved the country to civilization. From there Kearney sent the men who seized San Juan island. It was the base of operations in the Modoc, the Bannock and the Nez Perce campaigns. It is because the post has a history that this country has a future.