

# West Shore

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L. SAMUEL, General Manager.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1891.

The force bill requires a great deal of forcing.

Winter is not "in it" this year in the northwest.

One swallow may not make a summer, but Columbia river smelt are a very good sign of spring.

The efforts to create an Indian scare in the Okanogan country are not so successful as some of the promoters desire.

The Dutch were great traders, but they could not hold a candle to the legislators who have wagon road bills to pass.

It is about time Portland took some interest in the Seven Devils mines, one of the greatest mineral districts on the continent.

Governor Pennoyer's self confidence is inspiring to all timid souls who do not feel prompted to offer their services as general manager of the universe.

Barrillas would disappear from the political firmament without either a cataclysm or a sigh. Statesmen of his class have been the curse of Central America.

Friends of consolidation will do well to keep a close watch at Salem. Things are not what they seem with some of the honorable gentlemen in power there.

A bill has been introduced at Olympia to extend the constitutional limit of sixty days for the session to 100 days. Some of the legislators must be "loaded for bar" this time.

The charge of the light brigade was eclipsed at Salem Monday when the house adjourned after the committees had been announced. It takes a brave man to go to the legislature.

Those who favor ballot reform, and this, it is hoped, embraces three-fourths of the electors of Oregon, should make their influence felt at Salem, or the hostile bosses will smother the movement.

What effect the death of King Kalakaua will have upon the relations of the United States to the Hawaiian kingdom it is impossible to predict. The tendency is in the direction of a closer relationship.

If the government can make and lend to the farmers all the money they can use, why can it not make a little for poor newspaper men? They need some to stuff into broken windows this cold weather.

Portland's bank clearances last week were \$2,004,000, being \$152,000 more than those of Seattle and Tacoma combined, and yet one would not expect it from a comparison of the tax rolls of the three cities.

Is it not possible that the man who buys goods on the installment plan needs as much protection as the seller? The old methods of conducting the sewing machine business are not entirely obsolete in various lines of trade.

Congress should adopt some rules that would permit it to attend to business. If private businesses were run as the legislative branch of the government is we could not build penitentiaries and insane asylums fast enough.

It may be all well enough to pass a law protecting the purchasers and sellers of chattel property on the installment plan, but who is going to protect the purchaser of real estate on the installment plan from men who have no title to it?

Some one who believes that the legislature can regulate all commercial transactions should now introduce a bill fixing the amount of tinware a peddler shall give for rags and the quantity of soft soap that shall be exchanged for ashes.

The reverend gentleman who made himself offensive at Salem because he was not one of those selected to open the sessions with prayer succeeded in convincing the members that his omission, though entirely unintentional, was most fortunate.

That bribery has been used in many senatorial elections is an open scandal, and yet Washington has the honor of possessing the first legislator to lay his bribe money on the speaker's desk as an evidence of the fact, and render a whitewashing committee necessary.

Those who feel that the opening of congress by the invocation of the divine blessing upon that unregenerate body is a waste of time and talent are assured that they are in error. It gives the members an opportunity during the hush to think up new epithets to hurl at the speaker.

The re-election of John H. Mitchell, of Oregon, and Watson C. Squire, of Washington, maintains the integrity of the Pacific coast delegation in the United States senate, and gives assurance that the efforts these gentlemen have made for the promotion of our interests will be continued.

Those Indian sympathizers who seek to throw discredit upon the Seventh cavalry for its conduct at Wounded Knee by asserting that the squaws were none of them armed, and that but few of the bucks had arms, will find considerable difficulty in explaining how so many soldiers were killed or wounded.

The Oregon legislature showed that it possessed enough sense not to meddle with the affairs of others by refusing to pass a resolution requesting the managers of the World's Columbian Exposition not to allow the sale of liquor on the fair grounds. The legislature is created to look after the interests of Oregon, and has its hands full of its legitimate business.

Portland will now have another fine public building, the bill appropriating \$500,000 for a government building having passed both houses of congress and been signed by the president. Two other buildings costing a like amount are now under construction, the city hall and chamber of commerce, and it will not be long before a fine court house will also be under way.

In the death of E. L. Eastham Oregon City loses its foremost citizen and the state one of the most energetic and progressive of that class who are promoting its advancement. Mr. Eastham caused the development of the great water power at Oregon City, and started the building up of industries that will progress even though the hand that drew them forth is now powerless in death.

Every session of the legislature some one comes forward with a bill to regulate the amount of grist a farmer shall receive from a miller in exchange for his grain, and already it has been started on its road to the grave at Salem. There is no more reason why the law should say how much a farmer should receive for his grain than how much a publisher should get for his paper or a tailor for a suit of clothes.

The bill introduced by Representative Welch providing for the branding of packed salmon is a proper one. It taxes no industry or person for the benefit of another, but requires that salmon shall be placed on the market and sold for just what it is. Every article of merchandise should be sold upon its merits, and not be permitted to fraudulently represent something else. Had congress adopted this principle in legislating in regard to oleomargarine and compound lard, the cry of class legislation could not have been raised.

Appearances indicate that the world's fair question will become a political one. If the bill passes, the governor will probably veto it in order to pose as savior of the state from the reckless extravagance of the republicans and will endeavor to make political capital out of it, as he did on the Portland bond question two years ago, and all the democrats will be whipped in to his support. These, with a few mossback republicans, will be strong enough to prevent it from being passed over his veto. This is not a very cheerful forecast, but cheerfulness should not be carried to the point of delusion. Every liberal-minded democrat should place himself on record as opposed to the introduction of politics into a matter of such vital interest to the whole state.