

# West Shore

An Illustrated Journal published every Saturday by the West Shore Publishing Company, Portland, Oregon.

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Subscription Price, \$4.00 per Year. Single Copy, 10 Cents.

Portland Office, 171 Second Street.  
Spokane Falls Office, 29 East Main Street.  
New York Office, 48 Tribune Building.

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

Entered in the Post Office in Portland, Oregon, for transmission through the mails at second class rates.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1891.

Shall we have a state flower? California has adopted the beautiful emblem shown on the first page, and the states of the northwest should each select from the flora of their plains, mountains and forests some fitting and beautiful emblem. WEST SHORE calls upon the lovers of nature to express their views on this subject, and describe the flowers each would have for the state in which the writer lives. Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana should each choose a floral emblem of its own. In these columns will be produced engravings of the flowers receiving the greatest endorsement from the various states, and an opportunity will then be given to all to vote on the subject. If you know a flower native of your state and in other ways deserving of special honor as its emblem, write about it. A full and enthusiastic expression of views and preferences is invited.

Ingalls is in gall and wormwood just now.

The wisdom of childhood is laughable, but the laugh of age is wisdom.

The American Federation of Labor has wisely decided not to join the third party movement of Powderly and the farmers' alliance.

Superintendent Porter is a very busy man. He finds the job of proving his census worth anything a great deal harder than the work of taking it.

Those who have thought but lightly, or not at all, of the persecution of the Jews in Russia, are advised to read Mr. Cohen's address, on another page.

The Pennoyer boom resembles smoke. It started very dense all in one place, but as it rises it spreads out and gets thinner and thinner the farther it goes.

Winter has but a few days more to put in an appearance, or the case will go against him by default. Already the sweet violets are blooming in the gardens.

If senators drop into poetry on appropriation bills, what a flood of melody may be looked for when the mortgage tax law comes up. There will be music in the air.

If the Oregon legislature fail to pass an adequate world's fair bill, every member voting against it will be filled with vain regrets in 1893, when his eyes are opened to the light he now persistently refuses to see.

While the monkey and parrot at Helena have stopped a few days to take breath and an inventory of lost feathers and hair, the pot and kettle at Olympia have entered upon a campaign of criticism of each other's complexions.

The immunity from snow storms and blizzards enjoyed by the Mississippi valley this winter is credited to the farmers' alliance having assumed charge of everything. Meanwhile the deluded gold bugs of the Atlantic states are being battered by Old Boreas most unmercifully.

Surely, the least the legislature can do in response to the almost unanimous demand for consolidation is to pass the bill and let the cities vote on the question. Neither city bonds nor charters should be imposed upon a city by the legislature direct, but should always be subject to approval by ballot, taxpayers only being eligible to vote on the question.

WEST SHORE Word Contest closes January 31. The names of prize winners will be announced next week.

Those who have read and admired that great poem, "The Light of Asia," will be pleased to learn that Mr. Arnold's latest work, "The Light of the World," will be published in this country on the sixteenth of February. If the gifted poet has shown the beauties of the Christian religion as fully as he did those of Buddhism, Christianity will gain much by his labors. The volume will doubtless have a remarkable sale.

A portage road around the cascades will not open the Columbia to traffic farther than The Dalles, and the greatest portion of the producing country to be benefited lies above that point. A scheme to be practicable should include some means of opening the upper river as well. If congress should be depended upon to do this, relief will come no sooner than if we wait for the cascades canal to be completed. The portage at the cascades is a good thing and will relieve The Dalles and tributary country, but the larger region beyond calls loudly for help.

Oregon is peculiarly blessed in a chief executive who is opposed to all now-fangled notions; who believes the machinery of government prepared for a handful of people is adequate to rule a multitude; who feels confident of his ability to manage all things himself; who believes that because nature clothed this region with forests it should so remain—with the exception of enough logs to run his saw mill; who sees the life-giving tide of immigration and capital flowing by and will not open the gates to let it in; who, in fact, can see nothing in the future for his state, but a great deal for himself.

Oregon enjoys the distinction of being the only state to import European song birds. Two years ago a large number of skylarks, bullfinches, chaffinches, goldfinches, linnets, nightingales, blackheaded nightingales, starlings, song thrushes, black thrushes and singing quails were brought from Germany and turned loose. They have increased rapidly and demonstrated that the scheme is a success. This spring 1,000 more will be imported. The legislature will pass an act protecting these foreign and native song birds and their nests. Such actions as this make us realize that there is something in life besides the selfish struggle for gain.

The movement on foot in the house for calling a constitutional convention for Oregon meets with the approval of every citizen who realizes how the state is retarded in its development by a constitution framed to meet the exigencies of entirely different social, commercial and industrial conditions. We need a modern constitution. The only reasonable objection to the framing of a new one is the fear that the tendency of the day to put legislation into constitutions will be too strong to be resisted, and that temporary "isms" will be engrafted upon the organic act of the state. This danger is a real one, and calls for vigilance on the part of those who would prevent it.

The Australian ballot bill has passed the house and been amended in the senate. If the senate had kept its hands off, we would have a law that would deal a death blow to political corruption and boss rule in Portland. But that is too much to expect, where the interest in changing it is so great. Under the pretext of purifying the primaries an attempt is made to draw its sting. Friends of purity of elections will oppose all efforts to tinker with this bill. Under its provisions the primaries lose much of their importance, since it is easy for any set of men who object to the manner in which a nomination has been secured to have an opposing candidate's name placed on the official ballot, where trickery can not affect it and where it will be as prominent and as easily voted for as that of the corruptly secured nominee. Give us the law just as it is, without one word added or taken away, and the cause of genuine reform will have gained a lasting victory.

The visit of the legislative committee to the cascades to examine the condition of work on the locks has revealed two things, viz: The work is being done in a most thorough manner, and under the most favorable conditions possible it will take four years more to complete it. In view of these facts it becomes an interesting question what the state should do about it. Certainly it should do nothing to interfere with the progress of the work, nor anything that will have a tendency to cause congress to delay still more the necessary appropriations. It is equally certain that the conditions of transportation must be changed before the four years have passed that are set as the earliest possible limit of completion, or the eight years which our experience teaches us will be the actual time consumed. We can not endure the present situation even four years longer without a loss ten times as great as the cost of a temporary measure of relief. Portage railroads built jointly by Oregon and Washington, can supply a measure of relief un-

The attention of writers of verse is called to the department of "Poets of the Pacific Coast," on page 76.