

# West Shore

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**THE WEST SHORE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PORTLAND, OREGON.**

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1891.

The bread of a labor law passed at Salem proves upon examination to be a stone.

If the presidential boom keeps growing, Penoyer will be "a bigger man than old Grant" before long.

Guatemala and Honduras are not satisfied with their drubbing by San Salvador and are preparing for another.

From the appearance presented by the swarming thousands landing at the New York immigration office, congress can not pass a restriction law any too soon for the good of the country.

The gold brick game is again abroad in the land. When a man permits his cupidity to destroy his reason or honor he is not a fit candidate for sympathy when he learns that he has been neatly swindled.

Sunday a blizzard swept across the bleak plains of Dakota, the thermometer registering twenty degrees below zero, and on the same day the citizens of Portland enjoyed the warm sunshine in the city park.

At last winter has put in enough of an appearance to save a complete default. About half an inch of snow lay on the streets of Portland for fully three hours Monday morning. By that time it was gone and the coming footsteps of spring again saluted the ear.

It is humiliating to know that the fate of the consolidation bill still hangs trembling in the balance simply because two political bosses are fighting each other for the best chance to control the police and fire departments under its provisions, but such is the fact.

The story of Captain Morris of his three years' confinement in the tunnels of a Siberian coal mine is one to make every heart in Christendom shudder, and to make every American ask himself if such horrors can be inflicted upon his countrymen without a protest from the nation.

The people of Oregon are to be congratulated upon the fact that the cause of election reform was not sacrificed to the furthering of the personal interests of a political boss. With this law the electors have a good opportunity to secure honest elections, and it will be their own fault if they do not have them.

Four senators for Idaho are a little more than the quota she is entitled to. Political trickery of this character, and of the kind Olympia showed us a few weeks ago, is just what we need; for it will the sooner bring about the election of senators by the people direct, which is one of the political reforms the people will soon demand with a united voice.

The people of Umatilla county are to be congratulated that the circumlocution office has been passed by the Umatilla reservation, and the lands will be offered for sale about the first of April. There are 126,335 acres of land in the very heart of the great wheat growing region at the western base of the Blue mountains that will be added to the productive area of Umatilla county. Here is still another emphasis placed upon the demand for an open river.

**"THE WEST SHORE PAYS ALL EXPENSES."**  
See Announcement of Particulars of Yellowstone Park Contest on page 114 of this issue.

A Frenchman has suggested for the world's fair a tower 1,000 feet above the lake, from the top of which a projectile-shaped car containing passengers can be dropped into the water, thus giving all the sensations of a fall from a great height. Why not save expense by letting New Yorkers record their sensations? They fell farther than that when Chicago took the fair.

The Waterway convention at Walla Walla has demonstrated that there is an abundant and active public sentiment in both Oregon and Washington in favor of the construction of portage railways at the cascades and the dalles. Oregon has taken the initiative by a bill for \$60,000 for a road at the cascades and \$400,000 for another from below the dalles to above Cello rapids, both of which have passed the senate and will doubtless become laws. Let Washington now offer her assistance and the best measure of relief that can be had until the greater works by the general government are completed, will have been accomplished.

This is no time for the Chicago directory to inaugurate a contest with the labor unions. It is for the protection of Chicago, as well as the unions, that the mad rush of unskilled and indigent labor to that city be discouraged by the positive announcement that there is no work except for skilled mechanics of standing. On the other hand, the labor unions everywhere should discourage any effort to take arbitrary advantage of the situation, to demand more than is just. Let them not disgrace themselves nor their country by taking any such steps as the New York Central strike revealed that Powderly had in contemplation for the Knights of Labor in 1893. Patriotism should be neither a matter of dollars and cents nor condition in life.

Again has a man met his death in a "friendly scientific contest for points," this time in Seattle. To be sure, it was in a low variety theater dive and not in a regularly organized "athletic club," but that fact alters the situation but little. It makes little difference where the scene of one of these brutal encounters is laid, for in their chief characteristic they are the same. A year ago San Francisco suffered a brief reformatory spasm, and all pugilistic contests were prohibited. By a connivance with the authorities the managers got up a mock contest, had the principals arrested and proved upon trial that they were not fighting. This was claimed to be a judicial decision that all contests before regularly organized clubs were legal, and now the prize fighting disease has broken out in that city more violently than before. Three championship contests have been arranged for during the next three months. This is a travesty upon law and justice, and the respectable and peace loving citizens of San Francisco should put a stop to it, or their city will again become a stench in the nostrils of the nation.

Why a resident of Astoria, which city hopes to become the great seaport of Oregon, should strive to increase the expenses of vessels visiting the Columbia river, is something difficult to comprehend; and yet the sentiment in that city is almost unanimous in that direction, and finds forcible expression both in the press and in the legislature. For years the press and people of that city fought to make the pilot charges as high as possible and to maintain and strengthen the infamous blood-money traffic of the sail-or boarding houses. The result of this was that they earned for the Columbia river the reputation among ship owners of being the most expensive and most troublesome port in the world, in consequence of which an embargo to the extent of several shillings per ton in excess of charters in San Francisco and Puget sound was laid upon it. Two years ago the legislature passed laws that, to a large degree, changed the situation. The Union Pacific, for its own protection, engaged in the piloting and towing business at rates less than one-half those previously charged, and the sailor boarding house business was seriously interfered with. All this has been accomplished against the active efforts of the people of Astoria; and now that the good name of the Columbia has been restored, that discrimination in rates against it has been done away with, a desperate effort is being made to pass a bill through the legislature that will restore the old condition of things. The people of Oregon can not afford to do this. Their interests all lie in the other direction. They are now in the very act of appropriating \$400,000 to render the Columbia a highway to the sea for the wheat of the inland empire, and it would be the height of folly to throw away with one hand the fruits gathered with the other. The legislature can be trusted to act justly and wisely in this matter when the subject is properly laid before it, and it is the duty of every person who believes that the Columbia should be the great highway of traffic of this region, and as such should have as few barriens as possible to impose upon the freight it bears, to work earnestly to defeat this effort to put the old pilot ring in power again.

The WEST SHORE Word Contest closed January 31. As there is such a large number of lists to be examined, it will be impossible to announce the names of the prize winners before next week.