

THE WEST SHORE,

ILLUSTRATED,

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With this issue THE WEST SHORE appears in its new form, with a new heading, new type and new styles of engraving. The substitution of photo-mechanical engravings in half tone for the former lithographs not only, when combined with the lighter and handsomer faced type, gives it a neater and more artistic appearance, but the engravings, being exact photographic reproductions of India ink wash drawings, oil paintings in black and white and photographs direct from nature, add to the realistic appearance of the illustrations, thus increasing their interest and value as truthful representations of the subjects treated. The Pacific coast now holds an enviable place in the illustrated journalism of the country, which is doing more to remove the false impression prevailing elsewhere as to the social, moral, intellectual and industrial condition of our people than all other causes combined.

So it has been decided by that personification of the aggregated mossbackism of the state, the late and unlamented legislature, whose final adjournment was the greatest cause of gratitude it gave a disgusted people, that the Lethan slumbers of Oregon are to continue for at least two years more. The profound slumber of the Seven Sleepers was but a cat nap to the chronic somnolency of the Oregon mossback. Before and during the legislative session the press of the state made a din that would have aroused the spell bound Sleeping Beauty, but its only effect upon the mossback, as exemplified in this august body, happily now gone forever as an entirety, though its constituent units, or fractions of units, still remain to perplex us, was to cause him to emit a subdued growl of protest at being disturbed and then to roll over and compose himself for another two years' snooze. There let him lie, and if, perchance, the death angel come while still he slumbers, no attending physician will be required nor will there be any demand for lamentations.

Portland, however, can not, and will not, accept the condition of lethargy the remainder of the state insists upon retaining. She has learned the folly of wasting time and substance in seeking to electrify a corpse, to galvanize dead nerves and muscles, and in the future will turn her energies to a better purpose and expend her vital forces in her own behalf. Leaving the dead to bury the dead, she will turn her eyes towards the light and direct her footsteps in the path that leads to life and prosperity. It is a matter of profound regret that such a situation has been created through the assinine stupidity and willful ignorance of those charged with looking after, and providing for, the welfare of the state. Portland was, and still is, most deeply solicitous for the future prosperity of the whole state, and regrets the present situation far more than the sections that will suffer the most, because she realizes it more acutely, but she knows that regrets are vain and that for her own good she must be up and doing. So far as is within her power she will rise superior to the adverse conditions that surround her. She must suffer, and that deeply, from the insufferably stupid and incalculably damaging assessment law, from which no act of hers can give relief, but she can not be held in the stagnant pool of mossbackism the rest of the state seems to delight in.

One of the evil effects of this will be to emphasize still more strongly during the next two years the marked difference between the metropolis and the state at large. Pulsating with life and energy, not only seizing opportunities as they appear, but making them, reaching out with a firm and liberal hand to grasp that which can be had for the taking, she will grow in prosperity and wealth while the rest of the state stands still. It must not for a moment be supposed that Portland will remain unrepresented at Chicago. She preferred that the state of Oregon should make a display as a whole and derive the enormous benefit from so doing that would certainly result, but, now that this can not be done, she will go ahead herself and make such a showing as will convince the people that however dead Oregon may be, her metropolis is extremely alive. She will spend both money and effort freely, and though she will not receive so much benefit as would otherwise be the case, and the

state still less, she will at least have the satisfaction of demonstrating the possession of acute vitality and a mental endowment capable of comprehending the conditions that lead to prosperity and power.

Two years hence, when another legislature shall convene, the consolidated city of Portland will contain nearly 100,000 people, almost one-third the entire population of the state, and its wealth, now more than one-third, will have increased to one-half. It may be that by that time the situation will be better appreciated by the men who shall be selected to represent the concentrated wisdom of the state. They may then catch a few strains of the music at the head of the procession, fall in the rear and plod along the dusty way with vigorous effort to catch up with the column. But he would be rash, indeed, who would predict such conduct. At best it can be but a hope, doomed, probably, to disappointment. One who has witnessed the unvarying stolidity and persistent unprogressiveness of the mossback for, lo, these many years, is not encouraged to hope that any power save death can move him, and for that we may have years to wait. Yet "hope springs eternal in the human breast," and dry as the fountain may now appear, the life-giving fluid will doubtless soon struggle to the surface.

The final failure of Raley's bill for a portage railway around the dalles, after it had reached such a stage as was supposed to render its passage sure, is an example of the uncertainties of legislation. It is also an example of how little legislators can be depended upon to obey the well-known will of the people. The sentiment that some provision must be made for a temporary relief of the inland empire from its transportation burdens, was universal and aggressive in the counties bordering the Columbia or lying east of the Cascades, while there was no active opposition, but rather passive assent, in the counties further south. The failure of the world's fair bill and the veto of the wagon road bills left no excuse for adverse action on this measure on the ground of excessive appropriations, and should have insured the passage of the bill. Its failure is a sad blow to the sections directly interested, including Portland, and indirectly to the entire state. Two years more must now be wasted before an effort of relief can be made, during which time farmers of the blockaded region will pay ten times as much for freight as the improvement would have cost. It is folly to hope for an immediate completion of the government improvements. At the best, the Cascade locks can not be finished in less than four years, and doubtless twice that time will be consumed, while as to the dalles, even the form of improvement has not yet been decided upon. For the next two years the opening of the Columbia should be made the object of political endeavor in every county interested, and every candidate for the legislature at the next election who will not pledge himself to work for that end should be buried beneath a storm of ballots of the genuine Australian variety.

A few years ago the Portland council passed an ordinance forbidding the distribution of circulars on the streets, and straightway a job printer procured himself to be elected to that honorable body, by those devious and mysterious ways known only to the city boss and his satellites, and the obnoxious—to job printers—ordinance was repealed. This incident is related simply to show why the job printers are open to the charge of having influenced the signal service to use the word "cyclone" in its reports. "No cyclones nor blizzards are known in this region" is a sentence appearing in large type in every one of the hundreds of immigration pamphlets published on the Pacific coast, and yet the signal service reports and predictions give the lie to the statement continually. Our innocent citizens may not be aware that there was a cyclone in our midst last week, unchained and unapprehended—in all the shades of meaning of the latter word—but such the signal service report asserts to have been the case. Of course, such a barefaced lie must be stricken from the immigration literature, and thousands of dollars must be paid the job printers for new pamphlets that acknowledge the fact that we have cyclones of a strictly scientific character, observable only by experts; cyclones that come like a thief in the night, but, unlike the thief in the night, take nothing away with them. We must either do this, or else we must prevail upon the signal service to explain to the people the difference between a cyclone organized simply for the purpose of getting itself observed by a signal officer and one organized strictly for business, such as inhabit the wilds of Kansas and Iowa.

Now that the Wisconsin legislature has decided that the English language is not wanted in that state, it will be in order for it to supply the schools with Volla-puk grammars.

The proudest boast a citizen of Oregon can make is that he was not a member of the late legislature.