

THE WEST SHORE, ILLUSTRATED,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, AT THE CORNER OF COLUMBIA AND WATER STREETS,
PORTLAND, OREGON.
NEW YORK OFFICE, No. 45 TRIBUNE BUILDING.

Subscription Price, Four Dollars per Year. Single Copy, Ten Cents.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS AND MAKE ALL REMITTANCES PAYABLE TO

THE WEST SHORE PUBLISHING COMPANY
PORTLAND, OREGON.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT PORTLAND, OREGON, FOR TRANSMISSION THROUGH THE MAIL AT SECOND CLASS RATES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1891.

A THREATENING EVIL.

The Lutherans and Roman Catholics do not constitute congenial yoke-fellows under ordinary circumstances, and it is usually enough to condemn a cause in the eyes of either to know that the other espouses it; but the two sects have joined hands politically in Wisconsin and are working together to destroy in that state the very foundation of American institutions. Both sects have more or less foreign affiliations, either by reason of their membership being largely of foreigners or of allegiance to a foreign head, and it was not to be expected that they would take kindly to any measure tending to limit their clannishness or to break down the barriers with which they had hedged themselves about in order to preserve their distinctive qualities. So when the Bennett law said that all healthy children should receive English instruction in certain branches for several weeks in the year, these two sects, maintaining private schools in which all instruction was given in German, considered it a direct thrust at their personal rights. A great howl went up immediately and the two churches united at the polls to defeat this great step towards popular intelligence.

The Bennett law has been unconditionally repealed, but the sectarian zealots, who have become drunken with success, are not satisfied with this. They now want a portion of the public funds to support their nurseries of opposition to the spirit of our government, and it will not be surprising if the democrats clinch the advantage already gained in Wisconsin by surrendering a patriotic principle to the clamoring horde of hungry and crafty priests and licentiatees. Such action will, of course, weld the supporters of foreign parochial schools to the democratic party. Wisconsin, having a large proportion of foreigners in its population, will probably remain under democratic sway some time unless the excessive zeal of the foreign forces create a speedy reaction, in which case the Badger state will again become an American commonwealth, and there will be a distinct loss in the church power there.

There is a remedy for such ills as this and it is one that must sooner or later receive practical recognition. So long as the right of suffrage is given those who are not American citizens and whose every instinct is foreign, American states will be troubled by these foreign invasions from within. This is a large country and when the clannishness of sects or nationalities is permitted to crystallize into laws that are contrary to the genius of American institutions the republic is weakened, and, if the evil go unchecked, it must crumble and decay. To preserve a united and prosperous country those having a voice in governmental affairs should be imbued with national spirit, and it is absurd to suppose that any foreigner is qualified for the functions and responsibilities of citizenship when he has been in a new world long enough to declare, through an interpreter, his intention to become a citizen. Full citizenship first and then an English educational qualification for all who would cast a ballot would cure the most malignant of the political ills that afflict the country, and the sooner action is taken toward this end the easier it will be to regain lost ground in nationality. Americans must preserve their nationality.

THE NORTHWEST BUSINESS SITUATION.

While the financial stringency that has prevailed throughout the country has been very noticeable in the Pacific northwest during the past fifteen months it was not entirely unexpected and its results have not been bad. Shrewd business men recognize the fact that in a country developing with such remarkable rapidity readjustments of values are not only inevitable but on the whole desirable. Quick growth stimulates speculation and speculation, when at all general, compels a readjustment of property values and business conditions. These readjustments, when long deferred, assume the magnitude of "panics" and the several instances in the financial history of this country

when panics have been widespread and disastrous are abundant illustrations of the tendency to periodically restore the relations of the elements of trade. Of course legislation affecting tariff, silver, railways, etc., the condition of business in other countries and many other things have an influence on the stability of domestic commerce but it is usually unnecessary to go beyond the bounds of our own country to reach the more immediate causes of these periods of financial depression.

There is no use dodging the fact that one of the elements in the constipated condition of the money market in the northwest—a condition which, happily, seems to have reached its worst and recovery from which has already begun—was the overstraining in real estate business. Washington suffered most from this cause because it offered the most attractive field and presented opportunities for undue inflation. It may be accounted fortunate that both domestic and foreign business conditions brought about a general stringency which forced the small readjustments of values in many parts of the northwest before they brought the necessity upon themselves and suffered the heavy penalty that would then have ensued. So business is now picking up encouragingly after a season of dullness, confidence is returning and the whole business situation holds assurances of restored and continued prosperity.

This experience has not cost the northwest much and it should be of great value. It has not paralyzed trade nor wrought commercial ruin, but it has served the important purpose of wakening people to the tendency accompanying rapid development, and the provident will not ignore the modest lesson. The northwest country is firmly on its feet and in a better condition for substantial progress than ever before.

The project of opening the Columbia river to navigation so as to bring it into active service as a transportation route, is one of the most important that has engaged the serious attention of the business men of Oregon and Eastern Washington for years. It has been fully demonstrated that congress will not act to afford the necessary relief so the present generation will experience any of its benefits. The enterprise involves gigantic engineering difficulties, but those difficulties must be overcome, and the sooner the actual work is begun the sooner there will be practical results. Portland, having previously raised \$2,000,000 to aid the Hunt railway in building to the city, with the idea of reaping a benefit similar to that which will be brought by the river improvement, now proposes to put \$1,500,000 into the latter enterprise, leaving a balance of \$500,000 to be raised by the whole inland empire, which will be the correlative beneficiary of the improvement. Portland is the great center of trade and capital, and the inland country is the great source of wealth that needs connection with the best markets to develop it fully. Portland shows commendable liberality in shouldering three-fourths of the cost of this work, and there is no doubt of the willingness of people interested in business along the Columbia and in the tributary country to make up the comparatively small balance to insure the success of the scheme. It should be pushed.

The current year marks an important epoch in the history of northwest cities. The consolidation of Portland, East Portland and Albina into one great metropolis will be the most important achievement. Seattle has organized a municipal government on a large and expensive scale, and one that will be likely to meet its needs when it has more than a hundred thousand people. Tacoma has also made sundry improvements. Spokane is the latest to act in the way of increasing its municipal powers and assuming metropolitan dimensions. It dropped "Falls" from its name. The new government is about to issue \$1,000,000 of bonds and inaugurate important improvements. Altogether the cities of the northwest are squaring themselves for advancement and will make a very pretty race.

Chicago presents the spectacle of fighting a municipal campaign on national issues. Senator-elect Palmer took off his coat and entered the canvas on the ground that Chicago's influence in this election would largely determine which party would be successful in the next national campaign. His logic was rather strained, but it doubtless satisfied himself and his party. The result will probably not utterly dishearten the defeated party so far as the national contest goes.

Germany can't escape American pork. It is true that it is not quite clear whether all the credit for breaking down the barriers the Teuton had erected against his American hogship is due to Secretary Blaine or to Minister Phelps, but the achievement is gratifying to the producers of pork.