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ATHENA, ORE., NOV. 20, 1906

The generosity of ex-State Printer Baker is astounding. His offer to make the state a present of his printing outfit may be placed to the credit of the fellow as an act of gratitude for the kindness shown him by the people of Oregon in giving him a chance to become wealthy by taxing themselves in the perpetuation of the graft that is known to exist in the state printing office. But there is a burr under Mr. Baker's krupper, and this burr is the cause for his spasmodic benevolent spell. Baker, who before his election to the office of state printer, was earning \$25 per week at the "case." His terms of office is said to have netted him a fortune. Not content with this, he held on to his plant and tribute has been paid him by other men elected to the office since his, Baker's, term expired. But in Mr. Duniway, the state printer-elect, who by the way, is a practical printer in every respect, Baker has bumped up against a very prickly burr. Mr. Duniway does not propose to fatten Baker's pocket book any further from the proceeds of the state printing office, and unless the owner of the present plant comes speedily to reasonable terms, proposes to install a new and modern plant. Hence Mr. Baker's bluff in making the offer of his plant to the state as a gift, with the understanding that the office of state printer be placed on a flat salary. The Press favors and would like to see the office placed on a flat salary basis, but rather than see Baker have any credit for putting it there, after having feathered his nest from the emoluments of the office as it is, this paper would prefer the present plan of doing the state printing. The conditions being known, the fact that Baker cannot "stick" Duniway for a royalty on what is termed by knowing printers to be an obsolete plant prompting him to make his offer to the state, is evoking to a degree of adding insult to injury. By all means let Duniway select an up to date printing plant. Then the state should take it off his hands at cost and carriage, place him on a flat salary, and tell Mr. Baker to shove his junk into the scrap heap, where it belongs.

A plan for drawing trade to a town that has been successfully worked at several points might be adopted to advantage in this city. The plan is as follows: An agreement was reached between all the merchants whereby they offered special sales on certain days, each merchant selecting some certain line of goods upon which he made a lower price than usual. Thus one dry goods house would sell gloves at a special price, while another would offer bargains in dress goods. One hardware merchant would reduce the price on stoves. Every line of business was represented and care was taken that no conflicts occurred. Prizes were then offered to the farmer bringing in the best load of grain or the handsomest turkey and the bargain day was extensively advertised in the surrounding country, the names of the merchants and their special sales being in all cases stated. The farmers

responded in a most gratifying manner and the merchants were well pleased with the plan. The idea has already been carried out in several cities.

Mr. Frank Baker, ex-state printer and ex-state republican boss, leans back in his \$10,000 plush covered chair and tells a \$15-a-week reporter, as he puffs rings of smoke from a \$5 cigar, to say to the 30 cent people of Oregon that he proposes to make them a present of his 10 cent print shop. Then he dreams a \$20,000 dream and puts the reporter next to the fact that once upon a time he was one of the common herd and had the flat take of \$25 per on a morning paper. Then at the thought of being a self-made (?) man, he smiles a \$5000 smile, brushes the cigar ashes from the sleeve of his \$4000 coat, taps the toes of his \$500 shoes together, and with another \$5000 smile dismisses the scribe. And the reporter. What of him. Why, he has the "stuff" for a story. Verily, some men are born great—others lucky.

The aim of the reformers in school and college athletics should be clearly and directly the betterment of conditions, not the extirpation of the love of combat which is inherent in the nature of mankind. The notion that hard general work, resulting in full muscular development, saps vitality, weakens the organs and is a wearying incubus to the individual is so illogical as hardly to deserve an answer, remarks the Boston Post. But some persons believe this. Such should pity the wild animals that, guided only by an instinctive physiological need, run, jump, pursue and wrestle with one another, thereby using and developing fully their whole bodies.

Cattlemen and sheepmen to the number of 208 were at Sumpter last week in conference with the forest reserve officials in adjusting their range allotments for 1907. These men represented over 400 owners, whose holdings in stock and land exceeded a valuation of \$10,000,000. The range in this division of the Blue Mountain reserve is about 300,000 acres, and applications call for almost as much more, even with the previous announcement that out of from 10 to 40 per cent in the number of sheep and cattle allowed for next year.

The Union Republican gives the information that since the recent election in Colorado, leaders in both parties announce that it is time to end the female suffrage matter, that the results have demonstrated time and again that women are a failure in politics and in public office. The political leaders of the Centennial State are said to be against a continuance of the farce, and announce that many Colorado women wish to retire from politics entirely.

Wood, the lucky dog! He has headed up that old sore of humiliation we opened for him once, when we compared his bass voice in chorus practice to the bellowing of a Hereford bull. He insinuates that the musical editor of this paper always "imagined he could play a trombone, but only emitted discordant sounds like a jackass in distress, and more than once disrupted the Athena band."

This section of the greatest wheat growing country on earth has just about all the moisture it needs at present. However, Jupiter Pluvius is evidently asleep at the top, and until the water tank runs empty, irrigation hours are open to all without restriction.

The whooping cough germ has been found. It took science a long time to locate a microbe which has never ceased to call vociferous attention to its whereabouts.

THINGS THEATRICAL.

There are many new beauties in the ranks of "Sergeant Brue."

It takes thirty-nine stage hands and electricians to manipulate the realistic shipwreck scene at "Cape Cod Folks."

Of all the plays produced by the late Kirke La Shelle, "The Virginian" has proved the most successful financially.

J. Clarence Harvey has been engaged by Will J. Black to play the leading role of the Man in the Moon in "The Land of Nod."

Nat and Sol Fields, the leading comedians of the "Innocent Maids," are brothers of the famous Lew Fields, formerly of Weber & Fields.

While in Norway the past summer Wright Lorimer purchased all of the fittings in a Norwegian photograph gallery for use in the production of "The Wild Duck."

Dorothy Donnelly has a character in the new play, "Daughters of Mah," which is said to be even more effective than the title role of "Candida," which she created on this side of the Atlantic.

One of the characters in "Mistress Nell" is Charles Hart, a famous actor of the seventeenth century. He was a popular interpreter of feminine characters in the days when women were acted almost exclusively by men.

THE ROYAL BOX.

The czar of Russia rules over nearly one-sixth of the total land surface of the globe.

King Edward is probably the only motorist who is regularly driven by a policeman. His majesty's car is always in the hands of skilled policemen-char-fours from Scotland Yard.

The waist of Queen Maud of Norway measures but seventeen inches, and she is so ethereal in appearance that even in England, where the cult of thinness has as worshippers practically all the women of the kingdom and most of the men, she is called rather too frail and delicate in appearance.

Emperor William of Germany is getting gray. One day the past summer when the kaiser was cruising in Norwegian waters he visited the yacht of M. Meier, where he fell into conversation with Dr. Berardi, who was his fellow student at Bonn university. Dr. Berardi remarked upon the increasing whiteness of the emperor's hair. "Yes," the latter replied, "that is true enough, but I would rather be all gray than to become bald."

CURRENT COMMENT.

In spite of the occasional dishonest official the man with a tank account feels easier than the one without.—Washington Star.

One way of making children good by surgery might be to perform an operation on the skull of an occasional parent.—Chicago Tribune.

On the modern theory of preserving peace everything looks absolutely serene. The Krupp works are making 2,700 pieces of artillery for eight governments.—Indianapolis News.

More big ocean liners are to be built. An increasing number of people, it seems, are waking up to the necessity of disposing of some of our surplus prosperity in Europe every year.—Exchange.

No one can look with fear on home rule for Ireland. It will promise a better and bigger Ireland, an Ireland of more free thought and of better social, religious, educational life than ever.—Louisville Herald.

INDUSTRIAL ITEMS.

A plant for manufacturing artificial marble was recently established in Catania, Italy.

The discovery in Ceylon of thoria, the rare earth used in the manufacture of incandescent gas mantles, will deprive Germany of the monopoly of its supply.

American exports of cotton, raw and manufactured, were last year \$431,000,000. Iron and steel came next with \$134,000,000, then hog products with \$105,000,000.

Industrial wages paid in the United States for 1905 were 1.6 per cent higher than for the preceding year, according to official figures. The cost of food increased by 0.5 per cent, which left the workman 1 per cent additional revenue.

LAW POINTS.

The authority of a clerk of a district court to take a bail bond was denied in Territory ex rel. Thacker versus Woodring (Okla. 1 L. R. A. (N. S.), 848.

The failure of the court in a criminal case to interpose objections to improper questions made by a jurymen is held, in State versus Crawford (Minn.), 1 L. R. A. (N. S.), 830, not necessarily to be reversible error in the absence of objection or exception by counsel.

The right of a bank to apply to the personal obligations of a commission merchant money received for produce sent him for sale and deposited by him in his general account in the bank is denied in Boyle versus Northwestern National bank (Wis.), 1 L. R. A. (N. S.), 1110.

TALES OF CITIES.

Chicago has put its freight traffic in stead of its passengers below the surface of the streets.

The population of Brooklyn at the time of consolidation was 838,000. It is now 1,238,000, a gain of 500,000, relatively larger than Manhattan's.

Where London consumes 90,000,000 gallons of water a day New York consumes 500,000,000. Where London has an area of 118 square miles, New York has 336.

Church of Christ.

Services every Lord's day. Bible school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11; Y. P. S. C. E. at 7 p. m.; preaching at 8 p. m. Prayer meeting on Wednesday evening at 8. The public is invited to attend all of these services. V. E. Hoven, Minister.

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