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SATURDAY, - - - JUNE 12, 1897

THEY KICKED, OF COURSE.

The firemen's tournament at Baker City is over, that is all except the kicking, that still continues. It is quite probable that the races were fairly run, impartially timed and correctly judged, and yet every team competing has some kick to register and each is satisfied and apparently honestly satisfied that every other team had the better of it. This very fact indicates the fairness of the races, which, no doubt, were decided in favor of the teams that won them.

We may draw a moral from this and profit by it at the tournament to be held here in September. The selecting of judges and timers should be left entirely to the competing teams. It won't stop the kicking, but it will enable The Dalles to say, "Gentlemen, if you are gentlemen, you selected your starters, timers and judges. If you made a mistake it was your own, not ours. We are glad to have you shove your legs under our mahogany and partake of our hospitality, but if you want to kick shins under the table, just kick each others and let ours alone."

We have never known a firemen's tournament to pass off without kicking. It's a part of the program in which each team makes about the same time, and all break the record. Good generalship requires that the kickers should kick against each other and not against us, and a little worldly wisdom will suggest some such plan as we have outlined. By the way, we might add to disprove the old adage, "The kickers always get there," that in firemen's tournaments the kickers are the fellows who don't get there.

When the soreness of defeat wears off, all the competing teams will realize that Baker City treated them fairly and royally. Being a mining town, it wouldn't know how to do anything else.

THE STRIPED BASS.

The question of introducing striped bass in the Columbia is being agitated. The bass is a game fish, and a good one. There is no objection to him on that account. The only question is, will he interfere with the salmon. If so, we do not want him; if not, we do. Until this question is settled, and settled definitely, we do not want him. We have the carp, and we would like to be rid of him. A fish that will come ashore in the night and eat up all the garden stuff and grass within two hundred yards of the water, is too deucedly handy; too versatile. It is said the striped bass is fond of him, and will assist in destroying him. If so, and the salmon will not be injured, the quicker the bass can be put at work, the better.

As far as the carp is concerned, it is a source of wonder why any one should have been foolish enough to transplant it anywhere. It has more bones than a sucker, and tastes like blue clay. It is a sluggish, lazy, swinish fish, no sport to catch, no good to eat.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

These be the days of secret societies. Their name is legion, and the field, already filled, is being yet more closely packed with yet other orders, treading on each other's heels in the scramble for first place.

Secret societies are all right in their place; their objects are all for good, or most of them are; but they

are becoming a nuisance, just from sheer force of numbers. There are now thirty or forty of them, each ready to prove that it is the best; each with its members working to get other members; each trying to swell its rolls at the expense of the others. They have become entirely too plentiful, too aggressive, too much of a business proposition. They are quite a drain on individuals and the community, and while some of the money expended in them comes back, there is some that does not.

They are a good thing, only it should not be forgotten that it is possible to have too much even of a good thing.

A man working out his road tax in Columbia county, was suddenly stricken with total paralysis of the tongue. It is supposed over exertion of that member induced by his trying to do his full duty as a public servant was the cause of the trouble.

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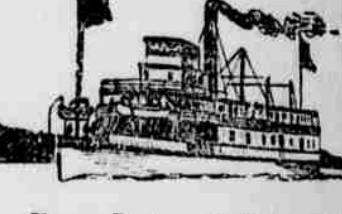
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