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THANKS, GENTLE READER.

A correspondent signing himself "Statistician" chides this paper as follows:

"If permitted to do so, the writer would suggest that your editor might look a little deeper into his source of statistical mis-information and learn that instead of five Sundays occurring in February once in a century, the phenouenon occurs about three times in a century. In the past, for instance, there were five Sundays in February of 1784, 1824, 1852, 1880, and in the twentieth century the same will occur in 1920, 1948, and 1976."

Thanks; thanks, very much. It is worth making such an error and to stand corrected in order to be sure that somebody reads the editorial column.

The clothiers say they are not profiteering—and so say they all. Diogenes would need more than a lantern to find a profiteer in this devoted land; but the income tax man gets 'em.

Of all the damp dampness that has prevailed in Eastern Oregon for many seasons, the month of January is entitled to the plum. Ol' Sol must have sought seclusion in subterranean regions.

"Nothing makes the republicans madder than to have the president change his mind except to have him refuse to change his mind," is the way it looks to the Greenboro News.

The total number of books on the shelves of the State University library has reached 92,142. It is expected that the 100,000 mark will be attained by the end of 1920.

"Portland to Los Angeles on high," says S. Benson—this according to an Oregonian headline. Curious to know why Mr. Benson should class Los Angeles with "heaven on high," we read further to find that he refers to hard surfaced roads and the omnipresent automobile.

The Russian girl executioner pictured in the Oregonian, who has slain with her own hands 400 officers captured by the bolsheviki, indeed looks perfectly killing.

Marconi claims that we will soon be hearing from Mars, and as this mundane sphere has had enough of grief, we trust it will be of something to our advantage.

California so loves its native son, the doughty Hi Johnson, that, we are willing all his political activities should be confined to within its own borders.

Government is declared to have paid four times its value for a nitrate plant at Toledo, Ohio—the nitrate in this instance being evidently excessive.

There may be nothing rotten in Denmark, but there's likely to be in Holland if she doesn't part with that decaying Hohenzollern.

What it seems to amount to is that Uncle Sam will sulk on the bench if he can't make his own playing rules in the league of nations.

Saturday, February 7, is the 108th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, the celebrated English delineator of character.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, comes this year on February 19. Easter Sunday arrives the 4th of April.

It occurs to us that we ought to make our remaining bolsheviki bathe or else give to Russia our last red scent.

A quaint philosopher remarks that to keep one's mouth shut is the best play a man can know, nine cases out of ten.

Whiskey is good for the "flu"—but not for the patient, unless he wants to be leaving this vale of tears.

A hungry man requires something more than fragile china and spotless linen to satisfy his appetite.

But how could the g. o. p. present any concrete proposition to the voters on a Wood platform.

Let us get what comfort we may from the reports that the influenza situation is improving in this county and that people are merely dying of pneumonia.

Frank S. Myers by no means wanted to give up the ship—in this instance the postmastership.

The high cost of laziness is sometimes a significant factor in increased household expenditures.

If a man will forget himself a little while, other people are apt to think more of him.

At the present rate of exchange, it is hardly worth while for a German to make his mark.

As to the Mexican situation, we are nevertheless glad that Carranza has it, and not us.

It has been observed that the world never yet produced a deaf and dumb pugilist.

WATER STREET SELECTED

According to the Oregon Journal, the Water street route through Weston has been designated for the state highway.

REPRESENTATION IS WANTED.

(Athena Press.)

The name of B. B. Richards for county judge has been brought before the people of this section of Umatilla county by republican friends of Mr. Richards, and it is understood that an active campaign in his behalf will be made in bringing his name before the primaries. With the understanding that Judge Marsh will not be a candidate for re-election, thus far the democrats have brought forward no prospective candidate. The only other candidate mentioned as yet is a lawyer residing at Pilot Rock—who is a republican. The eastern part of Umatilla county has been without representation in the county court since Cockburn retired as commissioner; and in view of the fact that the taxable wealth of the county is largely centered in this section, its proper recognition in this respect is regarded as imperative. Politics should not and does not enter materially into the selection of candidates for this office. Business sagacity and stamina to lop off unnecessary expenditures are the main requisites that should be considered as qualifications of the man who holds this responsible position. Recognizing these qualifications in Mr. Richards, the Press would be pleased to see him elected county judge.

"OVER THE HILL"

Miss Gladys Smith, bookkeeper for Watts & Rogers, was detained at her home in Weston a couple of days this week on account of illness.

Joe Luzon, a pioneer French resident of the Athena neighborhood, died Wednesday at the county hospital and will be buried here tomorrow.

Some dog poisoner is doing his despicable work in and around Athena. Among the victims is Homer Watts' locally celebrated fox terrier, "Sporty."

Members of the Sam Pambrun family, Mr. Pambrun included, have been confined to their home this week with the flu. Miss Ellen Pambrun has been seriously ill.

Peter McIntyre, who in summer farms in Alberta and spends the winter months in "the states," is visiting relatives in this section. He was in town Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Chase of Walla Walla were visitors at the home of Rev. G. Kopriva. Mrs. Chase favored the congregation of the Methodist church with a few selections, which were greatly appreciated.

Dr. and Mrs. Sharp received word Sunday from Seattle announcing the critical illness of their daughter Carrie as the result of pneumonia. Mrs. Sharp took the evening train for Seattle, and during the fore part of the week a change for the better was reported daily by wire. Word came Wednesday that the patient was failing, and Dr. Sharp left for Seattle. Last evening word was received that Miss Sharp has a chance for recovery.

At the time of going to press the flu epidemic in and around Athena is confining many people to their homes—with no fatalities reported. In some instances whole families are afflicted with the disease, but with few exceptions all cases are in a mild form. The school board met at the school house Monday forenoon and decided to keep the school open unless the epidemic causes increased absence on the part of pupils. Churches, lodges and other public meetings also continue.

A friend who recently returned from California advises the reporter that Jinks Dudley was becoming a little restless at the monotony of California sunshine, and had developed a hankering for Eastern Oregon ozone. Well, we would advise Jinks to remain where he is for a while longer, for the only ozone one breathes here at present is tinctured with fog and flu bugs.

At least two whole families were stricken with the flu in Athena during the past week. The members of Fred Gross' family were all ill at one time. They had the attendance of Mrs. John Stanton in the capacity of nurse. Mr. and Mrs. Chance Rogers returned home from Portland to find two of their children in bed with the flu. Later the other two children took it and then Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Beamer, housekeeper, were afflicted. Mrs. Robert Proudfit and daughter Mary are also patients at the Rogers home. At last reports Bob was on deck at the store and Chance was keeping the home fires burning.—(Later.—Chance has let the fire go out.)

Before leaving the Portland hardwaremen's convention for Seattle, Chance Rogers stepped into a barber shop for a shave, and another patron stepped out of the barber shop with Chance's coat, mistaking it for his own. Checks and papers fortunately afforded identification of ownership, and the coats will reach their rightful owners within course of time.

Trajan Tucker was down from his mountain ranch Wednesday and expressed disapproval of our weather conditions here in the "valley." He says bright, sunshiny days are in order in the upland section, and that farmers have made satisfactory headway in plowing and other farm work. The soil up there is in prime condition for plowing.

Beginning with February 1, water rates in Athena will be advanced materially to meet increased cost of maintenance of the water system. On that date the water rates to dwellings were advanced 50 percent on the previous rate; and on service to business houses, livery stables, garages, etc., the advance is 50 percent and upward.

Owing to health conditions, there will be no shows at the Standard Theatre until further notice. The big picture, "The Miracle Man," which was to have been screened Saturday and Sunday, has been postponed until a later date, when all will have an opportunity to see it.

Much is expected in school athletic circles from the baseball team which Athena High will have in the conference games this year. There is said to be ample material from which to select the players this year, and consequently expectations are of a rosy hue.

Mrs. Edna Bell was here this week from Spokane visiting her mother, Mrs. McPherrin. She was en route to San Francisco, where she will be married February 15 to Mr. W. D. Caswell of the Chester & Weaver Automobile Co. of that city.

Agents of the United States department of justice state that six thousand tons of potatoes are being hoarded by growers in warehouses at Yakima and that a considerable additional quantity is held in pits on farms. No hoarding was discovered in Spokane or Seattle.

The possibilities of hog raising as a side line of general farming have been demonstrated by George Dougherty, who lives near Moscow, Idaho. He realized $504 from 17 head, or almost $30 each. The animals were under six months, and were finished on home grown corn and tankage.

Thomas Benton Wells, a prominent Umatilla county pioneer and past grand master of the Odd Fellows, to which order he had belonged since 1875, passed away Sunday night at his home in Pendleton after a long illness. He was 70 years old.