

ATHENA PRESS

Published Every Friday Morning
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Entered at Athena postoffice as second-class mail matter.

Subscription Rates:
Per year, in advance, \$1.50
Single copies, in wrappers, 5c.

Advertising Rates:
Local reading notices, first insertion, 10c per line. Each subsequent insertion, 5c.

All communications should be addressed to the PRESS, Athena, Oregon.

ATHENA, SEPTEMBER 29 1893.

THAT APPORTIONMENT.

The Athena Press asked some questions, last week, of county Superintendent Woodruff, about school fund apportionment. Miss Woodruff answers these questions, in another column, in a highly satisfactory manner. Now if the Press will find out whether Phil Metschan, or some bursted bank, has the state school money, and proceeds to ask questions of them, it will get started in the right direction. Spit on your hands, Mr. Press, and take a fresh "hold."—Alliance Herald.

Miss Woodruff's answer to why she has not apportioned the state school fund, is that she has not received any to apportion. This seems to be "highly satisfactory" to our esteemed contemporary, but to us it is not so satisfactory. We wish to know what has become of Umatilla county's portion of the state school fund this year.

The law requires the board of commissioners of the state fund to apportion this monthly among the several counties of the state on the first day of August each year and oftener if deemed advisable. The board doubtless did so this year as other counties of the state have received their portion.

Why has not Umatilla county? We do not consider the superintendent's reason, "because I have not received it," as satisfactory at all. As for asking questions of "Phil Metschan or some bursted bank," we do not consider that necessary. The fact that other counties have received and apportioned their part of this fund, is sufficient evidence that the fault does not lie with Phil Metschan.

When the apportionment was not made at the time prescribed by law, this being the superintendent's duty, we ask her why it was not made. The reason "because" is not satisfactory. We still ask, why?

If our esteemed contemporary, the Herald, which is so well known to wage a relentless war on all forms of corruption in office will assist our worthy superintendent, possibly she may be able to find why she has not received this fund, and tell the people.

THE CHEROKEE STRIP.

The scenes on the Oklahoma boom are being repeated in the Cherokee Strip. There is an insane rush of 80,000 people for the coveted territory which was thrown open to settlement at noon on Saturday. All of these 80,000 people, men and women, hold certificates which entitle them to a quarter-section homestead, if they can succeed in locating it. As there is not land enough to make homesteads for one-half of the boomers, there will be a wild race for possession and a scramble between contestants that will result in rows and possible bloodshed.

The actual area of the Cherokee Strip is 6,338,950 acres, and will constitute a part of the territory of Oklahoma. Of this, 152,160 acres have been reserved for allotments to Indians; 24,000 acres for Indian school reserve, and one-ninth of the total area, or 709,823 acres, have been reserved for public schools and buildings. This leaves 5,502,627 acres actually opened today to the settlers. When allowances are made for roads, rivers and untillable tracts, it is probable that there will not be more than 25,000 homes of quarter sections for the 80,000 persons who are rushing in to-day.

No doubt a farm of 160 acres in the Cherokee Strip will be a good thing for those who are fortunate enough to secure the prize. Much of the land is said to be fertile, and the climate delightful. But

there must be thousands of cases of disappointment. Of the eager multitude who are racing across the Cherokee plains to-day, more than one-half will be obliged to return without finding land on which it is desirable to settle.—Walla Walla Statesman.

It is worth noticing as a curious phase of the tariff question that wealthy manufacturers, supposed to be deeply interested in keeping up protective duties, are bringing influence to bear on republican members of the house for the purpose of preventing any serious opposition being made to the proposed anti-protection tariff. That is, opposition that will delay its final passage. The manufacturers say they are anxious to have the new tariff put into operation at the earliest possible moment, in order that its working may be fully understood and approved or condemned by the people in 1896. Other people say that the manufacturers are preparing to make a big cut all around in wages and that is the secret of their not wishing the new tariff bill to be delayed.

We heartily endorse the Milton Eagle in its opposition to the action of the county court in purchasing one half of the Lee street bridge in Pendleton for \$3500. This was certainly one of the most flagrant acts of injustice to the tax-payers ever perpetrated by any officials of this county, and deserves the condemnation it is receiving. The people of this county demand that these officials explain why they try to render void the laws of the state—laws which they have sworn to uphold; and why they treat with contempt a decree of the highest court in our state.

WHILE the Press believes the tax-payers of Umatilla county should not be compelled to pay for the Lee street bridge in Pendleton, it cannot help but admire the manner in which the East Oregonian, Pierce, Martin & Co., manipulated the wires to suit themselves, and Pendleton in particular. But God bless 'em, you can't blame them, for its human nature to "get all you can, and keep all you get!"—Jackson's double-gear, fire-proof reform editorials, to the contrary notwithstanding.

ABOUT the first thing a fresh, green congressman does when he goes to Washington is to dish out garden-seeds to the "feller's" as voted for him." Not long ago the Portland Oregonian's correspondent at Washington wrote lot of trash on the way Congressman Ellis of this district had enamored the house by his "fine personal appearance." That is about all the fellow has—"fine appearance," but he can't get anything on his shape,—but garden-seeds.

THE Hyde eulogistic biographical article in Sunday's Oregonian knocks out anything of the kind we have ever seen, if we may except P. B. Johnson, of the Walla Walla Union-Journal, who had his photo engraved and put it at the top of his editorial page. But Johnson became weary from the guying of the press and pulled it out, while in our estimation Hyde is too brassy to "see himself as others see him."

HOME rule for Ireland has been defeated in the house of lords, notwithstanding the fact that it passed the house of commons by a large majority. Thus Gladstone's efforts on behalf of his people have proven fruitless.

RESUMING ACTIVITY.

Five of the largest mills of the Illinois Shell company's plant at the Bay View, Wis., will start up this week. This will give employment to 1500 men, most of whom have been idle for the past two months.

Gov. Turney has approved the agreement between penitentiary commissioners and the East Tennessee Land Co. for the purchase by the state of 9000 acres of coal land in Morgan county for \$80,000, and upon the expiration of the present penitentiary lease the state will go into the coal mining business.

A New York daily paper recently telegraphed to its correspondents in all parts of the United States. "What do your leading bankers and president of commercial bodies think of the trade outlook?" Without exception the answers that were flashed back from more than

100 cities were strong in cheer and hope for the immediate future. The crops are moving satisfactorily, the broken banks are resuming, the craft that out-rose the tempest is again progressing in safety and comfort, and the arant coward money, is coming out from its hiding places and once more performing its essential functions.

Dalles Times-Mountaineer: Work at the locks is prosecuted with the greatest vigor. Since the Columbia has reached a normal stage the canal has been pumped dry and a force of men employed in excavation. There is every indication that boats will go through the locks and canal within the time mentioned in the contract. The Day brothers mean business and are not stopping at the locks for the benefit of their health.

Operations have been resumed at the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines, in the Coeur d'Alenes, under the terms offered by the company.—\$3 50 per day for the miners and \$3 for car-men and shovelers. One hundred men are employed, and the force will be increased as rapidly as possible until a full force of 400 is secured. The Gem, Helena and Frisco mines, at Gem, will resume work within a few days, employing 300 men at these wages. All the other mines in the Coeur d'Alenes are expecting to resume under the arrangement, the Knights of Labor and the miners' union having today sanctioned the action of the men in returning to work. Within a week over 1000 men now idle will be at work. A jubilee is in progress in several of the mining towns tonight.

THIS AND THAT.

Judge Arthur, of Spokane beats the record on divorce granting. Last week a red-headed woman came into his court and said she wanted a divorce from her husband. In just twenty minutes from the time her lawyer filed the suit the judge handed her the decree, all properly signed, which released her from matrimonial bondage. From Indiana to Illinois; from Illinois to Dakota, from Dakota to Washington, the star of easy and speedy divorce has steadily moved westward, until now, one may expect, when the train stops at the eastern Washington metropolis to hear the brakeman call out: "Spokane! Twenty minutes for divorce."

It is a noteworthy fact that as we are celebrating the beginning of the fourth century of America's discovery, the United States government is arranging for the settlement of the last piece of the public domain, the Cherokee Strip, of sufficient size to attract public attention. The conquest in three centuries by the plowshare of more than 3,000,000 square miles of territory is an achievement that puts to blush all victories of the sword and torch.

A prominent business man, who has just returned from the East, says that it is astonishing what ignorance some congressmen show on the silver question. They do not even know what the ratio means, and you ask them for a definition of "16 to 1" and they cannot explain it. "I know," said he, "two congressmen who voted for that, when asked by the clerks in the Arlington house to show them what 16 to 1 meant, were actually unable to do so, and said they supposed it meant that it took 16 silver dollars to equal one gold one! That is a fact."

Whilst the moneyed men of New York will tell you they have not the slightest fear of danger to person or property from the alleged great army of hungry men now in slums of New York, they will admit they have taken precautions. Collis P. Huntington, the railroad magnate, and Cornelius Vanderbilt were notified quite recently by an alleged anarchist that their new places on Fifth avenue would soon be blown skyward by dynamite. One of the workmen on the yet unfinished Vanderbilt residence also discovered a card tacked upon the covered entrance to the building. The cards was covered with a scrawl which declared that the time had come for the rich men to suffer for their so-called wrongs upon the poor. It was incendiary in tone, but Vanderbilt believed it was the work of some crank who became agitated over a recent newspaper discussion about anarchists and their threats. However, another card was tacked upon the boxed-fence of C. P. Huntington's mansion on Fifth avenue. Both cards were undoubtedly of the same origin, and if the writer is really an anarchist, he is one of the most pronounced type of the disciples of Herr Most. Now four times as many watchmen and detectives are along Fifth avenue in the vicinity of the residences of the money king as there was a few months ago.

We understand that a change in the time of the arrival and departure of trains on the Spokane branch will go into effect next Sunday.

TO THE PUBLIC:

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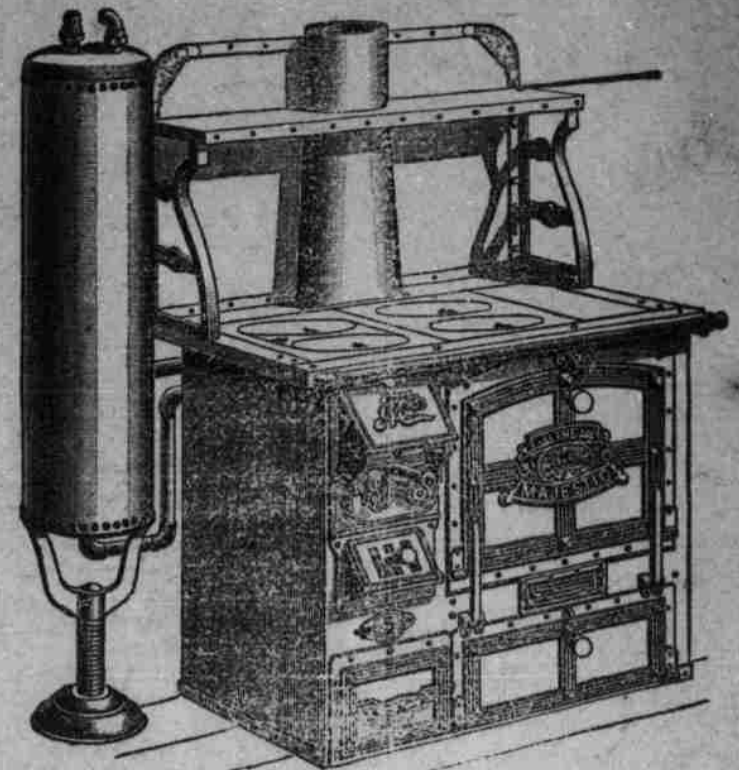
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