

ATHENA PRESS

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The editor of the Belle Plaine (Iowa) Union says: We took dinner at a farmer's house not very long ago and here is what we noticed: The cloth that covered the table was made in Ireland; the dishes on which the meal was served came from England; the fried ham, for which the hostess had paid 15 cents per pound, was not unlikely part of the same hog that he had sold a few months before at three and one-half cents; the pickles were made in Chicago; the kraut at Dubuque; the bread and pastry were made from flour from Minnesota, the shortening was packing house lard from Chicago; the canned corn was from Waterloo; the sauce was dried fruit from California; but butter was apologized for as being made by a neighbor, their own cows being dry; the salt came from New York state; the coffee from Brazil, and actually the only blessed thing connected with that meal which was produced on the farm, was the blessings asked on the food, and the appetite that consumed it. And this man was working like a slave raising corn and oats at 15 cents, and hogs at \$3.25 to pay bills for this kind of living. This is all wrong. Just so far as intelligent care and skill exercised both in the house and out of it will permit, the raw material produced on the farm should be there so used and converted into finished products as to supply the home needs of the farmer. This is one of the best arguments in favor of farm life—that the man on the farm can, if he will, have the first fruits of the poultry yard, the dairy, the field, the garden, the orchard, and not only the first fruits, but the opportunity, if he so will, to prepare and to store these products that it shall be harvest time for him every day in the year. A system of agriculture which will contentedly raise 15 cent oats to pay for 15 cent ham has slipped a cog, and needs overhauling.

A practical illustration of how the endless chain of greenbackism is enriching British usury at this country's expense was unexpectedly developed the other day in New York. When the steamer St. Paul ran ashore on the Jersey coast, she had in her hold \$1,300,000 in gold. This gold was taken out and returned to the sub-treasury at New York, where it was found, upon examination, to be the identical metal that had been taken out of the same sub-treasury for export a short time before. It had been sent to Europe and shipped back immediately, bearing all the costs of freight and insurance and dangers of loss by shipwreck.

This was inadvertently exposed the game of hide and seek by which the bond subscribers, foreign and domestic, have been attempting to cover their tracks. That gold had been drawn from the United States treasury and shipped to London for the ostensible purpose of meeting the ordinary requirements of exchange, but in reality it was taken out to precipitate another call for a loan by this government, and to be returned to the treasury in payment for its equivalent in bonds. Ere now it has probably been restored to the treasury reserve, but only to be drawn out again via the greenback route, just as soon as the requisite amount of currency can be scraped up and presented for redemption.

The most grievous feature of this expose is the reflection it casts upon the mooted advantage of having our bonds sold by popular subscription, instead of to a syndicate. It shows that the new loan, like

all that have preceded it, is paid ultimately, except an inconsiderable fraction, with gold withdrawn from the treasury itself. It also emphasizes the fact that so long as the greenback redemption system makes the periodical issue of bonds necessary, just so long will it be impossible for us to prevent the money-makers of London from profiting by it. Englishmen may, through their financial agents here, maintain a run upon our treasury if they please, and we cannot put an end to it so long as the legal tenders are outstanding.

It is rather a costly price we are paying for the poor privilege of seeing a clownish congress do nothing.—Telegram.

There is a systematic plan being carried out by the goldites and bosses of the Republican party to insure Dolph's re-election to the United States senate, says the Oregon Scout. The campaign is being organized on a senatorial basis. Mitchell men, or those favorable to silver, are not wanted, and their names are being scratched from the list of possible delegates to the various county conventions, and when candidates for the legislature are nominated by the Republican conventions of the various counties it will be found that they are all solid for Dolph. People of the state have been wondering what the meeting of the Republican leagues in Portland, was for, as nothing was done at that meeting, outside of singing a few doggerel rhymes, other than to agree to not express an opinion and leave the platform for the convention to formulate. The Dolph men placed a gag in the mouths of their unsuspecting brethren who have been advocating free silver and who would be favorable to Mitchell. Evidently this was the only object in calling that meeting, and the scheme was successfully manipulated by the bosses. You have not heard a chirp from a silver Republican since that meeting, and will not hear it during the campaign. The bosses are on top and Dolph will be returned to the senate. Time will verify the truth of these remarks.

It appears the present law appropriates \$136,000 for seeds, and Secretary Morton refuses to use the money for that purpose. Some congressmen have gone so far as to say that they will impeach Morton unless he carries out the law, and expends \$136,000 in the purchase of seeds. Whether congress has the power to compel him to act, is a question that has not yet been settled. It is charged that Secretary Morton has insinuated that certain congressmen have been guilty of selling seeds allotted them for distribution. This, of course, is indignantly denied. But whether true or otherwise, the custom should be abolished. No possible good can arise from it, even to the members themselves. We believe that for every constituent who receives a package of seeds, and who is gratified at the compliment, as many others are displeased because they too have not been so favored.

But why should the people's money be taken to enable congressmen to make presents to their constituents? That's the question. It is all wrong, and we sincerely hope that Secretary Morton will be able to down the practice now and forever.—Oregon Independent.

Now comes the report that a Swede has discovered the North Pole. Perhaps he has, but we should like to see his description of the pole. What kind of a stick is it? Whether it is made of Oregon pine. How it stands the wear of so many revolutions. Whether any traces of the Garden of Eden have been discovered. Whether any of Adams tracks have been seen. All these things would be interesting to know. Let this Swede unburden himself. If the country around the pole is any more prosperous than this, we are off.

The East Oregonian reprinted a portion of an editorial which appeared in last week's Press, but for reasons best known to itself culled the article to suit its own purpose. Such methods of journalism will become a newspaper that even professes to be upright and honorable to even a limited degree. The portion of the article which

the East Oregonian did not see fit to run in its columns, read:

"The Pendleton East Oregonian and Tribune have about quit their discussion of which has stolen the most from the taxpayers of the county by charging exorbitant prices for doing the county's printing. One thing is very apparent to every one who has read what they have said of each other, and that is, that both have been proven guilty."

Secretary Morton has refused to purchase seeds to be distributed by senators and congressmen among their constituents. And because he so refuses, he is receiving roast after roast from gentlemen who are desirous of supplying their friends with garden and other seeds.

Secretary Morton is right. He wants to break up a custom that has grown into a monstrous evil. This distribution of garden seeds among the people by congressmen is nothing more nor less than a species of bribery—an open bid for their votes. This, perhaps, might be all right if the members purchased the seeds themselves. But when they vote away the people's money for such an object, it becomes a sin that has no right to be continued.

Today's paper contains an article from the pen of one who groans under the nom de plume of "Taxpayer." He is evidently conversant with the methods of the present system of assessing property and holds out a remedy, which in his estimation would be a sure cure, and effectually and forever equalize things pertaining to the assessment of property by simply "turning the rascals out," and substitute some one else, and if we read between the lines correctly, "Taxpayer" wouldn't object seriously to being the substitute. The ATHENA PRESS believes it will take something more than "a change" to renovate and reconstruct our method of assessing property.

The Townsend Nail Works. The Jefferson county superior court has ordered that the affairs of the insolvent Port Townsend nail works be immediately wound up, and appointed D. M. Littlefield receiver for the company. The works have not been operated for several years. Promoter and Manager J. M. Lively informs the Leader that he had arrangements already perfected for starting when the receivership was consummated, and that he has made a cash offer of \$10,000 to Mr. Littlefield for the plant. He states that a man is now on the way who would back the institution, and that if his plans are brought to maturity operations would commence at once and 500 kegs daily be turned out until next fall. "Such a condition of the nail market as existed when the Port Townsend works were in operation and became entangled financially," says Mr. Lively, "will probably never again be known—certainly not for a number of years. At that time the price of nails was \$1.40, while at present the price is \$2.90, and a contract for a big output could be made at the present time for that price. This would allow an absolute profit of \$1.50 over the returns received for the last output, which, it will be seen at a glance, is a big enough thing in itself."—Port Townsend Leader.

Governor Lord expects to fill the vacancies on the board of regents of the university of Oregon and the state agricultural college, in a few days. He says both appointments will be made from Eastern Oregon, as that part of the state is without representation on either board since the death of Mr. Sturgis and the resignation of Mr. French.

"Bacteria do not occur in the blood or in the tissues of a healthy living body, either of man or the lower animals." So says the celebrated Dr. Koch. Other doctors say that the best medicine to render the blood perfectly pure and healthy is Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

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Notice. All accounts due P. M. Kirkland, are now at the First National Bank for collection, and all are requested to come forward and settle at once. P. M. KIRKLAND.

W. E. Young has added considerably to his stock. Young's goods are noted in this end of the county for their superiority in workmanship and quality.

THE FIRST CIGARS.

The Havana Variety Was Smoked in Paris as Long Ago as 1813.

When were cigars first smoked? According to a French authority who has been making investigations in this subject, the weed in this shape was not introduced into France till the return of the French army from Spain in 1803. This fact is on the authority of Hippolyte Huger, the dramatic author, who writes thus in his memoirs:

"Our return from Paris was by way of Orleans. On the route we met quite frequently officers returning from Spain. They had generally cigars in their mouths—a new habit, since become general. From this point of view the campaign of 1803 had the good financial result of establishing a new branch of import trade."

Another document, however, carries back the use of the cigar to a slightly earlier period. The "Hermit of the Chasse d'Antin" (1813), going to see his nephew, a young officer at Paris, finds him at his hotel in morning costume and smoking a Havana cigar. The taste for cigars seems at this time to have been sufficiently extended to make them a common article in the stock of every grocer who was careful to cater to the wants of his customers.

CASTE FOLLOWS THE NOSE.

Anthropologists Say the Nose Tells the Culture of Man.

Anthropology, said Sir William Flower, is becoming of the highest importance in politics. If we take a series of castes in Bengal, Behar or the northwestern provinces and arrange them in the order of the average nasal index, so that the caste with the finest nose shall be at the top, and that with the coarsest at the bottom of the list, it will be found that this order substantially corresponds with the accepted order of social precedence.

The casteless tribes who have not yet entered the Brahmanical system occupy the lowest place in both series.

The fisher castes are a trifle higher in the scale; the pastoral, the cultivating, and a group of cognate castes—from whose hands a Brahman may take water—follow in due order; and from them we pass to the trading and the landholding classes and the upper crust of Hindu society.

Thus it is scarcely a paradox to lay down as a law of the caste organization in Eastern India that a man's social status varies in inverse ratio to the width of his nose.

German Account of the Starry Flag.

A German periodical has the following story as to the origin of the Stars and Stripes: The idea originated with a Dane named Marker. He was born on the Island St. Croix, of the Danish West Indies, where his father and grandfather had lived. In 1775 he left his native island and proceeded to Philadelphia. He was among the first American liberty and independence. For valor shown at Oriskany he was elected captain, and to show his gratitude he designed a flag, in whose upper corner he applied the thirteen stars, emblematic of the thirteen orig-

inal states of the union. This was the first occasion upon which the "star spangled banner" was unfurled. The original flag of Capt. Marker is supposed to be in existence in some national collection of relics of the war of the revolution.

FEMINE INGENUITIES.

The Queen Uses the Women of Peru Make of Shawl Pins.

Of the multifarious uses of the hair-pin, some, at least, are well known. They are suggested by a French traveler's description of a pin which the Indian women of Peru wear as a fastener for their shawls. Its head is in the shape of a spoon. In fact, it is a spoon and a shawl-pin in one.

It is odd, the Frenchman says, too see a woman pull out the pin, letting her shawl drop from her bare shoulders, and proceed to use it for eating her soup or porridge. After the repast she passes the bowl of the spoon carefully between her lips two or three times, gathers up her shawl, and fastens it in place.

The same women use their slippers instead of pocketbooks—a point in which they may be said to have the advantage of their North American sisters, who, having no pockets, or none within comfortable reach, are compelled to carry their purses in their hands.

The money of Lima consists of bank-notes, which go very well into the bottom of a slipper. As to the effect upon the bills, perhaps the least said the better. There is an old saying that money always smells sweet.

New Terror for French Convicts.

Life in the French penal colony at New Caledonia has been pictured as so agreeable, both by reason of the climate as well as the leniency with which convicts have been treated, that transportation seems to have lost most of its terrors. Criminals do not conceal their preference for a long sentence in the beautiful Pacific island to a much shorter term with hard labor in one of the penitentiaries at home, and when perpetrating a misdeed have sought as a rule to render their offense as serious as possible, so as to entail transportation if captured. It is with a view of putting an end to this sentiment that the French government has now decided to stop sending convicts to New Caledonia, and is making arrangements to deport them instead to Gaboon, the fever-stricken and most pestiferous of all districts of French Congo and Africa.

There is still a deal of good hunting on the Delaware peninsula, although the region has been steadily shot over by a sporting population for the last two hundred and fifty years. Delaware has stringent game protective laws, and in the lowest county of the state there are great swamps that still harbor a considerable variety of game. The same is true of several of the Maryland eastern shore counties, and the two Virginia counties have probably as good aquatic hunting as is to be found anywhere on the Atlantic coast short of a few almost inaccessible points north and south.



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