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ATHENA, FEBRUARY 11, 1898.

The condition of Main street is terrible. It resembles a huge hog wallow from one end to the other, and is a black eye to the town. How long will it remain so.

Property owners in Athena are this year called upon to pay a 30 mill tax, divided as follows: County and state, 18 mills; city, 7 mills; school, 5 mills. Pendleton pays 33 mills and Milton 30.

Great energy has certainly been manifested in building a tramway over the Chilcoot pass, which makes it possible, from this time on, to cross the range in an hour. The trip from Dyea to the first lake can be made in a day, whereas it formerly required a month. With this tramway and the system of steamers on the lakes, it will be no trick at all to go to Dawson City when spring opens.

When the dispatches announced that the president had appointed George E. Roberts of Iowa to be director of the United States mint there were not many persons who were able to identify the gentleman promoted to this very responsible office. But he will be recognized by many when they have been told that he is the same Roberts who wrote the little book which was acknowledged to be the best reply to "Coin's Financial School." He is a young newspaper man, the editor of the Fort Dodge Messenger and a writer of considerable ability upon financial topics. There are sometimes strange chances in politics. "Coin" Harvey started the campaign of 1896 by putting out his book, and had free silver won, Harvey might have become a cabinet minister. Roberts wrote a reply, and as his side won, he reaps the political profit from Harvey's efforts.—La Grande Chronicle.

The statistics of lynching in the United States indicate that this reprehensible crime continues to flourish in spite of the well meant effort in some parts of the country to stamp it out, says the Oregonian. The whole number of lynchings for the year amounted to 166 against 131 in 1896. Of those occurring during the last year 146 were in the south and 20 in the northern states, 122 of the victims being negroes, 30 white and 5 Indians.

It was a prudent and sensible precaution that placed the battleship Maine in Havana harbor. She is within easy sailing distance of Consul-General Lee, and the constant menace afforded by her grinning guns may inspire the riotous citizens of Havana and soldiers of Spain to have a more respectful regard for the lives and property of American residents in the unhappy city.

The Oregon sprinter, I Don't Know, has got into trouble again. At Oakland last Monday he was a 4 to 5 favorite in a field of ordinary horses, and A. Moore, his rider, managed by a long pull and a strong pull to land him in third position. Moore was suspended and Reed ordered to find other quarters for his horse.

The government crop reporter has been given a tip evidently in making up the estimate of the wheat crop of the Pacific Northwest. Heretofore the statistical showing of the output of this state has been too low by a considerable margin, but for 1897 the figures are more than doubled, and represent the maximum of present estimates on the yield. Washington is credited with 20,124,648 bushels of

wheat from 856,368 acres, or an average of 23 1/2 bushels to the acre, holding a position far above the average of other wheat growing states, as everyone acquainted with the growth of the cereal realizes is the actual situation. Oregon is credited in the government report with 18,155,031 bushels of wheat from 1,067,943 acres cropped.—West Coast Trade.

The British Columbia New Year Book says: "How a country like the Yukon can support and successfully accommodate the thousands of people who are about to rush in is a question which cannot be easily determined; but as a note of warning is necessary to the capabilities of country wholly undeveloped to maintaining for any length of time from 100,000 to 500,000 persons, whose livelihood must depend upon mining and, in absence of success in that, on the resources which they carry with them. The New Year Book describes the severe climate of the whole region, sets forth the terrible hardships of prospecting a country where the bedrock is under a crust of moss and frozen sand, tells what mining under these forbidding conditions entails for the workers, of whom nine out of ten need not expect success, and gives some idea of the risk to life and health from cheerless, comfortless existence in a mining 'shack'."

The engineers beaten in the great strike in England numbered 80,000 men. The eight-hour rule was not the only issue involved. The unions proposed to control the use of machinery, to reduce the employment of apprentices, and regulate overtime. The amount of it was to make labor scarce and put up the cost of production, compelling England to turn over much of her work to Germany.

The most conservative and apparently impregnable business man will sometimes buy a gold brick or back a wildcat mine, and a long and unapproachable business career is no sign that the confidence man will not at some time get in his fine work. Francis Grable, who gathered in \$200,000 of the cash of the ultra-conservative Chemical National bank of New York, through the presentation of his golden promises to Cashier Quinlan, was equally successful in other high places in getting money for great schemes in the west. John E. Searles, of sugar trust fame, Benjamin F. Tracy, Ben Butterworth and other men of national repute have been let in on the ground floor of money-making schemes by Grable, who has realized over \$3,000,000 by floating securities. The ignorant and confiding are not alone in demonstrating the wisdom of P. T. Barnum's trite remark that the public in general like to be humbugged.

A sloop left Philadelphia last week primed for the Klondike gold fields by way of the Horn. Going down the river the party struck a snow flurry, and five of them at once lost all appetite for nuggets, and expressed a feverish desire to go back home. They were accordingly landed at Cape Mey, and the rest went on. It would be interesting to learn what these week-kneed voyagers expected. It is just as well that fate opened their eyes early; sooner or later the news that there were no electric elevators in the Dawson hotels would have been broken to them.

German statesmen have always been past masters in the art of backcapping American products. Germany could find trichina in our pork when none was ever thought of at home. Our horses have been found to have influenza and the large shipments for table consumption and other purposes are being discriminated against by the Prussian minister of finance last week issued a decree prohibiting the importation of American fresh fruit of all kinds, averring that they were infested with various unknown bugs and vermin. The latter order was modified upon the prompt and vigorous protest of this government, to include only such fruit as should be found to be infested upon examination, and leaving customs officials to carry on the war, which, as has been shown

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by the ready method of discovering defects in other products they are perfectly competent to do. Germany values that portion of American trade which affords her a great market in this country for sugar, wines, cutlery, woollens, etc., but adopts methods which are narrow and unfair to discriminate against the United States in counter commercial relations.

The vote in the senate on the Teller resolution is evidence of the fact that the silver issue is the issue before the people and will continue to be until settled by a vote in 1900. The vote stood 47 to 32. All the western silver republicans voted for it and Senator Chandler. Democrats who had always been regarded as gold men voted for it.

New York City and several other eastern cities have mail delivered to all residents of the place six to eight times a day. This is all uncalled for, besides, if law is nothing but the worst class legislation. Out here in Oregon we are extremely lucky if we are able to get a single daily mail, without any free delivery.

Tom Watson will be named by the populists of Georgia as their standard-bearer for governor.

THE SENTIMENTAL DRUMMER.

And the Sweet Little Maiden He Met on the Train.

She was a pretty, sweet looking girl, and she took a seat just in front of Colby, in the parlor car. He had seen her upon the platform of the station before she got aboard. A young man had held her hand in his and looked sadly into her eyes. Colby thought they might perhaps be lovers. He traveled a great deal and he generally contrived to strike up an acquaintanceship with persons to whom he took a fancy; no matter what the circumstances happened to be.

The girl had not been upon the train for an hour or more, when Colby picked up a newspaper that somebody had left lying near her seat.

"May I look at it?" he asked. She said it didn't belong to her, but the ice was broken, and they were soon chatting quite familiarly.

She had never traveled alone before, she said, and that was her future husband whom she had left at the station. She had been visiting his parents, who were the wealthiest people in the little town back there, and very proud. She was an orphan. She lived with her aunt, and Charlie's people rather looked down upon her because she did not have money.

Colby felt indignant at them, and told her that if Charlie didn't teach them that a good, sweet girl was worth more than all the riches in the world, he was no true man.

Colby flattered himself that he was too much of a man of the world to be easily worried over the affairs of other people, but this girl's frankness touched him, and he felt a jealous pang when he thought of Charlie's good fortune, and his own loneliness. He had often said that he would never marry while he was on the road, and he never felt just like settling down, anyway. But this sweet, confiding creature sent a new feeling through him. He told himself that if she would be likely to prefer him to Charlie and his uninviting parents, he would ask her to be his little wife, and they would have a modest home somewhere, and he would be willing to give up the world and its allurements forever. What these fancies might have led him to can never be known. For the sweet little maiden suddenly began gathering up her belongings, as they neared a station which the conductor announced as "Brimoth."

"Yes," she said to Colby, "here is where I get off. Some day I hope we may meet again. You have made my ride a very pleasant one, and it made me so happy to confide in you."

He tried to tell her how she had changed the current of his thoughts of life, but before he had finished she was upon the platform waving him an adieu as the train pulled away.

Half an hour later Colby came out of dreamland to feel for his watch. It wasn't in his pocket, and while hunting for it he became aware of the fact that his wallet, which contained several hundred dollars, was gone, too.

Then he sat and scratched his head for a long time, and finally he decided that he would never believe in appearances again.—Cleveland News and Herald.

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