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ATHENA, JULY 22, 1898.

Baker City seems to be retrograding with a down-hill pull. The street sprinkler has quit work and now word comes that the entire fire department has disbanded. Two months ago the city was petitioned by the department to make it a semi-paid one, allowing small compensation for actual work at fires. The council disregarded this appeal. Monday evening, at a meeting at the city hall, delegates representing the six companies of the department voted to disband, and will turn over to the city at the next council meeting all of the fire apparatus. About 100 men belong to the department.

There is being much said in the papers throughout the state relative to the Canadian thistle. The law regarding the thistle is that the road supervisors must destroy it along the public roads and notify the county commissioners of its presence on private lands. The county commissioners then may appoint a taxpayer as a commissioner to see that the plant is destroyed. The man who owns the land is required to destroy the pest, but if he refuse the county may attend to the matter at the owner's cost.

It is literally true that Europe could not get along without supplies from this country. Millions of people in the old world would go ragged and hungry if they could not draw supplies from the farms of America. The agricultural industry of the United States is very much the most important single branch of the economics of the world. Occupying such a commanding position, the farmers of this country ought to be the most prosperous people on the globe.

Up to the end of 1897 Russia had expended within a fraction of $200,000,000 on her great Siberian railway. Between this and 1900 an outlay of another million is expected, when the road will be in running order, with through trains from St. Petersburg to the Pacific, opening one of the most important commercial channels in the world and a new and spacious page in in Russian political commercial history.

Rafting lumber to San Francisco from Portland is considered a success. The big raft of Inman, Poulsen & Co. has arrived in San Francisco with a loss of 500,000 feet. This was caused by the raft parting in the middle but it was so constructed that the two parts were taken up and towed in. The trip was rough. The projectors will immediately proceed to get another raft out.

Secretary of the Interior Bliss has approved a recommendation of the commissioner of education that each state and territory be given $24,000 for the support of agricultural and mechanical colleges during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899. This is done under authority of the act of 1890 providing funds to be expended in the advancement of these colleges.

Representative Tongue who was chosen orator of the Sons of the American Revolution gave an address at the base of Washington Monument on the Fourth at Washington, D. C. Mr. Tongue's address is spoken of very highly. He predicted the loss of all her colonies to Spain and their coming under the American flag.

According to an article in the German Medical Weekly, there are more blind people in Spain in proportion to the population than in any country in Europe. Blindness seems to be a national disease in Spain, a fact which was never more apparent than at present.

About 10,000 pounds of eider down are collected annually in Iceland, 7000 being exported to foreign countries. Formerly the peasants used to receive over 21 shillings a pound for it, but the price has now fallen to half that amount.

The correct and official names of the Ladrone islands, which were taken possession of by the Charleston while on her way to Manila, are the Marriannes. But we are not told who the original Mary Ann was for whom they were named.

"Fighting Bob" Evans is quoted as saying: "The Spaniards didn't hit a d—d thing but the ocean." "Fighting Bob" will get the non de guerre of "Cussing Bob" if he doesn't watch out.

The fashion set by the the United States government in refusing to buy for war services horses with docked tails, may be the beginning of better things for these faithful friends of men.

It is generally the man who is striving to do right who is amazed at the opportunities to do wrong.

The farther men wander from the truth, the nearer the false may approach without a rebuke.

Creeds are evaporated graces. Catechisms are the dried theological fruit of salvation.

Rumors of war are less interesting to landladies than roomers who pay in advance.

Perhaps you have made up your mind to take

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this summer.

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Capt. Sherman Dead.

Capt Matthew Sherman, brother-in-law of C. A. Barrett, of this city, died at his home in San Diego, California, July 5, 1898. He was born in Charleston, Mass., Oct. 11, 1827. He served through the Mexican war in the American navy, and was a commissioned officer in company G, 4th Reg California Volunteers, during the civil war. He located in San Diego in 1865 and was appointed inspector of customs at that port. He held numerous other positions of trust. He was married to Miss Agnes J. Barrett May 10, 1867, and erected the first dwelling house in the new city of San Diego. He was highly esteemed by the people of San Diego and the burial services were witnessed by thousands.

Changed His Mind Too Late.

William Tucker, a prominent farmer living three miles east of Oakesdale, committed suicide Sunday night Tucker, who was an old pioneer, had been despondent for some time. After Mrs. Tucker had retired Sunday night, he took the poison and than drank a quantity of milk, evidently with the idea of neutralizing the poison. The strychnine beginning to act, Tucker informed his wife of what he had done. Doctors were summoned but were unable to save him. He leaves three married daughters and a son.

When the War Is Over.

He who now complains of the dearth of war news should remember that when the war is over he will be put back upon steady diet of the man who didn't know it was loaded, the man who ran away with another man's wife or daughter, the child that drank concentrated lye, the fatally injured in the runaway, the occasional heavy loss by fire, the birth of triplets and the money question.

WANTED TO GET SOLID.

How an Aspiring Journalist Lost His Job.

The experiences of young men who are anxious to enter the newspaper business because they think they are born journalists on the strength of the fact that they used to write "good compositions" when they went to school have been an inexhaustible theme for the professional joke maker from time immemorial, and they are not all fake jokes that are written about them, either, as the following real happening will show:

A reporter on an afternoon paper was detailed the other day to go out and write up a fight that had occurred in the northwestern part of the city, and in the course of his hunt for facts he ran across a busy young man who proved a very mine of information.

"You ought to know me," said this young man to the reporter, after the latter had pumped him dry. "I used to be a reporter on your paper."

"I don't remember you," replied the chaser for news, figuring to himself whether to brace for an application for a loan or hint for a drink.

Whereupon the mine of information allowed that he was a green hand and had worked only four days, though he did not volunteer any information concerning the reason why he failed to hold his job for a longer period.

When the reporter got back to the office he asked his city editor about the young man he had spoken to, mentioning the young man's name. The city editor thought awhile and then he remembered.

"Oh, yes, I know him," he remarked. "He's the stiff that used to come in every morning and shake hands with me. As soon as he would hit the office he would chase up to me, grab my lunch hook and agitate it up and down, at the same time making solicitous inquiries about the health of myself and my wife. I stood his work for four mornings and then I fired him."

All of which goes to show that it is poor policy for a hired man to get too familiar with his boss.—St. Louis Republic.

HE DARED THE ENGINE.

A Drummer Tells What He Saw in a Railroad Yard.

"One Christmas I was down watching the 'yard geese' or switchmen in the yard at Ottumwa, Ia.," said the drummer to a San Antonio Express man. "The whole crew were celebrating, more or less, and had paid many visits to 'The Road to Hell,' kept by old Stormy Jordan, who bucked the prohibition law so long. A fellow in the crew 'pulling pins,' a tall, lank, blue nose from the eastern limit of Nova Scotia, was always 'chewing the rag' and 'rawhiding' with the 'eagle eye' or engineer on the yard engine. Both were pretty well tanked and got to bluffing each other, and finally the blue nose bet the engineer he could stand in the middle of the track and get on the head end of the engine as fast as she could turn a wheel.

"They put up $25 a side, but that wasn't all the stakes. Failure meant certain death for the switchman and a trial of the engineer for murder.

"They went out into the yard to settle it. There stood the switch engine all 'hot.' The ground was frozen and slippery and the track full of hard-packed and frozen snow to the top of the rail. Up to then we thought they were bluffing, but when they took the engine back a quarter for a start we tried to get the fool off the track, but he was armed with a car pin and stood us off.

"The engine came at full speed, 25 or 30 miles an hour easy; that fellow stood staggering drunk in the center of the track and never moved. When the engine reached him he leaned 'way back, set one foot up on the step and she picked him up like a flash and never even threw him up against the iron hand rail! They went back to the saloon and one more drink apiece put 'em both asleep."

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ATHENA CAMP, NO. 171, Woodmen of the World, meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Visiting Choppers always welcome. G. C. OSBURN, Clerk.

PYTHIAN, NO. 29, MEETS EVERY Thursday Night.

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9:27 p. m.	Spokane, Rossland, St. Paul, Duluth, Chicago and East via Great Northern	2:45 a. m.
11:10 a. m.	Weston, Milton and Walla Walla	3:45 p. m.
3:45 p. m.	Pendleton, Portland and points east and west	11:10 a. m.
8 p. m.	OCEAN STEAMSHIPS All sailing dates subject to change. For San Francisco Sail Aug 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30.	4 p. m.
7 p. m.	To Alaska Sail Aug 8, 28	5 p. m.
8 p. m. Ex. Sunday	COLUMBIA RIVER STEAMERS. To Astoria and waylandings	4 p. m. Ex. Sunday
6 a. m. Ex. Sunday	WILLAMETTE RIVER Oregon City, Newberg, Salem & waylandings.	4:30 p. m. Ex. Sunday
7 a. m. Tues., Thur. and Sat.	WILLAMETTE AND YAMHILL RIVERS Oregon City, Dayton and way-land's	3:30 p. m. Mon., Wed. and Fri.
6 a. m. Tues., Thur. and Sat.	WILLAMETTE RIVER Portland to Corvallis and way-land's	4:30 p. m. Tues., Thur. and Sat.
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