

ATHENA PRESS

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ATHENA, APRIL 24, 1908

Some papers commenting on the possibility of Mr. Reames, the democratic nominee for congress in the first district, being elected over Mr. Hermann, have been estimating the republican majority at from 30 to 4000. The vote cast for secretary of state last June was about a party vote, as nearly so perhaps as any vote, and basing calculations on this it would seem that the republican majority in the 17 counties comprising the first district was then 7484. Mr. Dunbar, the republican nominee, received 15,098. If Mr. Reames overcomes this big majority in a vote of 39,480 he will be a swift runner.

J. P. Morgan and James J. Hill, the promoters of the big railway merger, have doubtless come to the conclusion ere this that they are not the entire "push" in this country. If the decision of the court which recently decided that their transportation combine is unlawful, is sustained by the U. S. supreme court, which will doubtless be the case, it will sound the death knell to railroad mergers and give Messrs Hill-Morgan et. al. to understand that they must go it alone in the railroad world.

The letters from Congressman J. N. Williamson are sufficient to show that persons who file on 160 acres of land on the Butter creek reservation have no assurance that their claims will not be cut down to 80 acres or less. This will not be very good news to some of the people who rushed to the Echo country and were settled upon a beautiful tract of sage brush land by a locator for a \$50 or \$100 fee, observes the Pendleton Tribune.

It seems strange that the Eugene convention should have turned from the bright and blameless young men offered as candidates, to name Mr. Hermann for congress. Mr. Hermann is ever a genial person, and time was when he was a useful congressman. But a stalking ghost follows him now. It points an accusing finger and asks constantly, "Why, Mr. Hermann, did you quit office under the Roosevelt administration?"—Corvallis Times.

One of the chronic kicks of the Eastern Oregon farmer and stock raiser since the first settlement of this section is over high freight rates to tide water. This being the case we fail to see how any one at all interested in the future of this portion of the state can countenance or encourage the attempt to refer the building of the portage railroad at Celilo to the people at a special election.

Washington republicans are not going to be behind time in arranging for the next senatorial contest. Already they have commenced figuring on Senator Foster's successor. His term does not expire until March, 1905, yet the Wilson-Cushman combination is laying plans for controlling the next legislature. This reminds one of the old saying about the "early bird."

According to Said Pasha there is no doubt that Turkey is trying to live up to modern notions regarding the moral responsibilities of nations. At least that is what Said said.

Feathered millinery is a bar between woman and heaven, according to a Boston preacher. She who sighs for "the wings of a dove" should not desire them on her Sunday hat.

Another advance of five per cent in the price of diamonds. This makes an advance of 15 per cent in 6 months. Meanwhile, black ones are quoted lower.

Employees at the state penitentiary and asylum are petitioners for an increase of wages. While they are not paid such munificent salaries as warrant

investments in United States bonds, they have an option—they may quit the job. Few resign, though. It is so easy to have no care as to the morrow.—Eugene Guard.

The dynamite cruiser Vesuvius is to be sold as junk. What predictions there were that she would make the navies of the world look like 30 cents!

It took fifty-seven congresses to enact a law prohibiting the sale of liquor in the capitol. It will take fifty-seven more to enforce it.

The wife of England's chief pawnbroker has just been received at court. You can't keep money down.

JAPANESE COAL.

Absence of revenue on coal imported into the United States has caused the W. H. Gill company, operating extensive coal mines at Moji, Japan, to plan making Portland a base for the distribution of their fuel throughout the American west. W. Harrison Gill, the head of the corporation mentioned above, is negotiating with the Portland & Asiatic Steamship Co. for carriers, and, while an agreement has not been definitely announced, he hopes in a short time to compete with both the products of Pacific Northwest mines and those of Australia, says the Portland Journal.

Cheapness of labor in the Orient, both as regards actual mining operations and stevedoring, will enable the Gill Company to place its product on shipboard at an expense far below the cost of mining in the United States where prices are governed by a union scale. The only question thus far has been one of freight rates and it is believed that this temporary difficulty has been overcome.

Mr. Gill has been in consultation with the officials of the O. R. & N. company and expects to leave shortly for London, where the directors of the Gill Co. reside. He will make the trip to England over the Canadian Pacific and from Halifax and will return again to the Orient by way of the Suez Canal.

He came to America with the express purpose of making a market for the coal from his Japanese mines, the production being in excess of the Oriental demand. Portland is his choice as a distributing point and he hopes to make the port a depot for the Gill Company on this side of the Pacific.

It is known that the O. R. & N. company, which is in reality the Portland & Asiatic Steamship Company, will make Mr. Gill the lowest possible rate, figures having been quoted. Public announcement of these carrying charges have not yet been made, but it is known that the transportation company would be willing to accept coal at a nominal rate to complete cargoes, and it would in this way be possible for Mr. Gill to ship several hundred tons per month into Portland.

This will be undertaken at first only in the nature of a speculation, and in the event it should prove sufficiently remunerative, it may later be enlarged and expanded in various ways.

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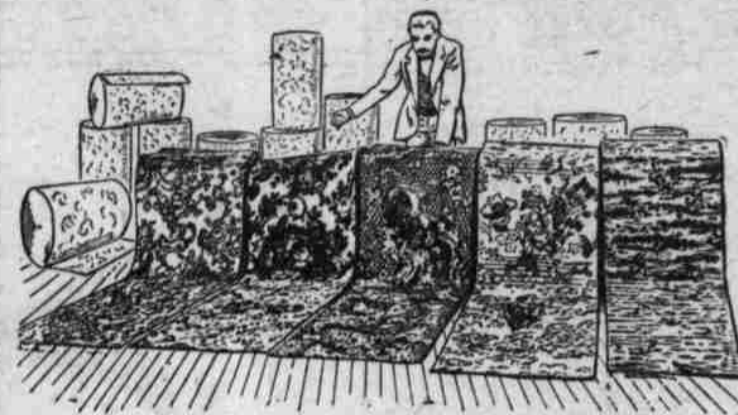
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For advice and literature, address, giving symptoms, to The Ladies' Advisory Department, The Chattanooga Medicine Company, Chattanooga, Tenn.

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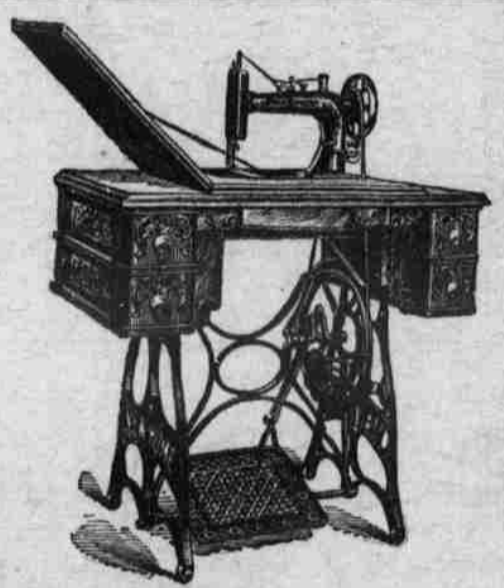
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