

ATHENA PRESS

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ATHENA, MAY 22, 1908

It is not strange perhaps that English editors should have made a mistake in estimating the size of the American republic and the force of its people. The mistake is a very natural one, in view of the fact that the same error has been cherished by the people who live along the Atlantic seaboard. The newspapers of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, but more especially those of the metropolis, have for years labored under the mistaken impression that a line drawn directly south from the center of New York state constituted the western boundary of all the territory of the United States that was great and really influential. This idea has been carried into finance, business, politics and everything else of interest to the American people as a whole. But the people of the east, who are really provincial when it comes to forming a correct estimate of the resources and greatness of the republic, have learned several lessons within the past decade. They have now discovered that the great and growing West is a vital and compelling force in the republic and that it must be admitted to the national councils and heeded when it speaks.

According to the Ellhart (Ind.) Truth, it is reported that the interstate commerce commission is about to investigate the coal trust. That may or may not be true. The investigation will probably not result in much good should it be made. Thus far the interstate commerce commission has proved a failure so far as its efforts to control transportation rates are concerned. The coal trust has been in existence for a number of years, but the commission has never before seen fit to give it notice. The same may be said of many other trusts now engaged in interstate commerce. The Northern Securities decision has given rise to various rumors as to the probability of further trust prosecutions. The latest and most probable is that nothing more will be done to bring action against industrial or railroad combines until after the supreme court has passed upon the merger decision.

One of our greatest protections against war is our isolation from the other powers of the world. Every mile of ocean voyage for a foreign fleet is worth a battleship or two to us. To throw down the bars that protect South America would be to deprive us of a great advantage. It would give European governments a foothold in that country, where coaling stations could be established, and would thus give them a great strategic advantage in the event of war with one or more of them. We must maintain the Monroe doctrine at all hazards.

A medical journal cheerfully announces that "lettuce is an absolute preventive of smallpox." Well, as between salad and vaccination most people will declare for salad every time.

All over the United States the question of good roads for the country district is being agitated. It is of equal benefit to the city property owner as it is to the farmer.

A Walla Walla couple have named a youngster Theodore Roosevelt Henry Clay Paine Brandenburg. He will probably be known by his schoolmates as "Brandy."

China's new minister was accompanied to Washington by forty-two Chinese diplomats and a carload of Oriental rugs.

Only inclement weather will prevent the gathering of the largest crowd of people ever before in Athens on next Tuesday and Wednesday. The occasion being the annual picnic of the Unatilla Caledonian society, every Scot and clan has for weeks been doing all in their

power for the "good of the order" and every effort has been made toward making the big picnic the event of the year. Athens will welcome them all, extend to all a warm hospitality, and the Scots will provide the entertainment. Load up your baskets and come.

President Roosevelt says the Monroe doctrine includes the isthmian canal and all Americans agree with him. But what if France had completed the ditch?

A scheme for the division of Turkey is under discussion. All the powers are objecting to the piece that has the sultan in it.

After the picnic, then a rousing, old-time Fourth of July celebration!

LOVE'S LABOR LOST.

It may be rather trying to the tempers of certain disinterested gentlemen, who from a sense of public duty only, have been industriously circulating petitions for a referendum on certain acts of the last legislature to learn their labor is all in vain. The fact is that not one law passed at the last session of the legislature is subject to the referendum. If they who were acting had given but a modicum of thought to the subject they would have been saved the humiliation of having exposed their cloven foot. If the following facts and principles are understood, there need be no trouble in arriving at a correct conclusion:

First. The referendum amendment as adopted simply declares and defines a right reserved by the people. Amongst other things it reserves to the people the right to have referred to a vote any laws passed by the legislature excepting those relating to the public health or safety, provided petitions for this purpose are filed with the secretary of state within 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

Second. This amendment, no more than the other provision of the constitution respecting the method of amending it, is self-operative. No machinery is provided in the amendment itself to carry out its purposes, and the secretary of state without legislation, would be as helpless as a child to do anything under it.

Third. At the last session of the legislature an act was passed providing the machinery to carry into effect the purposes of the initiative and referendum amendment.

Fourth. All acts excepting those having emergency clauses go into effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

Fifth. It therefore follows that no petition can be filed or be effective until the law prescribing the method and manner of operating under the amendment is a law. It was a law on May 21, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature, and the 90 days having thus expired within which, under the referendum amendment, petitions can be filed, they are now too late, and every law passed by the legislature, unless there be constitutional objections to them, will stand. We go further and maintain that the secretary of state has no authority to even file petitions. He cannot receive and file them now for there is no law in effect giving him authority so to do.

When the law becomes effective, it is then too late, for the 90 days will have expired.

The editor of the Journal is not a lawyer, but he will venture to predict that the secretary of state will not file a petition until he has the opinion of the attorney-general on the question, and that the attorney general will endorse those sad, sad words, "too late," on certain papers now being circulated "up the valley."—Oregon Daily Journal.



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Mrs. J. W. C. SMITH.

Jim Dumps gazed out on sidewalks hot And looked in vain for one cool spot; And vowed he ne'er again would eat A lunch of heat-producing meat. Once more has "Force" restored his vim, Although 'tis hot, he's "Sunny Jim."

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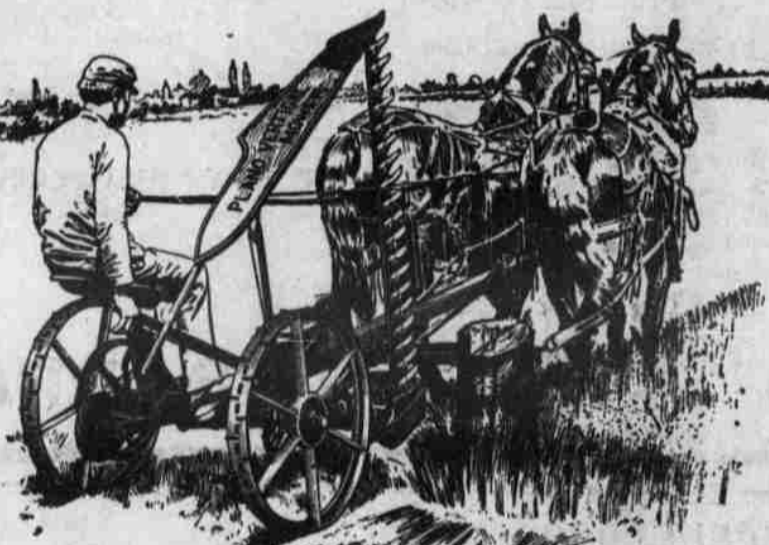
"Force" is a blessing to hot humanity. I find since eating it—and I want it every morning—that I am able to go through a hot day with much more comfort than when I used to eat hearty meat breakfasts. It has taught me how to live.

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