

ATHENA PRESS

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ATHENA, JULY 8, 1904

Now that the government has obtained possession of the Isthmus of Panama, the transportation monopoly so long enjoyed by the Pacific Mail Steamship company will come to an end, says the Oregonian. San Francisco commercial interests are properly making vigorous protest against the proposition to grant the big company exclusive privileges for another ten years. The isthmus property was acquired by the government for the purpose of improving transportation facilities between the two oceans. The proposed method for improving these facilities, as every one knows, was by the construction of a canal, thus enabling cargo to be carried from Atlantic and European ports to Pacific ports without breaking bulk or being carried many thousands of miles farther south to round the Horn. This canal cannot be completed for many years, but, in order that the shippers of both coasts can secure some of the advantages of the short route to the Pacific, the land route across the isthmus could be made immediately available to all comers. The money with which the government purchased the isthmus property was not supplied by the Pacific Mail, but by the people as a whole, and accordingly whatever benefits may result from the government ownership of that highway must rightfully accrue to the people. It is a well known fact that the Pacific Mail is owned and controlled by the same persons who own and control two of our greatest transcontinental lines. This fact alone makes it impossible for the isthmian highway to fill its proper sphere as a freight regulator so long as it is at the mercy of corporations who do not wish to have freights regulated.

A lesson in the school of experience may not always be expensive, but it will retain its value of practicability nevertheless. As an instance, Athena's 4th of July celebration may be cited. It is doubtful if the town will ever again be caught in the trap of a two-day celebration, with amusements and attractions that to the satisfaction of people in attendance could be conveniently exhibited in one day. The different committees did exceedingly well, considering what they had with which to make ends meet, and no word of criticism can be uttered against them. It is safe to predict that Athena has had her first and last two-day Fourth of July celebration.

The latest educational authority advises parents to "kneel down and pray" before walloping their children. Out this way they generally reach up for a fresh hold on the subject under discussion.

If the clergymen of the different denominations keep on agreeing not to marry divorced persons, the justices of the peace will all be buying automobiles and living in brownstone fronts.

Of course the university of New York, which is going to confer the degree of master of letters on Mrs. Russell Sage at the commencement exercises, isn't kidding.

Joseph Chamberlain foretells a time when "America will have to import its foodstuffs." Evidently Mr. Chamberlain doesn't take any stock in the race suicide boggy.

An eastern millionaire has cinched the domestic situation by marrying his cook.

Singular enough, the more light you get on Mormonism the darker it looks.

The Press, published twice-a-week gives you the local news. \$2 per year.

BLIND AND NO PULPIT.

Yet Crowds Swarm About This Chicago Preacher Who Holds Forth on the Street Corner.

G. S. Willis is a preacher without a pulpit and not a syllable of a sermon but the word of God as found in the New Testament. Yet every pleasant day in spring, summer and autumn he preaches to a larger congregation than any other minister in Chicago, reports the Tribune.

A most pathetic figure is this blind man, who for five years has stood at Wightwood and Lincoln avenues from four to six o'clock and recited the Scriptures to thousands of people homeward bound. It is the transfer corner for all the Lincoln avenue, Bowmanville, Robey, Ashland avenue and Sharpshooters' park cars, and the evening crush is terrific.

But above the clamor of the crowd, the rattle of wagons, the rush and clang of the electric cars, rises the vibrant voice of the blind man repeating the solemn words of Jesus Christ and His apostles. It is strangely impressive and never a gibber nor jerks disturbs the speaker. Tired faces soften, gay voices are hushed, tender memories are stirred, little children gather in groups to listen to the old, old story. The cars come, the crowd rushes pell-mell, an eager, pushing, hurrying throng, tired, hungry and anxious to get home.

The preacher and preachment are momentarily forgotten, but they hear him every night, year after year, and the constant iteration must have its influence upon their lives.

Six years ago he was stricken with the most terrible form of blindness, double cataract, and since then he has known no distinction between day and night. He was unfitted for work, and, like many another blind man, was forced into selling pencils for a living. For a year he stood on the corner, dumb as well as blind. It was horribly monotonous, but one day he had a sudden inspiration. A multitude daily passed within the sound of his voice, why not repeat passages of Scriptures, for there must be many a man and woman who had scant time for sacred things.

He knew hundreds of verses, he learned hundreds more—committed whole chapters to memory, until now he practically knows the entire New Testament. Unfortunately, he is extremely susceptible to a chill, a cold being the active cause of his blindness.

So in cold and stormy weather he is a prisoner at home, 43 Florence street, and even on the hottest days he wears heavy wooden pads strapped to his thick-soled shoes. He spends the winter months memorizing and in summer the public gets the benefit of his hard study. An unfortunate feature of his disease is an uncontrollable drowsiness which the doctors say must be humored. He has battled against it without avail, and has now succumbed to the inevitable and sleeps for hours before it is time to begin his self-appointed task.

Mr. Willis is a slender man with a frail physique and a delicate, nervous temperament, and the strain of speaking a couple of hours a day against the noise of this busy corner taxes him sorely. But he is happy and contented and sees nothing extraordinary in devoting his life to this unique open-air service.

FOR COMBATING FLAMES.

Novel Devices for Fire-Fighting Are Being Tested by German Officials.

There have been so many recently applied inventions for combating fire that one might think the limit of ingenuity had been reached. But the German people inclined to invention do not seem to be satisfied, says a London paper. Many of the German methods were illustrated in the exhibits of the fire department of the leading German cities at the municipal exposition in Dresden. Here, in addition to improvements on familiar contrivances, a number of new devices are shown. The city of Hanover exhibits a model of its new automobile fire train, consisting of an engine, fireman's wagon and an ambulance. The steam that propels the engine drives the pump when the engine stops. By a pressure of 150 pounds it furnishes 550 gallons of water per minute. Beside the automobile train is shown a new mechanical tower, or revolving ladder.

By compressed air four long tubes put together telescopically are driven out and with them the four ladders attached to the heads of the tubes. Under efficient management the whole ladder is ready for use in 20 seconds and the pressure is sufficient to lift a man with all his equipment to the top. After it is lifted the entire ladder and its working force can be revolved without turning the truck. It can, in emergency, be handled by two men, while for all other mechanical towers shown four are required.

Leipzig shows a model of a fireman equipped with an apparatus for protecting him from smoke and providing him with oxygen. Kiel shows another model of a fireproof outfit provided with a tube for breathing.

The Leipzig fireman carries compressed air with him in a steel receptacle fastened to his back and conducted to his mouth through a tube. The breath exhaled goes into a drum, where it is purified by a chemical process and returned to the receptacle.

Strongest Animal Forces.
The stroke of a lion's paw is the third strongest force in the animal world. The first is the blow of a whale's tail; the second the kick of a giraffe.

To Cure Constipation Forever.
Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic, 10c or 25c. If C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

Night Was Her Terror.

"I would cough nearly all night long" writes Mrs. Chas. Applegate, of Alexandria, Ind., "and could hardly get any sleep. I had consumption so bad that if I would walk a block I would cough frightfully and spit blood, but, when all other medicine failed, three \$1 bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery cured me and I gained 58 pounds." It's absolutely guaranteed to cure coughs, colds, la grippe, bronchitis and all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c and \$1. Trial bottle free at Palace drug store.

That Throbbing Headache

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A Bunch of July Bargains

Just to remind you that "It pays to trade on Alder Street" and at the Davis-Kaser Store. These prices are good for all July, but for July only.

Six-foot Extension Table, \$4.48. 41-inch top, neat turned legs, good hardwood slides, table of fir, finished golden.	50 styles Pocket Knives 50 cents. There are wood, ivory, pearl and bone handles for men, ladies or boys. The lot includes values up to \$1.25. July only, choice 50c.
42-piece Dinner Set, \$4.25 Full size pieces of good American semiporcelain tastefully decorated with wild pansies and gold edges. Service for six persons.	Extension Rod Sets 13c. Brass extension rods, 5/8 in. in diameter, adjustable any length, from 27 to 52 in., complete with brass wire brackets and artistic knobs for ends. July price 13c.
1847 Rogers Teaspoons 95c. Genuine 1847 Rogers Bros., extra plate, satin finish, shell pattern only. Set of six, 95c.	No. 1 Favorite Broom 25c. Made full and heavy of extra select fine corn 15 in. long, well sewed (four bands) and with selected handles. July price 25c.
Wood Seat Chairs 50c. Solid wood seat chairs, low back, four spindles in back, neatly finished, for July only, 50c.	White Breakfast Plates 45c Regulation size plates in good weight goods, set of six for July, 45c.
Fine Mixed Blanket \$1.90 Size 60x78 in., weighing 4 1/2 lbs., in pretty gray with handsome blue borders—has been pronounced big value at \$3.50. July price \$1.90.	Good Steel Shovel 50c. Solid steel round point shovel, long handle. July price 50c.
Jelly Glasses, per doz. 28c. Neat pattern jelly glasses with tin covers, 1/2 pint size, per doz, for July, 28 cents.	Brussels Carpet Rugs 85c. Some are drummers samples, some are rug lengths cut from remnants; all have either bound or fringed ends and are from 1 to 1 1/2 yards long. Choice for July only 85c.
No 8 Granite Tea Kettle 75c First quality gray enameled ware, flat bottom, holds 7 quarts; special July price 75c.	Mahogany Finished Stand. 88 cents Full height maple stand in rich mahogany finish, top 15x15 in., shelf 10x10 in., price for July only, 88c.
Table Oil Cloth, the yd. 23c Either white, marble or fancy patterns in strictly first quality goods, 45 in. wide, from one of the best makers the yard, July only, 23c.	4-piece Glass Set 30c. Cream pitcher, spoon holder, covered sugar bowl and butter dish, in good size, imitation cut glass, for July only, per set 30c.

"GOLD CLUB" NEWS.

The drawing took place July 4th and resulted as follows: No. 10, 010436, \$10.00; No. 15, 066873, \$15; No. 25, 00923, \$25; No. 50, 012262, \$50; No. 100, 019762, \$100. Holders of winning tickets have until Aug. 3 to present them.

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