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ATHENA, FEBRUARY 7, 1905

There has been a bill before the legislature making the crime of robbery punishable by life imprisonment. It should become a law. Chicago is receiving some criticism because of her rigorous treatment of robbers. The statute making highway robbery punishable by life imprisonment has been resurrected and in one week nine holdup men were sent over the road for life. All right! It is humane and just to talk about reforming criminals. Every man who errs and is sorry, and wants to do better should be given as much opportunity for reformation as the welfare of society can stand. But the man who makes an assault for the purpose of gain is at heart a detestable murderer. He isn't an ordinary thug. He is prepared to slay. Human life is sacred. It is a fact pretty well grounded into the brain of every human being. The man who waits in the dark armed with a bludgeon and a revolver, keyed to the point where he will kill in order to gain your personal property, is a premeditated murderer. He knows what he is doing and what he proposes to do. That kind of a man is an enemy of society. Decency forbids electrocuting him unless he has taken life, and so wisdom demands that he disappear, not for a few months or a few years, but until he shall emerge from behind the dark walls of a prison in his coffin. Reform him in his cell if you will. Treat him humanely and kindly. But keep him where he never again will be tempted to raise his murderous hands against his kind. A look at the criminal statistics of this country and perusal of the thousands of criminal tragedies reported in the newspapers prove that the terror of the law does not appeal to those who do wrong with the force it should.

The Press man is not surprised at the turn taken by Col. Wood. For some little time we have been trying to smother a persistent idea that something was rattling around in the Colonel's thinktank, and it develops that we are correct in our surmise. The Colonel is harboring a rock crusher—not in his stomach—but in his mind. The distorted lump of gray matter stored by nature—not in his stomach—but in his cranium, has conceived a diabolical plot that centers on the destruction of the Press man by mechanical means. He has "edged up" a scheme to demolish us, that for appalling misery and horror, would place on a bed of comfortable and painless ease the terrible throes of the Spanish inquisition, or the unpublished feats of a starving horde of Cannibals, the chief of which the colonel is said to have associated with on the St. Louis "Pike." He proposes to feed us to his ingeniously devised rock crusher, and use our mutilated remains to pave the street in front of the Leader junk shop. The Press man always did harbor a chain of notions that the only method the Colonel could employ to keep up with our company would be to resort to a gattling gun or some such

mechanical device of destruction. Even our bids will go further than his. His miserable carcass wouldn't so much as fertilize a hill of potatoes on his relinquished Franklin county ranch.

The Weston Leader-Athena Press burlesque newspaper war stands out as a mild incident of punctured atmosphere when compared with the hornet's nest that has been stirred up between the editors of the Pilot Rock Record and the Sumpter Miner. Away back in the '80's McManus of the Record and Connella, of the Miner were unfortunate enough to cross trails in the Black Hills. They are still at sword points, and after the lapse of years, are darting shafts at each other that are dipped in the poison of satire and polished with the rankling essence of sarcasm. Holy ginger! Just imagine that for years the journalistic brethren of this country have harbored in their midst in the person of the meek and effeminate McManus, a riproaring, bloodstained stage robber, that in early day was a fearless terror to the Pierre and Sundance stage line. At least he is so charged by Col. Connella, and will stand enmeshed in a cloud of doubtful character until his side of the case is explained.

Judging from the sentiment of the large number of citizens who participated in the nomination of candidates for city officials, the past year's municipal government affairs have been transacted in a satisfactory manner. The mayor, four of the present city councilmen, the treasurer and city recorder have been renominated. The past year in Athena was marked with substantial progress, municipally speaking, and the present year is to see this progress carried on. The Press believes the men who have had to do with the inauguration of contemplated municipal enterprise are qualified to carry it to a successful termination, and for this reason it is satisfied with the men chosen for councilmen, from the very fact that in the council is vested the responsibility of carrying on the work successfully.

It makes no difference how many medicines have failed to cure you, if you are troubled with headache, constipation, kidney or liver troubles, Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will make you well. Pioneer drug store.

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

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"I don't think we could keep house without Theford's Black-Draught. We have used it in the family for over two years with the best of results. I have not had a doctor in the house for that length of time. It is a doctor in itself and always ready to make a person well and happy."—JAMES HALL, Jacksonville, Ill.

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This year's sale exceeded all previous sales by a large margin and our stock is now reduced to a minimum, but our new spring stocks will soon be here, in fact most of them are now on the way. We obtained the object of the sale, to reduce our stock, and will fill in again with the best and most desirable goods on the market. With the addition to our store which is now under construction we will have the most complete stock of house furnishings in this part of the country. We believe, in fact we know, that this year will be the greatest we have ever had. We have made all plans accordingly. Bought more goods and better goods than ever before, and our prices are going to be as low as is consistent with conservative merchandising. The same policy that has made the Davis-Kaser store what it is today will be continued. One price to all and satisfaction guaranteed. Let us see if we can't get better acquainted this year.

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