

# The Athena Press

SEMI-WEEKLY

VOLUME XVII.

ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1905.

NUMBER 50.

ED. MANASSE

## Sweeping Reductions

In all

## Departments

to Make Room for Fall Goods.

ED. MANASSE

Agent for Butterick's Patterns.



The "GARLAND" Trade Mark represents the name of Quality, Finish, Durability, Convenience

Call and See Our  
Lawn Mowers  
Garden Hose  
Screen Doors  
Hardware  
and  
Plumbing  
Supplies

COX & M'EWEN

SOUTH SIDE MAIN STREET, ATHENA, OREGON

## WAS KILLED BY GAS

### RANCHER LOWERED INTO WELL NEAR MILTON.

#### J. Lower Is Asphyxiated By Fumes While He Was Ninty Feet Below the Surface.

J. Lower, a rancher who lived about twelve miles northeast of Milton, was killed by gases from a well shortly before noon Saturday.

Lower, who was a man about 65 years of age, was watching well diggers who were at work upon the home stead of George S. Stephens. The men had dug about ninety feet and when they came up to go to dinner the old man wanted them to let him go down into the well. The well diggers remonstrated with him but when he insisted they allowed him to descend.

After staying at the bottom of the well for a short time Lower called to the men to pull him up. This the men started to do and raised him about six feet from the bottom of the well, when suddenly without a cry he dropped from the bucket, and when brought to the top by one of the men who went down after him was found to be dead.

It is supposed that he was overcome by gases in the well and was unable to hold on to the rope by which the bucket was suspended.

Coroner Henderson was notified by telephone shortly after noon, but when the facts in the case were explained to him he decided that it would be unnecessary to hold an inquest.

Lower leaves a wife and several grown children, most of whom are residing on the ranch northeast of Milton. Little is known of him there, as he had lived in that vicinity but a short time.

#### A Bad Scare.

Some day you will get a bad scare, when you feel a pain in your bowels, and fear appendicitis. Safety lies in Dr King's New Life Pills, a sure cure for all bowel and stomach diseases, such as headache, biliousness, costiveness, etc. Guaranteed at McBride's drug store, only 25c. Try them.

#### No Secret About It.

It is no secret, that for cuts, burns, ulcers, fever sores, sore eyes, boils, etc., nothing is so effective as Bucklen's Arnica Salve. "It didn't take long to cure a bad sore I had and it is all O. K. for sore eyes," writes D. L. Gregory, Hope, Tex. 25c at McBride's drug store.

## NORMAL WILL CLOSE

### In Accordance With Order to Be Issued By Board of Regents Tonight.

Pendleton, July 18.—At a meeting of the regents of Weston Normal school which will be held in this city tomorrow night, an order will be issued to close the school and a custodian will then be appointed to have charge of the property. This has been decided upon in advance of the meeting by the members of the board of regents as it became evident that the people who have given notes for the support of the school did so under a misunderstanding, and it will be impossible for the regents to secure funds with which to keep the school open.

The notes given were signed as a mere matter of collateral or backing for the regents, in securing funds, with the understanding that they were

never to be paid. It now becomes necessary for the regents to place these notes in the bank, and draw upon them immediately, thus making them payable to the banks, should the referendum vote out on the appropriation for the normals and a number of the signers of the notes have objected to this, so the only thing to do is to close the school according to the regents' best judgment.

It is to be regretted that the school is to be closed as it is now at the beginning of the most promising year. A class of over 30 would have been graduated next year and applications from students in every county in eastern Oregon have been received by President French, who is working very zealously for the school.

## RATES ON THE PORTAGE

### Commission is Soon to Meet to Adjust and Fix Freight Charges.

Salem, July 17.—Since the harvest of the fall grain is on in Eastern Oregon and Idaho it will soon be necessary for the state portage board to hold a meeting and decide upon a schedule of freight rates to be in effect upon the road affecting the various points along the line from Lewiston to Portland.

Hitherto it has been unnecessary to establish a schedule, because no freight was moved or was likely to move for several weeks, but now the time is approaching when the grain will begin to move and the board will find it incumbent to take action in the matter.

It is questionable if a meeting will be held until Governor Chamberlain returns from the east, which will not be until the 23rd of this month. The O. R. & N. Company's tariff rate now in effect between Lewiston and Portland is 19 1/2 cents per 100 pounds,

practically \$4 per ton. It has been estimated that, if the portage road should establish a rate of \$3 per ton upon freight between these two points there would be a considerable amount of profit in it and would still be much more reasonable rate for the farmers and shippers of grain.

On the other hand there is a likelihood of the O. R. & N. Co. readjusting its present schedule to compete with the latter, it is thought, might operate to precipitate a rate war between the competing lines for the business.

The two members of the board here, Secretary of State Dunbar and State Treasurer Moore, are undecided as to when the rate schedule meeting will be held, but quite probably the latter part of the month. If the \$3 per ton rate is established, a proportionate rate will be arranged for the other stations along the route.

## Smith May Be the Deputy

C. P. Davis, chief deputy in the sheriff's office has been removed by Sheriff Taylor. Sheriff Taylor was in Athena yesterday. He refused to make any statement further than that Davis had been removed and that the experts would not be prepared to report for some days yet. It is an admitted fact that Davis has retained

attorneys to defend him in case action is brought against him. J. W. Smith of this city will probably succeed to the office of chief deputy. Mr. Smith is competent in every way for the position, and it is known that his appointment by Sheriff Taylor would be eminently satisfactory to that official's bondsmen.

## The Senator Called Down

Washington, July 17.—The inquiry of Mr. Richards, commissioner of the general land office, sent out recently to Mormon church authorities in Utah as to what they meant by advertising that through "land office connections," they would be in a position to greatly assist their brethren in securing choice selections of land in the Uintah reservation opening, was answered in a letter received today, signed jointly by Senator Smoot and Senator Sutherland of Utah. The letter is dated Salt Lake City, July 8. The Senators had noticed the advertisement and hastened to assure the land office that no attempt would be made by anyone to gain advantage in the distribution of the lands.

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## Peebles Elected at Salem

Salem, July 17.—At the meeting of the school board last night, Prof. G. A. Peebles of the Weston Normal School, was elected principal of the North school, Mr. Goode having resigned to accept a school at Mt. Tabor. Prof. Peebles years ago taught the North school and was afterward city

superintendent of schools. He has also been county superintendent of schools and was at one time city superintendent of schools at McMinnville. During the last five years he has been with the Eastern Oregon State Normal, occupying the chair of mathematics for two years and of English literature for three years.

## Bluejackets Are Mangled

Tacoma, July 17.—A special dispatch to the Ledger from Port Angeles says:

At 10:30 tonight, word was received here that United States Lightship No. 57 is being towed up the straits in a helpless condition with several scald-

ed men aboard as the result of a boiler explosion.

She was taken from anchorage off Flattery Rocks where she was turned over to the tug Pioneer, which is now coming up the straits with the disabled vessel as fast as steam can bring her.

## LIGHT IS TURNED ON

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENEY MAKES REVELATIONS.

#### Evidence Excluded From Present Trial Tends To Foreshadow Blue Mountain Fraud.

Like a flash of a searchlight came developments in the trial of Williamson and his co-defendants in the federal court, which indicate the extent of the land frauds in Oregon and the intimate connection between the revelations already made and those which are to come, says the Portland Journal. Cross examination of the defendants in the pending trial by the prosecuting attorney, F. J. Heney, gave unmistakable suggestion that the government is in possession of evidence indicating that the Crook county timber deals of Congressman Williamson and his partner Dr. Van Gesner, were but a small part of their land operations and that both of them were interested in the school land speculations within the Blue Mountain reserve.

The first definite knowledge of the definite scope of the frauds by which timber and land speculators have stolen immense areas of public land in Oregon was afforded by the investigation of the federal grand juries which have held sessions in Portland within the past year. This knowledge was supplemented by the grand jury of Marion county which concluded its work about two months ago and which brought in several indictments of frauds in connection with the state school lands.

From the evidence that has been made public it appears that in 1902, while Binger Hermann was commissioner of the general land office, a number of land speculators gained advance information in regard to the withdrawal of lands embraced within the proposed Blue Mountain reserve. This information was supposed to be a rigidly guarded secret of the land department. The news that the reserve was to be created was not made public until July 28, 1902, but a day or two before that date many thousands of acres of school lands lying within the boundaries of the proposed reserve were suddenly taken up by speculators under circumstances strongly suggesting that they had received a secret tip as to the withdrawal of the land.

Evidence has been secured by the Marion county grand jury that a lawyer named Boggs, who was in the office of United States Commissioner Briggs at Prineville, was instrumental in making many of these purchases of school lands within the reserve and it is the theory of the government officials that he was the secret agent of Williamson and Gesner.

Questions asked of Dr. Van Gesner and Marion R. Biggs, co-defendants with Congressman Williamson in the pending trial in the federal court, showed plainly that it is the belief of the prosecution that Boggs was the agent of Williamson and Gesner in securing school lands. Mr. Heney, the prosecuting attorney, was anxious to make inquiries along this line but objections by the defense were sustained by the court. Gesner was asked whether Boggs was not taking up school lands for the firm of Williamson & Gesner, but he denied that such was the case. He admitted, however, that Boggs was interested in school land operations in the summer of 1902. The information which is being gathered by the government as the land fraud prosecutions progress is likely to be of great importance when other defendants are placed on trial.

#### To Aid Investigation.

Pendleton, July 18.—J. J. McKoin, superintendent of the Indian agency, last evening stated that the investigation, being conducted on the reservation by the government officials, would not be completed for several days and until that time nothing definite would be ready for publication. The charges against C. M. Robinson are said to be far reaching and until the matter is finally acted upon by the government officials, Robinson will be out of office as clerk at the agency.

A. Tinker has joined Inspector Valentine in the work of clearing up the situation. Mr. Tinker was sent here by Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock and has been gathering information with Mr. Valentine for the past three days or more.

#### New Warehouse.

The Preston-Parton Milling Co. is making preparations to build a large wheat warehouse. The old warehouse is being moved to make room for the new one.

No-To-Bac For Fifty Cents. Guaranteed tobacco habit cure, makes weak men strong. Blood pure. 50c. All drug stores.

## C. A. BARRETT & COMP'Y

INCORPORATED.

## .. DEERING MACHINERY ..

Mowers, Rakes, Binders, Deering Binding Twine; Machine Extras of all kinds. . . .

Hardware Stock is Complete.

## THERE ARE TIMES

When all that is good in Groceries and Staple Provisions fail to appeal to you as appetizers. THAT TIME IS HERE, for the season of

Fruits And Vegetables

is at its zenith. Our FRUITS AND VEGETABLES COME DIRECT FROM THE RANCH and therefore are fresh and palatable.

DELL BROTHERS

CATERERS TO THE PUBLIC IN GOOD THINGS TO EAT

Athena, Oregon.