

The Athena Press.

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

TWICE-A-WEEK — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
F. B. BOYD, PUBLISHER

Entered as second-class matter, March 1, 1901, at the postoffice at Athena, Oregon, under an Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates:
Per year, in advance \$2.00
Single copies in wrappers, 5c.

Advertising Rates:
Local reading notices, first insertion, 10c per line. Each subsequent insertion, 5c.

All communications should be addressed to the PRESS Athena, Oregon

ATHENA, OCTOBER 24, 1905

The war in the Far East has left Japan with a debt of \$1,350,000,000. The interest on this sum will approach \$75,000,000 annually, an outlay that represents a per capita tax throughout the empire of \$6 a year as against \$2 before the war. The per capita share of the national debt before the war was \$6; it is now \$25. The government is facing these facts boldly, and urges the necessity upon the business men of redoubling their energies, looking to increased developments in public works of all kinds, that the nation may secure victories in peace as well as in war, says the Review. It will be seen that Japan sorely needed the indemnity, or a large part of it, that her peace envoys demanded, but it is equally apparent that she was in no condition, financially speaking, to continue the war in support of the demand. The wisdom of the "elder statesmen" in conceding this point and others necessary to a conclusion of peace is already apparent. Japan did well to make peace on as favorable terms as she did while yet her credit was good and her people were clamorous for war instead of peace.

The cold wave which we have been experiencing during the past week seems to have been general throughout Eastern Oregon. Old settlers of Grant county say it is the coldest weather ever known during the month of October, in some localities the thermometer running down to three degrees above zero. It is thought that much damage has been done to fruit in the John Day valley, as it is reported that fully one half the fruit is still on the trees. The heavy frosts in this vicinity have done but little if any damage, as there is but little fruit left on the trees, and no reports have yet been received as to damage to potatoes or other vegetables.

An effort is being made by the officials of Boise City to abolish cigarette smoking among boys of that city. An ordinance has been passed prohibiting the use or possession of cigarettes, or of any and all materials that compose them, by persons under 21 years of age. A fine of \$20 or imprisonment for five days, or both, is the penalty for the violation of this ordinance. The result of this law should and no doubt will be watched closely by parents and teachers in this vicinity.

A recent census of the homeless poor of London, taken at night, showed that 1,969 men and 312 women were in the streets or on staircases. In the

common lodging houses and shelters that night were 23,690 persons, of whom 21,254 were single men, 1,688 single women, 357 married couples, and 34 children under 10 years of age.

"It is deplorable," says an exchange "to see an aged and long honored statesman like Senator Mitchell convicted of corruption." Not at all. It is deplorable that he should be guilty of corrupting, but convicting of corrupt statesmen should never be deplored.

George Gould declares that the future looks bright. George probably has his coal in the shed paid for.

WIND AND WAVE AID COAST PORTS.

(Portland Journal.)
The prospective growth of commerce between Pacific coast ports and the rapidly opening markets of the orient is the subject of an article prepared by O. P. Austin, chief of the bureau of statistics, which was regarded as of so much importance by the Japanese government that it has been translated into the Japanese language and circulated in that country as well as this as a public document.

Mr. Austin summarizes the results of observations and experiments by British and American naval officers as to Pacific winds and currents, which in his opinion make it inevitable that the trade with eastern Asia will be carried on almost exclusively by the Pacific ports of the United States. "Nature," he says, "has given to the United States marked advantages regarding the movement of vessels between her western shores and the eastern coast of Asia, where the trade of the orient must always center."

The equatorial current, Mr. Austin points out, begins its western movement at the very point where an Isthmian canal would enter the Pacific, and moves steadily westward to the vicinity of the Philippines; then turning northwest along the coast of China, and Japan it is deflected to the east, and flows across the Pacific to the north Pacific American coast; then turns south and moves along our coast to its starting point, thus completing a circuit. The air currents, while their exact location is somewhat affected by the change of seasons, follow practically the same lines and are equally reliable.

The rate of speed at which this great ocean current ceaselessly flows in its monster ellipse is about one mile an hour, though the movement of the air current is, of course, much more rapid.

"These facts," Mr. Austin says, "justify me in the assertion that this steady, permanent flow of air and water, a flow which will never cease so long as the earth revolves toward the east and the great bodies of land and water retain their present relative position—must always give to the North American continent a marked advantage in the commerce of the Pacific."

"Its vessels from the eastern coast, entering the Pacific at the isthmus, will move westward, aided by the air and water currents, past our Hawaiian islands, Wake island and Guam to the Philippines; thence northward to those two great trade centers, Shanghai and Yokohama, and thence, still following these currents, will move to the east, along that shortest route known as the 'great circle' in the north Pacific, touch at our western ports for transshipment of freights for the east, and then, still following the ocean current down our Pacific coast will reach the entrance to the Isthmian canal, having been aided by favoring currents of air and water in the entire circle tour of 18,000 miles.

"The feasibility of this plan is found in the fact that, while the actual sailing distance from the western end of the proposed isthmian canal to Manila via Hawaii and Guam is 9,500 miles, the return trip from Manila via Shanghai, Yokohama and San Francisco to the canal is but 10,000 miles, with the advantage of favoring wind and current in prac-

tically every mile of the entire distance."

Upon this theory it would seem that the commerce originating on our coast canal would be comparatively small, and passing through the isthmian for transcontinental railroads would bring the exports to Pacific coast ports, and would have to do so in competition with the canal. But the canal would be long in building and by the time the prestige of Pacific coast ports will be fully established and acknowledged. Even the winds and the waves work for them.

THE PASSING OF IRVING.

(Rev. Andreas Bard, in Union.)
The curtain has dropped on the final act, the last mask has been laid aside and Sir Henry Irving sees no longer through a glass darkly but face to face. It was significant that the great actor had just finished the parting words of Thomas A. Beckett: "Into Thy hands, oh, God; through night to night; into Thy hands," when the shadow of eternity lowered upon his noble heart and summoned him to the choir invisible.

The stage has perhaps never produced an exponent of drama superior to the deceased. Irving did not raise the rafters of heaven with theatrical rant, he did not saw the air or split the ears of the groundling with catching exaggerations. He did not possess the emotional intensity of a Booth or the grace of a Mansfield or the magnetism of a Garrick. The writer once had the privilege to witness his rendering of Charles I. in Philadelphia and only by referring to the above criticism he could account for the comparatively small audience that greeted the classical actor. The multitude preferred Hackett who was playing on the same evening "Don Cesar's Return." In Charles I. Irving's peculiar ability stands out clear and distinct. To the student of history who recognizes in the English monarch one of the most unfathomable personalities the world has ever known Irving illustrated by splendid and dignified acting the blending in this character of the saint and the weakling, the mighty and the mean. Every trace of "making a hit" with the crowd was eliminated, the tendency being to educate rather than to please. An atmosphere of high idealism pervaded stage and auditorium during the entire performance and the long-dreamed-of co-operation of stage and pulpit seemed to have come to pass.

Some more actors like Irving would greatly aid in the elevation of theatrical standards and Ellen Terry's suggestion to erect for the deceased a temple where the histrionic art might be consecrated to its high calling would materialize his grand ideals.

CHAIN GANG EMPLOYMENT

(Spokesman-Review.)
The decision in the "Georgia chain gang case" by the United States supreme court will be read with considerable interest by those towns and counties in eastern Washington where it has been customary to put tramps and minor offenders to work upon the streets and roadways. Quite an agitation was created recently at one point owing to the action of the county commissioners in discontinuing the practice.

The supreme court upholds the Georgia state law authorizing the recorder of a city to sentence violators of city ordinances to labor on the public works. Harry Jamison, who was sentenced to such work, took his case to the United States district court and the judge released him on the ground that the "punishment was infamous and contrary to the constitution of the United States." The case was then taken to the supreme court, which reversed the Georgia court.

The circumstances of this particular case may have seemed sufficient to Judge Speer to justify his denunciation of the punishment, but the Spokesman-Review cannot see that it is "infamous" to make some classes of offenders labor on public works. The average tramp or hobo, for instance, not being ashamed to beg in public, and steal when he can not get food by begging, has no right to consider himself subject to infamous treatment when he is made to work in public. To work is not any more humiliating than to beg.

Reasonable objection can, of course, be taken to the chain gang system if carried to an extent where it is applied to persons of ordinary good character who have been convicted of the violation of a local ordinance, but the judge would have a very perverted idea of the intent of the law who would sentence such a one to public labor.

By its decision the United States supreme court reversed the decision of Judge Speer of the district court for the southern district of Georgia, and sustained the sentence imposed by the recorder's court.

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Finding health is like finding money—so think those who are sick. When you have a cough, cold, sore throat, or chest irritation, better act promptly like W. C. Barber, of Sandy Level, Va. He says: "I had a terrible chest trouble, caused by smoke and coal dust on my lungs; but, after finding no relief in other remedies, I was cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, coughs and colds." Greatest sale of any cough or lung medicine in the world. At McBride's drug store: 50c and \$1; guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

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