

# The Athena Press.

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ATHENA, APRIL 6, 1906

There appears to be grave need of a complete overhauling of our national laws covering the disposal of the lands which belong to the whole people. Setting altogether aside the criminal and quasi-criminal land operations which under Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock's present investigations and prosecutions have already resulted disastrous to some of those implicated, a glance at conditions revealed in publicly reported facts and figures indicates the necessity for amending the laws. The people are all equally owners of these lands and it is to their interest that when they pass out of public ownership it shall be, primarily, for the purpose of being devoted to the making of homes and adding to the productive power of the nation. It is a commonplace truth that we have been too much in the habit of regarding the public stock of lands as inexhaustible. It is beginning to appear that the end is within sight.

The report submitted to congress a day or two ago by Mr. Pierce, assistant secretary of state, in regard to the wrongdoings of a number of prominent American consuls, presents a picture of the consular service that is decidedly unpleasant to the citizens of this country. It shows more than any amount of verbal argument the necessity of thoroughly reforming the service and of keeping a very watchful eye upon it. The United States suffers in the estimation of foreigners by the misdeeds of its representatives.

Mormons from Utah are establishing a great colony in Chihuahua, Mexico, where they can practice their belief without interference from the government. As any sect may practice its belief in the United States without governmental interference, so long as the laws of the land are not violated, the inference is that these emigrating Mormons cling to their idol of polygamy.

The Russian government's assurance that ample protection is to be afforded to the Jews in that disordered country is apt to cause a sardonic smile. That the Russian government should be desirous of dealing fairly with the Jews, or able to do so if it had the intention, is so foreign to the experience of the past that nobody will look seriously upon the present declaration.

Col. Wood will be the guest of the Press man Saturday and Sunday. This may seem to many to be out of

the ordinary, but when you reflect due consideration prompts you to realize that a certain amount of courtesy is due even the lower species of the human family, hence our concession to appear in public with Wood.

Nothing receives favorable comment from the stranger or visitor so quickly as a clean town. Athena can be made a clean town if every citizen will do his part towards making it so. Let everyone clean and beautify their own premises and the general appearance of things will even startle the natives.

The hazers must go, and the sooner they go the better it will be for everybody but the hazers. It will not make much difference to the world what happens to them after they are put out.

If Mars has merely a network of canals, and no railways, automobiles or flying machines, it is absurd to claim a superior civilization for the people of that planet.

The Fish Commission is trying to decide whether the German carp is a curse or a benefit. Depends, we imagine, whether you are eating them or selling them.

The clerk of the Chicago Juvenile Court says girls are worse than boys. He will probably admit, too, that if there were no women crime would at length die out.

### OUR SCHOOLS THEN AND NOW.

Portland Oregonian.  
A novel but quite effective test of the methods and results of teaching in our common schools of today and those of sixty years ago has recently been made. In an old garret in Springfield, Mass., a set of examination papers used in the ninth grade of the schools of that city in October, 1844, were found. Upon these the pupils secured at that time an average of 40.6 in spelling and 29.4 in arithmetic. The test consisted in giving these identical papers to the pupils of a similar grade in other schools. The results showed a marked increase in the proficiency of pupils. At Great Falls, Montana, for example, an average of 50.4 was scored on these papers in spelling, and 79.5 in arithmetic. Of the competing pupils, 41 scored 100 in the latter branch.

The contrast between this result and that obtained at Springfield sixty years ago is striking. Still, when we come to compare the methods of teaching at that time with present methods; to compare the text-books used in schools and to consider the helpfulness of the public libraries that are adjuncts of school work in every town of a few thousand inhabitants in these days, the difference is by no means surprising. It would, indeed, be strange if the science of pedagogics had not advanced with the growth in every other direction in three fifths of a century. The schoolhouse of that era, as it lives in description and still to some extent in memory, bears little resemblance to the schoolhouses of the present. It had then, as it has now, a roof, four walls and a floor. There the similarity between the two ceases. American school books of sixty years ago were written in the same language in which those of the present are written; then, as now, they included the lessons of industry and patience, but here the similarity between them ends. Teachers of the olden times were fitly described as "brisk wielders of the birch and rule;" now the birch is a forbidden element of teaching and the "rule" applies strictly to technical matters.

Since nothing in the world remains stationary, this movement in public

school equipment and methods is the natural one. Growth describes a forward and not a retrograde movement, and the advance in our school methods and results is the thing logically expected. There is no evidence that the pupils in the Springfield schools sixty years ago were not as studious and as bright as are those in the schools of the present to whom this test of relative proficiency was given. The difference is in opportunity, in equipment and in methods. If the better showing had not been made by the pupils of the public schools of the present, then indeed would we have had cause to doubt the efficiency of what is called our modern school system.

### EGYPT AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Baltimore News.  
While the British administration in Egypt cannot point to such costly and elaborate efforts to spread popular education as we are making in the Philippines, it is creating a state of affairs well calculated to make the people content. Through the attention given to the development of the material resources of the country, the average crop has been doubled in the last 16 years, while at the same time taxation has been reduced. These are results that the people can appreciate without any instruction in civics or inculcation of new political ideas. They are confronted by the solid fact that the value of all landed property is now from five to seven fold what it used to be before just and economical government was established.

We are going quite the other way in the Philippines. We are doing our best to educate the people and to inspire them with political ambitions and at the same time we are representing the industrial development of the country by our tariff policy. We educate them into discontent with old conditions and at the same time deny them the opportunities of educational advancement. The intellect of the country, instead of being attracted to its material advancement by creating of new opportunities, is turned to political agitation. What can be expected from such a policy but a chronic spirit of revolt against American rule?

### POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**For Representative.**  
To the republicans of Umatilla county: I hereby announce that I will be a candidate before the republican primaries for nomination as member of the legislature from Umatilla county, and I respectfully ask the support of all members of the party.  
Athena, Ore., March 14, 1906.  
C. A. Barrett.

**Candidate for Treasurer.**  
To the voters of Umatilla county: I hereby announce myself as a republican candidate for the office of County Treasurer, subject to decision of the primary election.  
Respectfully,  
G. W. Bradley,  
Athena, Oregon.

**F. H. Shoemaker for Recorder.**  
To the voters of Umatilla county: I hereby announce my candidacy for the republican nomination for the office of recorder, subject to the will of the voters in the direct primary election.  
Fred H. Shoemaker.  
Pendleton.

**For Sheriff.**  
To the voters of Umatilla county: I hereby announce myself as a republican candidate for the office of sheriff, subject to the wish of the voters in the direct primary election.  
E. J. Sommerville.

**For Sheriff.**  
I hereby announce my candidacy for the democratic nomination for sheriff of Umatilla county subject to the will of the voters in the direct primary election April 20.  
T. D. Taylor.

**For State Senator.**  
I hereby announce myself a candidate for state senator from Umatilla county, subject to the pleasure of the suffragists.  
Geo. W. Proebstel.

**For State Senator.**  
I hereby announce my candidacy for the state senate, subject to the votes of republicans under the direct primary law.  
T. J. Kirk.

**For Sale.**  
The desirable piece of real estate on Main street known as the Carden property is now offered for sale. For price, apply to Charles Norris, Athena, Oregon.

### The Skillful Mending of Jewelry

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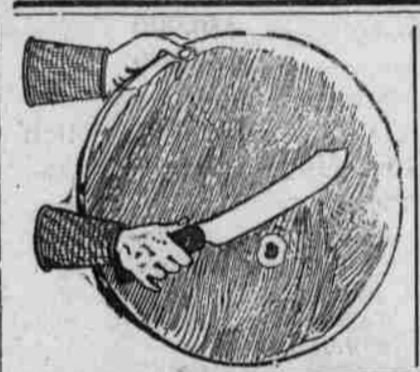
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