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ATHENA, ORE., AUGUST 7, 1906

The consumptive power of this country is enormous and indications point to the fact that it is steadily overtaking production. Though last year's wheat crop was a big one, it is already practically consumed, and when the new crop reaches the market clean bins will await it everywhere. The northwest stock represented about one half of the visible supply two months ago, but it will all be used up before the products of the present harvest have appeared in the principal grain centers. From this it would seem that we do not have to look far into the future to see the wheat of the Inland Empire ground into flour instead of exporting the wheat for milling purposes. When the time comes it will be better for all concerned.

Senator Pettus of Alabama, 86 years old, lawyer, soldier, politician, says if he had to live his life over again he would choose the "high calling of a farmer." The drift of the young man is always from the farm; it is difficult for them to see its attractions, but as they grow old and have engaged in the struggle for wealth or place or for mere subsistence in other occupations, the independence of the farmer's life appeals to them greatly. This yearning of the elderly for rural existence as the ideal condition is a sentiment so common as to be almost universal. It is the working of a primal impulse drawing man back to the soil whence he came.

We have seen several comments on the death, characteristics and accumulated fortune of Russell Sage. The list would be incomplete without this one, from the Pilot Rock Record: "Russell Sage left every dollar of his fortune to Mrs. Sage. Not a dollar was left to charity or to any of his poor relations. The fortune is estimated at \$80,000,000. The body of the dead millionaire was shipped to Troy, New York, where it was buried in Oakwood cemetery, beside that of his first wife. Evidently he died without waiting, otherwise he would have walked to Troy in order to save railroad fare."

Tree peddlers are entitled to take high rank among the champion liars. One of them is telling guileless Kentuckians that his nursery buds an October peach seedling, which causes them to bloom late, escaping cold saps and late frosts. The story would work better if it were not so well known that the blooming of trees is regulated

from the bottom and not the top. Wood should make note of this. It will be of value to him when the time comes for him to transplant his sage brush shoots.

After all, it was perhaps better that Foster Dwight Coburn decided not to waste himself on the United States Senate. He can do more good writing instructive books for the farmers, telling them how to raise alfalfa and do other useful things. His talents and energies will best be displayed by continuing to advertise the resources of his own great state of Kansas and the vast possibilities of the southwest along agricultural lines.

The Press is in receipt of an interesting communication which deals with race suicide, but inasmuch as the writer neglected the common, though necessary practice of placing his or her signature to it, we exercise the privilege of not publishing it. If the writer prizes his or her literary effort sufficiently to come forward and sign the manuscript in the presence of the editor the article will be given space—otherwise not.

Several Indian reservations are to be opened for settlement this year, notable among them being the Shoshone reservation in western Wyoming along Wind river. The extension of irrigation is adding greatly to the farming resources of the Rocky Mountain States, and thousands of new homes are being established every year.

"An Oregon apple recently sold for \$5. At this rate the Apple Consumers' League will have to go a little slow," is the way the American Farmer tells it. Skookum price for the apple, but a good investment from an advertising standpoint.

The President is something of a muck-raker himself. May the forks of his rake, as well as his handle, hold out in strength until he has turned up the whole foul mess to the sunlight and the public gaze.

Perhaps the drastic investigation of the sausage factories will shed light on the mystery long bothering Chicago women as to what becomes of their pet puddles.

The Chicago cow that swallowed a stick of dynamite probably had designs to bull the milk market.

FAIRY TALES IN SCHOOL.

Spokesman-Review.
A novel course of instruction has been adopted in the vacation schools in Chicago and one which is not likely to meet with the approval of many thoughtful persons. A young woman has been engaged by the board of education to tell the little children stories about fairies, giants, dragons, witches and mythical princesses. It is announced that the object is to "turn the mind of the children from the street and divert them into realms where the flat buildings are built of pink icings and gingerbread, and where the fairy prince kills the dragon and bears the fairy princess away."

The young woman who has been engaged for this delightful task is naturally an enthusiast. It is related that she made the members of the board firmly believe in fairies when they heard her tell fairy stories to a room full of children. "I never moralize," she says, "and sometimes I tell the creepy kind of stories which some

people disapprove of, but I believe they are good for children."

There is a grave reason in doubt whether the "creepy kind" or any other kind of mythical stories are good for children. Many parents of the present day object strongly to having their children taught in this kind of lore. They feel that it gives the little ones fanciful ideas not beneficial to a proper development of their minds. Advocates of fairy tales argue that the imaginative faculties are encouraged and there is no doubt they are, but there is generally quite enough of imagination in the average youthful mind, and whatever help is given to its development might better be in channels where fact and truth were not entirely disregarded. The child is seldom taught at the same time that the fairy story is simply make believe. The knowledge comes later and a distrust is created in regard to tales based on facts.

The imagination has been distorted rather than developed. False impressions have been implanted in the mind and the germs sown which are likely to breed a foundress for light and frivolous literature instead of that which will improve the intellect.

SURE ENOUGH SEA SERPENT.

Chicago Tribune.
English scientists are discussing with lively interest a sea serpent seen and sketched off Para, Brazil, by E. B. Meade and M. J. Nicoll, well known English naturalists, who described the creature at a recent meeting of the Zoological Society in London. The naturalists were standing on the deck of the yacht Valhalla at 10 A. M., when they were attracted by a snail-like object some four feet long and two feet high, waving from side to side in the water. When they turned their glasses on the object there appeared a huge eel-like neck, some six feet long and as thick as a man's thigh. This neck was surmounted by a great turtle-like head, with large eyes. After a few minutes the head, which had stood out of the water, as if its owner was inspecting the ship, was lowered to the level of the sea and violently lashed from side to side, churning the sea into a great sheet of foam.

During the following night the object was seen again, this time by the lookout and the officers of the deck. It was then traveling in the same direction as the ship, but going faster, the ship being under a speed of only 8 1-2 knots.

The description of the creature tallies with the sea serpent seen by the officers of the British warship Deadalus in 1848. That serpent exposed its whole length of 60 feet on the surface. The meeting of the Zoological Society which heard Messrs Meade and Nicoll's account is described as "listening with breathless excitement," and the member who writes an account of the meeting for a London paper concludes with the statement: "Seriously, we can no longer regard the sea serpent as a myth."

THE DALLIES MILITARY ROAD.

Baker City Herald.
It is said of the United States Government that it is most particular. This may be true in small things and where certain individuals are concerned, but when it comes to a big steal the United States Government is a howling infant. One of the most glaring examples of this kind is the pseudo military road constructed from The Dalles to Boise City. The company constructing the blazed trail received from the Government the most valuable timber and grazing land in that section of the State of Oregon. And they gave absolutely nothing in return. Not even a road. There is no Dalles military road. It was never built and never will be, but the company has the deed to the lands.

The road is one of the most humorous things of these Government contracts. It runs from the summit of the John Day pass directly across the mountains, along a route that a packhorse cannot travel. There is no semblance of a road. The trees are not even cut, being merely blazed. The road used by the company "building" this military road is a county road and is today the only road through that section of the country. The Dalles military road is marked by blazed trees and that is all.

But the company got every odd section for a distance of three miles on either side of this road, and where there was land already settled upon the company got Henland script and took up all the good land in the Logan Valley, Summit Valley, Crane Valley and innumerable other rich sections. And now this company owns this land absolutely and even charges sheep and cattle men for crossing it to get to the pasture land in the forest reserves. There are two absolute idiots in the United States Government Administration. One is the man who accepted the Dalles military road, and the other is the man who is responsible for the forest reserve policy. The first belongs to the penitentiary and the other should be in an insane asylum.

Deadly Surpent Bites.
are as common in India as are stomach and liver disorders with us. For the latter however, there is a sure remedy: Electric Bitters; the great restorative medicine, of which S. A. Brown, of Bennettville, S. C., says: "They restored my wife to perfect health, after years of suffering with dyspepsia and chronically torpid liver." Electric Bitters cure chills and fever, malaria, biliousness, lame back, kidney troubles and bladder disorders. Sold on guarantee by Wm. McBride, druggist. Price 50c.

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ATHENA, OREGON

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