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ATHENA, ORE., AUGUST 10, 1906

Here in Eastern Oregon where wheat is king, a stream of yellow grain is flowing from the fields to the mill and warehouse, and in turn a stream of golden dollars is flowing to the credit side of the farmer's bank account. What the fruit season is to Hood River and the hop season to Yakima and the Willamette valley, so is the grain harvest of the Umatilla wheat belt to Athena, "the granary of the Inland Empire." A forty to fifty bushel crop with the price at 58 to 60 cents per bushel means that money will be plentiful here this fall and winter, and trade in all lines should be heavier than for several years past. Athena merchants, in anticipation of this, are beginning to lay in their fall and winter stocks and they all claim they are buying more and better goods this year than ever before.

All kinds of racket has been kicked up back in Iowa since the republican state convention gave Cummins of the progressive wing the nomination for governor. The News-Letter, a stand-pat paper, published at Central City, gives vent to its feelings as follows: "The News-Letter was opposed to the nomination of Cummins and will not favor his election to the governorship. His defeat at the polls will redound to the honor, glory and stability of the republican party in Iowa. We love the republican party for the great and good work it has done; we dislike to see the Iowa part of it fall into the hands of the enemies. And we have no reason to believe Cummins ever was or is a republican. His defeat would not be the turning down of a republican candidate, but the obliteration of a thoroughly unscrupulous politician and self-seeker. A good defeat now would do the republican party of Iowa a world of benefit. Perhaps it would drive from its ranks the scoundrels who hissed when Secretary Shaw's name was mentioned."

The Walla Walla Record pertinently asks these questions: "What do they want, anyway? Do the fire insurance companies doing business in this state want the policy holders of the state to pay their earthquake losses in California? According to their own reports, which the law compels them to make to state insurance commissioner, they collected in 1905 three dollars for every one they paid in fire losses. Now they have the audacity to suggest a 25 per cent increase in rates. It would be downright robbery which the people of the state of Washington will not stand."

A steel passenger car has recently been completed for the Southern railway which is regarded as the beginning of the general use of steel instead of wood for all kinds of railway cars. The car only weighs 110,000 pounds. There was no wood used in its construction except for the interior decorations, and that wood was made fireproof. It is said that the car could not be telescoped in a collision, neither could the ends be smashed in, and furthermore, it is non-combustible. If generally used, such cars would greatly reduce the dangers of railway travel.

A youthful ambition to emulate the deeds of bold, bad men, as pictured in the Jesse James style of dime novel, is undoubtedly what led to the runaway and the subsequent murder by Thomas Reeves and Hugh Saxon. Both boys had good homes in Portland and were at work when they decided to go out into the world and prey upon society. Reeves seems to have been the leader of the pair, who had only met a week previous to their rash deed. The need of money could not have been the excuse for the crime,

for both boys were well provided with cash when they left home. A boy with unrestrained access to dime novels and cigarettes quickly finds the path to the hobo camp. From there it is only a step or two to the hold-up or murder scene.

Gallant Charles O'Neil, editor of the Prescott Spectator, says: "A Walla Walla farmer has taken his wife and four daughters out to the farm to work as harvest hands, owing to the scarcity of farm laborers. This, it would appear, will not solve the labor problem, however. American young ladies, God bless them, were never designed for the role of men in the harvest field and it is farnet the 'constitution' to put them in such a role."

It's a Kansas paper that says the dude with narrow striped clothes, saddle-colored shoes, a loud necktie, hair parted over his nose and smoking a cigarette, by addressed the young woman with whom he was keeping company thus: "If you was me and I was you, what would you do?" She answered with a smile "I would take off my hideous tie, put that cigarette in the stove, part my hair on the side, then pray to God for brains."

Athena is quite as metropolitan in consequence in the matter of the circus as Pendleton is. So it would appear, at least. This town has had every show that has visited the county seat town this summer—including the Sella-Forepaugh combination, which "passed through" yesterday morning.

A WARNING TO CHICAGO.

Portland Oregonian.
The Chicago bank which has been looted of \$1,000,000 by its officers is a state bank and under state inspection. The inspector seems very active, now that the mischief is done. His name appears prominently in the news. He has issued a statement that he does not know where the officers have gone, and another that the bank has been closed for examination. It is a pity that he did not make an examination when it could have prevented the robbery of the depositors. It is a small consolation to the poor people whose money has been stolen to know that the books will be looked over now. They will wish to know what Mr. Jones, the inspector, was doing while the cashier and the rest were making away with the funds. Of course this took time. A million dollars is not stolen in a day. And during that time Mr. Jones, who was chosen for the express purpose of knowing what the officers of the state banks were doing, knew nothing at all about it. Now he makes up for his criminal negligence by postal notices.

What is needed in Illinois, and in Oregon no less, is an inspection law which means something, and an inspector who will inspect. Locking the bank after the funds are stolen, making a parade of official diligence when it can do no good, has grown wearisome to the people. The unremitted voice of the Nation, and of this state in particular, demands protection from these frequent robberies.

What security has the Oregon depositor in a private bank for his money? Absolutely none except the honor in the banker, and we are coming to learn what this valued "honor" amounts to. Anybody may start a bank, inveigle multitudes of the unwary to hand over their savings, and then do with the funds exactly as he pleases. There is no inspection, no control, no security. After the bank has been looted, the cashier or president may be tried for embezzlement, but that does not restore the plundered funds. It does not buy bread or provide for old age. In fact, these embezzlement trials have become a stench in the nostrils of the Nation. What is needed is a law that will prevent these embezzlements and an officer that will honestly enforce the law. The lack of a banking law in this state is a scandalous connivance at crime. It is an invitation to theft.

"SECOND NATURE."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
What sort of a man is Edward Crane who is introduced to the public in a Post-Dispatch telegram from Narragansett Pier? It seems hard to believe in him, but he is certainly possible.

This is proved by the report that he has done more already on the spur of the moment what everybody would like above all things to be able to do with long practice and from an hour to twelve hours for making up their minds.

What he did as an auto-driver was to drive his own automobile up to the side of another automobile which was running away at full speed with frightened women who could not check it. Then, after having applied the brakes to his own machine, he sprang from his own machine into that which was running away, and after turning it into the road applied the brakes and stopped it.

This is a story of what is clearly possible, since everyone who would be glad to be able to do it might do it with time enough to make the habits which belong to a second nature. Nothing but a second nature, how-

ever, could have made it possible. It shows an actual rational mind, acting at once, in full control of the body rational enough to be controlled at once and fully by the mind.

It requires a much higher quality of mind to do such a thing as this than it does to make a million dollars and be able to own any number of automobiles. As a second nature it could not have come merely from automobiling, but perhaps we may develop more of it finally through automobiling or in spite of it.

FUTURE TRADE IN OREGON CURIOS.

East Oregonian.
Think of the value of Oregon jails as curios and relics in the dim, distant future, when the unborn generations come to carry away pieces of wood and iron from places where Binger Herman, J. N. Williamson, R. P. Mays, Henry Meldrum and other prominent Oregonians looked through the bars back in 1906, for complicity in the vast land fraud operations in Oregon.

This is an entirely new and intensely interesting feature of the land fraud cases and will develop into a profitable industry in relics, if the old buildings in which the trials have been conducted and in which the guilty ones serve sentences, are preserved.

In London the tourist is shown where Guy Fawkes concocted the "gunpowder plots" against the government and in Paris where the revolutionists marched to the guillotine with defiant air.

What an intensely interesting historical feature might be added to Oregon, if the "homestead" cabins on the famous "7 11" district in Southern Oregon are preserved or if the footprints of Binger Herman made in Portland mud as he marched up to trial, are preserved for the hunters of the twenty-second century.

COLLEGE MEN WORK.

STUDENTS SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN MAINE LUMBER WOODS.

Young Men of Education Take the Places of Frenchmen and Indians as Fire Watchers.

"In quick, negotiable value," said Forest Commissioner Edgar Ring, "the timber standing on the wild lands of Maine is worth more than all the other holdings in the state.

We have more than 25,000,000,000 board feet of spruce, which should be worth at least four dollars a thousand on the stump. Then we have millions of feet in second growth pine, some of which is very large—to say nothing of hemlock and hemlock bark.

"To this we must add the young timber which is not yet big enough to cut, but which is coming on so rapidly that in many townships it is making for its owners from five to eight per cent every year. Now, if you will add to these the vast area of hard woods, many of which are very valuable for flooring and cabinet work, you have a combined valuation that will nearly pay off the entire government debt."

It is the realization of this fact, says the New York Sun, that is leading owners of forest lands to give more and more protection from fire to their holdings. Several of the men who have large holdings in wild lands have contributed to hire men to patrol the woods constantly from late in May until the fall rains set in.

The average pay of these patrolmen is about \$1.50 a day and all found.

The outdoor life and the strange scenes have induced college students and students of natural history topics to seek this kind of employment, so that instead of having Frenchmen from Canada or Indians from Old Town on duty, the fire watch of Maine is composed of young men of education.

Now and then an employe grows weary of the solitude and gives up his job on account of homesickness, but a majority are delighted with the work, and say they are the only persons in the world who receive pay while enjoying an outing.

"It is way ahead of a gymnasium for keeping a chap in training," said an athletic undergraduate from Harvard. "No man can do his duty as a fire patrol and keep any flesh on his bones.

"I am carrying an ax, a big blanket, and five or six days' rations on my back most of the time, and when I do not cover my 30 or 40 miles a day I am called down for loafing.

"I find that simple foods stand by me much better than the chicken fixings you buy at the restaurants. Bacon, corn bread and tea are my standards, and when I cannot find bacon, strips of raw salt pork that are fat and sweet will serve as well.

"When one has to lug his grub on his back for days at a time he becomes cautious about taking on a big load. A half-pound of bacon and a pint of cornmeal—the latter, to be cooked on a strip of bark or a flat stone in the form of a hoe cake—will stand by me longer than a meal at Young's or Parker's. These two, with a big dipper of hot tea that is strong, and used without milk, or sweetened, will put one in shape to win medals or 'most anything.'"

Wiring the Dormitory.

Al Sweaney, electrician for the Preston-Parton Milling company, is at Weston, engaged in wiring the Normal School dormitory for electric lights. The building, which is quite large, will take considerable wire and a large number of lights. The work will be completed in time for the beginning of school.

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