

# The Athena Press.

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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ATHENA, ORE., SEPT. 25, 1906

The East Oregonian is really in earnest in espousing the cause of simplified spelling reform. While the change to the fonetic system is so radical that a storm of criticism is being hurled at the Pendleton paper, its action is strongly commended by such influential newspapers as the Boise Statesman and London Truth. All joking aside, Bert Huffman and his East Oregonian are both in the right channel—the deep water channel, where other journalistic craft will finally steer with their cargo of reformed spelling, though perhaps in not such large quantities as at present carried by the Pendleton paper. There are words in the English language, of common usage, that need "fixing" from the time of their syllabic formation and introduction for articulation—words which are at variance relatively with letter formation and pronunciation. Many of these letter formations will quickly melt away and become absorbed in the new category of fonetic spelling, while others will stand the usage of time as they have stood in the past.

As a condensed nugget of irreconcilable inconsistencies the United States government comes pathetically near wearing the blue ribbon; not that its incongruous inconsistencies are to be here enumerated—for neither time, space, paper or ink suffice. But just to mention one of the many: Our government requires every vessel sailing under the American flag to be manned by licensed officers, and yet its own vessels are not commanded by licensed seamen. In many instances subordinate officers are licensed and know much more about seamanship than "the man on the bridge." If licensed seamen are best for the merchant marine, why not for the navy, the revenue service and the geodetic survey?

A Kansas editor with the real staff in him remarks: The editor of this dinky paper wishes sometimes he were rich. No, we only wish we were rich for about a week—just long enough to teach some rich people we know how to act toward less fortunate people—less fortunate in the matter of worldly possessions, we mean. As a matter of fact inordinately rich people—the majority of them—have no sense at all. This is especially true of some man who has "struck it rich" or woman who married a bunch of money. It gives us infinite pain to witness the unseemly airs of these toads with the dollar mark sticking all over them.

Gez whiz! It makes us riled to have some purse-prond monkey without brains enough to carry breakfast to a sick bear put on highfalutin airs around us!

King Edward has been developing a rich "pocket" in our stock exchange, and consequently the king feels still more kindly toward the people of the United States. An exchange remarks: "If congress had voted King Edward, of England, \$5,000,000 for his personal use, there would be a political revolution here in consequence. But the papers publicly announce that King Edward made five millions in stock on Wall street the other day. Does it make any difference to the American people whether the King received \$5,000,000 by direct vote of congress or gained it by manipulation of industrial stocks—did he not receive that much and did not jackass Americans lose that much?"

The Pilot Rock Record reports that a former business man of Pilot Rock has gone to Montana, accompanied by a young lady of Pendleton, whose parents are well known and highly respected. The Pilot Rock man leaves a wife and two children. The incident is not seasoned with any attempt at suitcase banking.

It is a premature announcement that Wood is considering making an application for a copyright on the English language. The only inducement to such a transaction on the part of the colonel would be the special privilege of controlling the arrangement of letters in the word "potatoz."

The Willamette Valley Development League is an active organization, and is doing much good. The fifth quarterly convention was recently held at Forest Grove. The meeting was a good one and full of business. Such work will help to keep the valley on the move.

The La Grande Observer has issued a very creditable 24-page industrial edition. The Observer exhaustively sets forth the resources of the Grand Ronde in clear print and half tone illustrations.

Dr. Erastus Holt of Portland approves the Dr. Osler theory minus 15 years of the 40-year limit. Thus are we theorized into a world of old men at 30.

### THE GHOST OF HONOR.

Saturday Evening Post.

Naturally, San Francisco is bitter against insurance companies that are repudiating claims. She calls them "Welchers." The term does not apply, however, with scientific exactness. One such company has issued an interesting statement. It quotes the clause in its policies that it "shall not be liable for loss caused directly or indirectly by earthquake," and it points out gravely that, if the directors should pay any losses for which the company is not legally liable, the stockholders could sue them for malfeasance in office and recover the amount thus illegally disbursed. There was very little loss in San Francisco which was not caused indirectly by the earthquake. If anybody can discover such a loss and prove that it would have occurred had there been no earthquake, the company will cheerfully pay. Otherwise the directors, under a keen sense of responsibility to the stockholders, must stand firmly upon the letter of the contract. They will never be guilty of malfeasance. This brings out very neatly the point that, in a properly administered

corporation, the old fashion motive of commercial honor can have no place. The management must pay only what the law strictly requires. If it pays merely because public opinion says it should, or in accordance with the dictates of an uncodified sense of equity, or in order to deal generously with misfortune, or for any reason whatsoever save that the exactly interpreted letter of the contract requires it, the stockholders may have a valid claim against it. Honor is purely a personal quality. The first object of the corporation is to be impersonal.

### WOMAN A CANDIDATE.

Spokesman-Review.

The nomination of a woman for congress by socialists in Texas will, of course, not be taken seriously except by those who have made the nomination, and possibly not by them. They certainly can entertain no expectation of electing her, and probably are only seeking to make a demonstration of their voting strength. From this point of view the candidacy will be interesting.

So remote is the probability that any woman will occupy a seat in congress that speculation on the situation which would present itself were such a thing likely would be idle. There are doubtless many women, especially in the ranks of the woman suffragists, who honestly consider themselves much better qualified to make the laws of the land than some of the men now engaged in that occupation. And perhaps they are.

The men are so fond of the job, however, that they will not readily yield to any demand on the part of women to be permitted to deprive them of its honors and emoluments. The time may come when women, by their ballots, can exercise an influence on legislation, but their ambition may have to be satisfied with that attainment. Who can tell what change in public sentiment the flight of years may produce? It has even been predicted that a woman will some time occupy the executive chair in the White House.

### Markham's 10 Best Books.

- Edward Markham, writing for Success, nominates for the given reasons, the following list of 10 best books:
- Maurice Hewlitt's "Richard Yea and Nay"—the adventures and passion of the England of the Crusades.
  - Joseph Conrad's "Lord Jim"—a scene of the power and terror of the sea.
  - Robert Hitchen's "The Garden of Allah"—two souls projected against the color and mystery of the desert.
  - Mrs. Edyth Whorton's "The House of Mirth"—the tragedy and comedy of our hollow fashionable society.
  - May Sinclair's "The Divine Fire"—the apotheosis of the poetic spirit.
  - Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle"—the awakener of the conscience of the nation.
  - Jack London's "The Sea Wolf"—adventure of the sea and conflict of the primitive passions.
  - Stewart Edward White's "The Blazed Trail"—the flower of the woods and lumber camps of the great northwest.
  - Dexter's "The Breath of the Gods"—the conflict in Japan between the old traditions and the new ideas.
  - Frank Norris' "The Octopus"—a book somewhat older but forever new; the struggle of plundered men with corporation oppression.

### Deadly Surpnet 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 Bennettsville, S. C., says: "They restored my wife to perfect health, after years of suffering with despesia 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.

### County Fair Rates.

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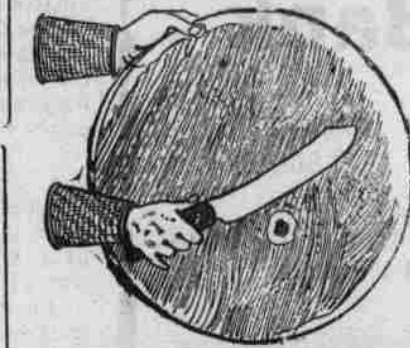
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