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ATHENA, ORE., JAN. 1, 1907

In every newspaper we pick up we are sure to find a lot of gush about the man behind the buzz saw and the man behind the son; the man behind the times and the man behind his rent; the man behind the plowshare and the man behind the fence; the man behind the whistle and the man behind the car; the man behind the kodak and the man behind the bars; the man behind his whiskers and the man behind his fist; and everything behind is entered on the list. But they have skipped another fellow of whom nothing has been said—the fellow who is ever a little ahead; who pays for what he gets, whose bills are always signed—he's a blamed sight more important than the man who is behind. All we editors and merchants and the whole commercial class are indebted for existence to this honest fellowman. He keeps us all in business and the town is never dead, so we take off our hats to the man that is ahead.—Exchange.

There should be no "faction" in any city. The property of one individual and every improvement made enhances the value of all property in the corporation. Our city is simply one big family. When this is discordant there is little progress. When there is a united pull for anything, its accomplishment is made easy. Envy, jealousy and hatred are things to be despised. Envy is a canker that gnaws at the heart and makes folks sour, disgruntled and unhappy; jealousy wraps the intellect and makes us unfair in passing judgment. Hatred doesn't pay even from a sordid point of view—Let us "pull together."

Society has tried to protect itself in Spokane by trying to have the young murderer, Sidney Sloane, incarcerated for life, but has failed. The jury having found him "not guilty," it is not likely he can be imprisoned very long. Of course plenty of expert alienists can be found who in a few months will declare him sane. Perhaps after he has been liberated and kills his mother or some one else, a jury may conclude he is guilty of murder.

The British papers are giving themselves considerable trouble figuring out the chances that Uncle Sam would have of keeping himself from being annihilated by the Japs in case of war. And we are perfectly willing to have them do the figuring as well as assume the trouble.

Many packages sent through the mails go to pieces and sometimes the contents, or the address, are lost because not securely wrapped and tied.

Use strong, fibrous wrapping paper and stout twine; wrap closely, tie tightly; address plainly with black ink and put on the full address, town, county and state; and if in a city, the street and number, or in care of someone. Have a package weighed at the postoffice and pay full postage or it will not be sent. Do all these things and Uncle Sam will do the rest.

A fashion item says the new instep skirt reveals the fact that the majority of women are pigeon-toed or bow-legged. We have never noticed it.

MAKING USE OF NOTORIETY.

The gratification which was felt over the rescue of S. B. Hicks, a California miner, is followed by feelings of a different nature upon the announcement of the mercenary use to which he will put his notoriety. Hicks was entombed for over two weeks in a tunnel which had caved in. His escape from the immediate death which befell his five companions, his endurance in bearing up day after day under conditions calculated to cause the average man's mind or life to give way, the strenuous and unremitting efforts of rescuers to get him out, after establishing communication with him through a water pipe which ran from the surface to that part of the tunnel where he was imprisoned, and his final rescue attracted widespread interest to the case.

Everybody rejoiced that a life had been saved from a terrible fate under such adverse conditions, but there was really nothing in Hicks' part in the affair that now entitles him to ask the public to pay for the privilege of seeing him act or hearing him talk. He, or the theatrical manager who is said to have engaged him, is merely taking advantage of the well known willingness of many persons to dispose of money that should be spent to better purpose.

Hundreds of people may pay to see him and it will be said that if they are satisfied that's all there is to it. And in a certain sense it is. Nevertheless, there is a lowering of a strong human interest incident to an unworthy level of dollars and cents. Hicks is doing what scores of others have done when from some peculiar circumstances they have gained notoriety. Instead of going about his regular business as a man, he is putting himself on the plane of the freaks in a circus sideshow. And those two or three other miners who are to travel with him are willing to lay aside the manhood of honest toil that they may profit from what can be made off a curious public.—Spokane Review.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

Two recent executions at the Oregon penitentiary have revived discussions as to the justifiability or expediency of the death penalty. There are five states in which capital punishment has been abolished. In these, the ratio of murder is no higher than in other states—a fact that furnishes argument that the death penalty does not discourage murder. It serves, indeed, to strengthen the opinion some hold that in a mind raised to that pitch of frenzy wherein it is ready to take human life, the question of what the penalty is to be is largely lost sight of.

The death penalty is the punishment for eight offenses in Virginia, seven in Louisiana, six in Delaware and Missouri, and but one, murder in the first degree, in the majority of the other states. In the southern states it is prescribed by law for assaults upon women.

The certainty of punishment is undoubtedly of more importance in preventing crime than the nature of the penalty. Whether the penalty for murder is death or life imprisonment, is one of the lesser factors in deterrent effect. More than all other influences as a deterrent agent is the regularity, promptness and precision with which laws are enforced.

The community where laws are in partially and rigidly enforced, the criminal avoids as insecure and in hospitable. The spectacle of penalty following swiftly on the crime and with little or none of the law's traditional delay, necessarily weakens the heart that were otherwise steeled for a capital crime. In the swiftness of avenging justice there is terror enough to unnerve the strongest of men whenever his thoughts wander toward murder.—Portland Journal.

REALISTIC MILITARY TRAINING. Great Britain has reserved a tract of land several hundred square miles in extent on which her soldiers play at war. The Russian-Japanese war served to emphasize the radical revolution which has taken place in warfare due to the remarkable improvements which have been wrought in the devising of long-range and quick-firing weapons, combined with improvements in explosives.

The rule of this revolution in warfare is that a battle front may range over as much as 60 or 70 miles. Consequently a grave difficulty presents itself in the training of an army, to comply with and to understand these new conditions, since it is essential that an army in pace should be brought to a high standard of efficiency which will enable it to cope with any peculiar difficulty that may present itself in actual combat. But to train an army upon this basis necessitates a vast tract of land having a conformation of the most difficult nature, and far removed from the influences of habitations, to enable the men to have the fullest scope in which to practice the new conditions of their science.

In practicing on Salisbury field, as the British call their large mock battle ground, the attacking party uses bullets and live shells, while the defense uses tanks.—Technical World Magazine.

Famous Strike Breakers. The most famous strike breakers in the land are Dr. King's New Life Pills. When liver and bowels go on a strike, they quickly settle the trouble, and the purifying work goes right on. Best cure for constipation, headache and dizziness. 25c at McBride's drug store.

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The firm of Cox & McEwen having dissolved partnership, all knowing themselves indebted to the firm must come forward immediately and settle in full. Accounts due the firm must be settled by January 1.

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