

The Athena Press.

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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J. M. HAYS, Editor

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ATHENA, ORE., FEB. 22, 1907

The Press has always regarded J. M. Hays as a joke, and there is nothing in his letter relating to Mayor Plamondon printed in another column, that changes its opinion of him, in the least. The only reason the letter is given space is because it reflects on the integrity of Athena's Mayor, is properly signed, and had not the Press printed it, the article would have probably appeared in some other county paper circulating in a locality where the author is not so well known as he is here. This fellow Hays is a periodical buttinski and the period comes along about election time, whether it be national, state or municipal. Voting "niggers" in Kansas spoiled him and he has never gotten over it. He closes his letter with "Yours for a better town." What has Hays ever contributed to make Athena a better town? How much has he invested in Athena? How many brick blocks does he own? In what measure does he bring trade to Athena that business men may afford to repair sidewalks and property owners macadamized streets? Does he create anything but hot air and discord? Finally, what has he at stake? The Press reiterates that Dr. Plamondon has performed the duties of mayor well. If Hays has better material let him trot it out. Athena is not a prohibition town. It is in a local option district, and the Press considers that municipal affairs are conducted here as clean as can be found in any town of like condition. If the saloons are selling liquor to minors and Hays has convicting evidence of the fact and does not see fit to swear out a warrant for the arrest of the man who sells the liquor, he has "cold feet," and is recreant in the performance of his duties as the mouthpiece of his Law and Order Enforcement League. The sidewalk question is pertinent—in fact it has been so for years.

An exchange says that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and all things therein. He then created man and woman and left the loafers on the corners, and in due time they multiplied and then spread into post-offices and depots and the stores. In these places they sit and explain state and national problems that have vexed great minds. While the loafer is thus engaged his wife is out washing for her neighbors, and the poor helpless children are left at home taking care of themselves as best they can. There is nothing more noticeable than the loafer."

Of course Athena can get along without a commercial association—the kind that has been in existence here for the past year and a half. Commercial Associations are what their members make them. There is work

for an association of merchants and business men right here in Athena, without hunting up other parts of the country to work for, if all would get together and do the work.

And now comes one of those statistic fiends with figures to prove that suicides resort to the rope oftener than the gun. The reason probably lies in the fact that the brain of this class of people is growing so small as not to be a fair mark at even short range. The rope, if staunch, is more certain.

The Wallowa Sun, a new paper published at Wallowa by Prof. Jonas, reached our exchange table this week. The new publication is well edited and newsy and gives promise of becoming an important factor in the upbuilding of Wallowa county.

If gifts of money express public confidence, the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States enjoys it. More than \$11,000,000 was donated to the association last year for buildings and maintenance.

MR. HAYS IN PRINT.

Athena Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to take exceptions to your words of praise of our honorable Mayor, in the issue of February 8.

Permit me to point out that he has not fulfilled well the duties of his office.

Mr. Plamondon approached a prominent church member before his election and volunteered the information that it would not be an open town under his administration. Witness how he fulfilled his promise. The town run wide open until closed by the efforts of the Law Enforcement League.

When complaints have been made that minors were allowed to frequent saloons, they were turned down by the reply: "Swear out your warrant and we will prosecute."

But our Mayor has caused the sidewalks to be repaired—partially. A lady from the country with her baby in her arms, falling through a hole in the walk and threatening to sue the city for injuries sustained, brought this result about.

And there are walks yet in our town that are dangerous to life and limb. The walk in Adams street, leading to the Christian church, over which hundreds of people pass every night, is full of holes and so narrow that people must pass in single file, or be crowded off into the mud.

Yours for a better city.
J. M. Hays.

WHAT IS A LAWYER'S DUTY?

Governor Hughes has been talking to the New York State Bar Association saying among other things:

I want to say it will be a sorry day for this country when the leaders of the American bar are to be deemed unqualified for public service. Such men ought never to take a retainer which arrays them against the public interest. A man that engages in practice that involves such antagonism is a traitor to the interests of the people and commits treason.

This is a noble conception of a lawyer's duty; but it would deprive the law-breaking corporations and many other important malefactors of the benefit of a defense. Of course Governor Hughes did not mean that the railroads which have been giving rebates and the monopolies which have crushed all competition by criminal methods should not be permitted to employ lawyers—a right not denied to the meanest criminal or the greatest murderer, such as Czolgosz. What he did mean, probably, was that lawyers who use their talents and skill to devise ways and means for any corporation or any person to evade the plain meaning and intent of a statute are themselves accessories to the law's violations, and they should be held up

to reprobation for betrayal of the public interest.

The lawyer who makes an active and efficient defense of a client whom he personally believes to be guilty of crime is not a proper subject for any man's reproaches; nor need his conscience, if he has any, worry him. But the lawyer who makes a protracted technical battle for a criminal whose guilt has been fully and clearly established after a fair trial is an enemy of society and a disgrace to the honorable profession of the law. There are everywhere too many such lawyers who involve the course of justice in a maze of pleas, motions, demurrers, and the like, all without merit and all designed to obstruct, delay and defeat the proper judicial determination of their client's cause. Some day, we hope, the bar itself will address itself to the task of reforming our legal procedure and renovating the profession by getting rid of the criminal lawyer, or, rather the lawyer criminal.—Oregonian.

NATIONAL CHILD LABOR LAW.

The child labor evil cannot be left to the states to remedy is one of the important points brought out in Senator Beveridge's defense of his bill to create a national child labor law as outlined by the senator in a comprehensive article appearing in the February number of the Woman's Home Companion. Senator Beveridge adds:

"The first thing we see on studying the child labor question is that this evil cannot be left to the States to remedy. Of course there is not the slightest reason in the world why it should be left to the States to remedy; but we started out one hundred and twenty-five years ago with the notion that each State was a little nation and that this artificial thing called a 'state' had certain 'rights.' At that time the idea of this being a Nation, a people living in one land, and flying one flag had not thoroughly developed. There were many great men in our constitutional convention who saw this clearly; but there were a lot of little men who wanted to be big men, and could be big men only in the narrow borders of their colonies not being great enough for the country as a whole. They insisted on the theory of the sovereignty of the State. These little men had the votes, and that is how it has happened that we started out the way we did. I am talking bluntly in order to tell the fact—and this is the plain fact, crude though it be.

"This child labor is not a State affair. It is not a national affair. The practical reasons why the States cannot deal with it, first of all, because they will not deal with it; and second, because they would not deal with it adequately. In the sections of the country where this civic pestilence rages in greatest fury, the States will not act. They will not act because the great manufacturing or mining interests are so powerful in those States that they control or at least decisively influence the legislatures of those States. So that in these States no effective law can be passed. If a model bill is proposed in any of those States, it is killed; or, what is a good deal worse than killed, it is mutilated. That is to say, a child labor law is passed which the people are led to believe will end the evil, but which has been so cunningly changed that it permits the evil to go on. Thus the people are fooled and the practice is not stopped."

THE BRITISH AND SUNDAY.

Just as the French are getting into practical trouble over the notion of enforcing a weekly rest, sometimes called "Dominical," the British seem to be getting into trouble over the secularization of their traditional Sabbath. A remarkable appeal for the stricter observance of Sunday appears in the London papers. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about it is that it is signed by the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, the primates of their respective communions, and by the "President of the Evangelical Council of the Evangelical Free Churches," who may be assumed to be the most accurate single representative of the various dissenting bodies.

Another remarkable feature of the appeal is what one may call its Sabbatarianism. While the signers emphasize the importance of the weekly rest they are careful to add:

"There is more than this. Under the sacred sanction which attaches to the Lord's Day it is intended that all should have opportunity, in the worship of Almighty God, to escape from the grip of ordinary cares and occupations into regions of higher thought and nobler aspiration."

While it is not for a secular journal to take sides upon such a question as is thus raised, it is open to such a journal to point out that the religious observance of Sunday is already stricter in the British Islands than in any other part of the world, excepting possibly some of the British possessions. A general relaxation in its British observance, such as these distinguished Britons appear to deplore, would denote the disappearance of what may be called the old-fashioned view of the English-speaking people.

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