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ATHENA, ORE., SEPT. 20, 1907

In many respects J. B. Huntington was, until liquor got the best of him a brilliant man. Highly educated, the very personification of energy, endowed with the passport of accomplishments that would take him anywhere in social or business relations, he wasted the youth and prime of his life in drink and carousals. Armed with all qualifications and attributes necessary to push himself forward in the work of man at a time when the development of the Oregon country was in its infancy, for a time Huntington planted his feet on the rungs of the ladder of success. He held different positions of trust. But in his makeup there was a deep burning strata that irresistibly and forever harkened to the call of the dive and the clink of the faro chip. Those who know him best, remember the resolutions made at times when his better qualities would rise to the surface and seemingly conquer his lust for devilry and dishonesty. One by one these resolutions were consumed in the fires of that other unquenchable desire, only remaining as flecks of ashes smouldering on the record of his mispent life. One by one his positions and friends drifted from him, and finally, after using his wife's last means of support, she, too, finding she could bear the burden of his misdoings no longer, separated from him. The last thread to all pretense of respectability snapped here, and it was not long before Huntington went to jail for forgery. Relatives interceded as they had interceded before. This time the offense was too serious to be overlooked. A compromise was effected with the district attorney. Huntington must either leave his native land forever or serve a term in prison. He chose the former. An exile, standing on the deck of an ocean steamer as she swung from her moorings into the channel of Portland's harbor, and moved down the river bathed in sunshine—Oregon sunshine—James B. Huntington, a good man gone wrong, looked for the last time at his native country—a passenger bound for the Orient.

Lifting a river 60 miles over hills and valleys and converting it into a score of powerful forces for the washing of golden gravel is the Titanic project now under way back of Dawson under the impetus of Guggenheim dollars and talent. A thousand men and hundreds of teams are employed in the work. It is the largest hydraulic placer mining project in the world. Sawmills, road systems, bridges and tramways are mere incidentals to the work which will take three years to complete.

Like an automatic apparition of Russia's Czar, Wood flashed through town Sunday on his first automobile ride. He came from Pendleton and wore a watermelon grin, but otherwise looked the part of I'm-disgusted-

and-don't-care-a-whoop-who-knows-it-Boyd-not-expected. The auto was sputtering and coughing and giving other evidence of being short on gasoline. No rubber hose connecting the colonel with the gasoline tank could be seen, but for the fact that Pendleton is a closed town, the cause for excessive gasoline evaporation is easily explained. However, the machine probably arrived at Weston all right, for all the chauffeur would need to do in case of emergency would be to have Wood blow his breath in the tank.

All three of the referendum petitions which were held invalid by Judge Galloway in the circuit court of Marion county, were declared good by a state supreme court, which reverses Judge Galloway. This means that Sheriff Stevens has lost his fight against the county commissioners of Multnomah county over the feeding of prisoners; the Logan compulsory pass measure will be put to a vote of the people and so will be the University of Oregon appropriation bill. As the situation now stands the people will vote on the three measures at the election next June.

The truancy law is a most excellent piece of legislation, an oasis, as it were, in a Sahara of jimcrow statutes passed by the late unlamented, and should be enforced without fear or favor or the benefit of clergy. Kids, says the Milton Eagle, who are too indisposed to attend school but otherwise in capital condition to go fishing or congregate in out-of-the-way places to roll lung destroyers and swap slang will take due notice that the officers intend to rigidly enforce this law.

Those Pennsylvania state house grafters are certainly strenuous fellows. Having stolen everything they could lay their hands on they are now trying to steal the evidence of their stealings, which has been collected and fled at Harrisburg. Those people of Pennsylvania calling themselves republicans, however, consider all this excusable, or they would not continue to vote to keep the rascals in power.

The volume of business daily transacted by the First National Bank of Athena is enormous. The bank employees are working over time and another evidence of prosperity is the fact that the resources are over a half million dollars, and money from wheat sales has just fairly commenced to come in for deposit.

The Taft swing around the circle had all the assistance the federal office holders and the Associated Press could give and make the poor little Fairbanks boom, that he was trying to cultivate on the same ground that Taft was plowing, look like a field of buckwheat hit by a hail storm.

Governor Hughes who has adopted the ordinary political dodge of visiting the country fairs says "the public conscience is awake." He will also find that the Oyster Bay boss is very much awake to the Hughes scheme to control the New York delegation to the republican national convention.

Vacation days in Athena came to an end Monday morning when the clang of the school house bell summoned the pupils to assemble for the beginning of another year's learning. And they trudged along, arms laden with books, seemingly happy that school days had returned.

The baseball "fan" is seeking winter quarters while the football "fan" is just practicing a few new yells.

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3:40 p. m.	Fast Mail for Pendleton, LaGrande, Baker City, and all points east via Huntington, Ore. Also for Umatilla, Heppner, The Dalles, Portland, Astoria, Willamette Valley, Tacoma, Seattle, all Sound Points.	3:40 p. m.
6:15 p. m.	Pendleton - Walla Walla Mixed	6:15 p. m.

E. M. Smith Agent, Athena.

SQUABBLE DELAYS LAND TRIAL.

It is a queer dispute between the Department of Justice and District Attorney Bristol, about responsibility for delay in the land-fraud prosecutions. We have it from Mr. Bristol that the Government has not allowed sufficient funds to gather evidence; that the cases have been taken out of his hands; that he has received no authority or instructions from the department to proceed; that he has been hampered by opposition to his tenure of the office, put forth by Senator Fulton; and that insufficient help in his office together with lack of a secret service force, makes it impossible to go on with the trials. It is suggested by persons evidently intimate with Mr. Bristol that some power in the Administration is scheming to have the trials put off indefinitely. They boldly assert that the indicted men will never be tried and that Bristol's enemies are working to make a scapegoat of him preliminary to ousting him.

From the Department of Justice comes denial of each of these assertions. We are told from Washington that the departments closely concerned with the trials—those of Justice and of the Interior—want the trials to proceed at once and finished by December; that all the money Mr. Bristol needs is at his disposal; that he has full authority to proceed and that everything is waiting for him to lead on; and that it is his duty to initiate and not that of the Washington officials, since he is prosecuting officer of this district.

Here are conflicting assertions from high officials, all of whom are supposed to be truthful men. The situation reveals lack of harmony between Mr. Bristol and his head office. Wherever the fault may lie, the clash should end. The public interests are too important to be scandalized by a squabble. If Mr. Bristol cannot serve the Department of Justice without conflict or cannot obtain the co-operation of the Government as he thinks he ought, he should quit the job. A man must "get along" with his chiefs, if he is to render good service and stay in their employ.

These indictments, obtained through Heney, evidently have needed Heney to prosecute. But he became involved last year in the San Francisco graft investigation and now is so engaged with them that he cannot come to Oregon. If the delay during the past year has been due to his absence, somebody else should take up his work. The public is growing weary of the putting-off business. If there are innocent men among the defendants they should be relieved of the indictments hanging over their heads.—Oregonian.

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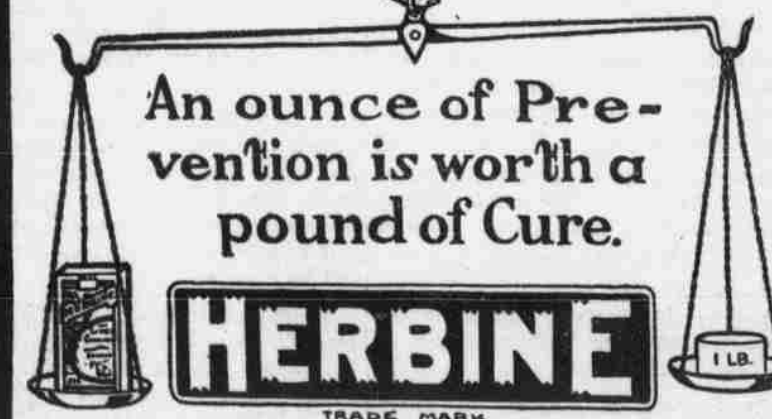
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