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ATHENA, ORE., JAN. 24, 1908

The late Mr. Barnum had an elephant plowing on a Connecticut field, in view of passing railroad trains. To a farmer who asked if the elephant was a profitable beast of labor for this country, the showman replied that it was not unless one had a circus to advertise. Contractors in a New York town, engaged in extensive building, have imported two work elephants to pull dirt cars. It may be, however, that the contractors have caught Barnum's spirit, and have sent the story to the newspapers for purposes of advertisement.

The efforts being made by Whitman College for cleaner athletics are to be commended, and it is to be hoped that at the conference to be held there in February, steps will be taken that will stop the mud-slinging that is yearly being indulged in under the present system. Rigid rules defining professionalism should be adopted and enforced. Whitman is rapidly coming to the front in scholastic as well as athletic lines and it is proper that she should take the initiative for cleaner sports.

The proposed amendment by means of the initiative to the tax law of the state is finding but few supporters. The assessors in convention at Portland went on record against the proposition and nearly every newspaper in the state opposes it. The exemption of certain chattels and improvements, leaving land to bear the burden of taxation smacks of the single tax theory and the people will have none of it.

The Press is in receipt of bulletins Nos. 95 and 96, from the Oregon Agricultural College experiment stations, which treat on the "Disease of Turkeys" and "The Poultry Industry in Oregon." These bulletins can be obtained by writing to the college at Corvallis and as they contain much valuable information, those engaged in poultry raising should avail themselves of the opportunity.

These are the times when loyalty along the line counts. Patronize home institutions of every description. Every dollar that remains at home does service over and over. Every dollar sent away will be a long time in getting back. Think this over and warm up to our home industries. It pays under any and all conditions, but especially at present.

There are plenty of people who openly declare that local option is more than likely to carry in Union county in June, and it seems quite probable that it may. There is a local option wave sweeping over the country that it will be difficult to stay, and many leading publication of the United States are freely predicting the result.

Says The Dalles Optimist: The Optimist has been in the wrong. We apologize, recant, retract, abjure, disown, disavow and back up on our statement with reference to the fact that there is no republican party in the state of Oregon, for there is such a party, and his name is Jonathan Bourne.

Speaking of Senator Tillman's criticism of financial methods, the Charleston News and Courier intimates that this is no time to throw rocks. May be not. But it's a good time to be saving them up.

San Francisco builders report there are great possibilities in concrete as a substitute for lumber. Between concrete and scientific forestry a few trees may be saved to satisfy the curiosity of posterity as to what live trees look like.

A Michigan man wrote a message on a toaststool stating that he was about to commit suicide. But as he did not eat the toaststool his friends think he has eaten his words. Queer world.

Writers are still trying to fix the reason for the financial failure of the Jamestown exposition. That ought to be easy enough. Jamestown is too far from Oregon, where expositions are a financial success.—Exchange.

Kentucky is reminded that if the price of tobacco is too low the growers can raise other crops. What they are raising now is worse for the state than Canada thistles or grasshoppers.

Secretary Taft has bought a saddle horse that weighs 1,250 pounds. When it comes to unenviable positions, that horse seems to have about the worst of them all.

China is to be a constitutional monarchy from now on, but it is likely that it will be quite a long time before many of the Chinese people find it out.

Since the financial stringency we do not bear so much as we did about tainted money. It seems to be in hiding along with the balance.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

The United States has astounded the world by its spectacular rapidity of development. We came into the sisterhood of nations an evangel of liberty and a herald of better days to the nations. But we are the Speddrift, the Waster, the Ne'er-do-Well of nations. Beginning in modern times with incomparably rich natural resources, we have ravaged a continent of its wood, coal and iron, and we smugly face the exhaustion of our bank account in these things like a boy in the midst of his sowing of wild oats. Our forests are gone. The scattered fragments left will disappear in twenty years. The pinch of exhausting coal fields has begun; and the best authorities are computing the time of the end of our supply, trying to determine whether it will be our children or our grandchildren who will have to face a future without coal. We have vast reserves of water-power, coal, iron, and lands capable of reclamation and reforestation, but we seem to have no adequate conception of our duties toward them, to ourselves, our country or posterity. Our soil is being washed away into the rivers, and by them carried to the sea, and our boasted fertility of soil is thereby being lessened year by year; but the irreparable drain is ignored. Our neglect is almost equal to our active waste. The vast potentialities of our waterways in bearing commerce and in furnishing power have been neglected. But a new era seems dawning. President Roosevelt is bringing these matters into the field of practical statesmanship. The Inland Waterways Commission has been constituted by him as a great agency for pointing out these national dangers and coordinating the Governmental plans for conserving our national resources. In constructive statesmanship, the work outlined rises to the most exalted plane. It demands the attention of every American. On its success depends the future. We must make the most of what is left of our once great estate; we must stop waste; we must keep our natural resources from the grasp of monopoly, or we may sink to a status of commercial and national inferiority and subordination.—The Reader Magazine.

GROWTH OF IRRIGATION.

The annual report of the director of the reclamation service, portions of which were printed in The Sunday Oregonian, contains some very interesting figures regarding the results in the Klamath district, where the Government has devoted more of its energies than at any other portion of this State. According to this report, there was irrigated in the Klamath and Merrill districts this year 9600 acres of land, with an additional 11,000 acres under ditch but not yet irrigated. This tract of 20,000 acres, is of course, only a small portion of the area that will eventually come under the irrigation project in that part of the State, but when it is considered that the amount already under irrigation in that district is ample to produce a good living for more than a thousand families, the importance of the work can be understood.

More than 60 years have passed since Brigham Young, the original irrigationist of the West, first made the desert bloom with his primitive irrigation projects. Since that time more than 12,000,000 acres of desert land have been brought to a high degree of cultivation by means of irrigation, estimates placing the amount brought into use by the Government and private enterprise within the past five years, at more than 1,000,000 acres per year. Some of the projects now under way or recently completed will bring under cultivation greater areas of productive land than are found in entire States in New England. Around Phoenix, Arizona, 200,000 acres have been rendered fertile by the building of the Roosevelt dam and 600,000 acres will be benefited by the Minidoka project in Idaho.

Oregon has been so well favored by nature in the way of moisture that irrigation has received less attention here than in some of the States where nature was less kind, but the results secured by irrigation are so remunerative that there will be a rapidly increasing exploitation of our arid land resources from this time forward. The success that has followed irrigation enterprises along Snake River, in the Yakima and Wenatchee districts, as well as at a number of other localities throughout the Pacific Northwest, has given us an idea of what the future holds for Oregon in this line of endeavor, and an enormous development on lines similar to those followed in the districts mentioned will take place in the irrigation districts of this State.—Oregonian.

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IN OTHER TOWNS

WESTON.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Warren have left Weston with the intention of making their future home elsewhere. Mr. Warren rejoins his brother, Dave, near Lind, Wash., where both have taken farms, while Mrs. Warren accompanied her mother, Mrs. Kate Palmer, to Baker City, where she will remain until spring.

The dance at the opera house drew a large crowd of tireless dancers. The splendid music of the Walla Walla orchestra brought many who did not dance, while the beautiful "moonlight dance," which created such a furore some weeks ago, was repeated to the delight of participants and spectators. Mrs. Stinton has arrived and the Fountain Square Inn is in regular working order under the new regime.

Robert Wheeler left today to take up his work at the railway office in Wallace, Idaho. He came home to attend the funeral of his father. Mr. William Benney has started from Chicago to join his wife here. Mrs. Benney is a teacher in the music department of the Normal. Mr. Benney may decide to locate here and follow his profession of lawyer in this vicinity.

FREEWATER.

Young Mr. Compley of Grangeville, Idaho, is in the city looking over fruit land, with the intention of buying and settling here.

Postoffice Inspector William Troensegart of New York city is in the city performing his duties at the Free-water postoffice as is the yearly custom.

H. D. Stanley rural mail man for route No. 2, is off duty, owing to the critical illness of his mother, who is not expected to live.

The Shields Fruit company is loading a Northern Pacific refrigerator car today on the Traction line, with apples for Crawford, Nebraska.

V. O. Kelley has bought the O. R. & N. billiard hall and store from A. L. Granstead and is improving the interior of the building.

Rank Foolishness.

"When attacked by a cough, or a cold or when your throat is sore, it is rank foolishness to take any other medicine than Dr. King's New Discovery," says C. O. Eldridge, of Empire, Ga. "I have used New Discovery seven years and I know it is the best remedy on earth for coughs and colds, croup, and all throat and lung troubles. My children are subject to croup, but New Discovery quickly cures every attack." Known the world over as the King of throat and lung remedies. Sold under guarantee by the Palace Drug company. 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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ARRIVE	TIME SCHEDULES	DEPART
Daily.	ATHENA, ORE.	Daily.
1:10 p. m.	Walla Walla, Dayton, Pomeroy, Lewiston, Colfax, Pullman, Moscow, the Couer d'Alene district, Spokane and all points north.	1:10 p. m.
12:25 p. m.	Walla Walla - Pendleton Mixed	12:25 p. m.
3:45 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 Points, California, Tacoma, Seattle, all Sound Points.	3:45 p. m.
6:25 p. m.	Pendleton - Walla Walla Mixed	6:25 p. m.

E. M. Smith Agent, Athena

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