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ATHENA, ORE., FEB. 14, 1908

The Press is in receipt of a circular letter sent out by Fred I. Johnson, of Fitchburg, Mass. His circular takes up and discusses the financial question and Mr. Johnson has a live idea. He proposes to prevent panics by the "insurance of the people's money, by the people, for the people." Mr. Johnson says: We insure almost everything that we possess, and we insure against nearly every kind of calamity, but—strange to say—we do not insure money. The writer's idea is that the United States Government should establish such measures and such drastic laws as would enforce savings banks and trust companies to give up their present state charters, and come directly under the control of the National Government, also such laws as would empower the Government to insure the deposits of all banks. The amount of money on deposit in 1906 was, in round numbers, 12 billions of dollars; and an assessment of 15-100 of 1 per cent on that sum, would have placed at the disposal of the Government, in that year, 18 millions of dollars; with which to pay off, immediately, the depositors of any insolvent banks, the Government then liquidating the bank's affairs.

Several hundred farmers, who left eastern Oregon and the Walla Walla and Palouse districts to engage in wheat growing in the new provinces of British Columbia will be interested in the following Ottawa dispatch printed in the Oregonian recently:

"The Dominion government has decided to loan a sum of approximately \$4,000,000 to the farmers of the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan whose crops were a failure, to purchase seed grain."

With everything favorable in the new districts mentioned, good crops of wheat can be grown, but when the season is unfavorable, as it was last year, the resulting failure is so much worse than any failure of which the Oregon and Washington farmer has ever heard that it means government aid or starvation. Another year like the one just closed will see the departure for America of a few thousand settlers who have been drifting northward in search of cheap land.

Cement and steel brick and stone are not yet used in sufficient quantities to encourage lumber users to predict the time when the forests will not be called upon to furnish the principal materials used in building operations. Notwithstanding the remarkable increase in the use of cement and other fireproof materials, the last reports of the building operations in forty-nine of the leading cities of the United States for the year, collected by the Geological Survey, show that 59 per cent were of wooden construction. Even if the remaining forty-one per cent of the buildings were built of brick, stone and concrete, vast quantities of wood are consumed both in the construction and in the finish, though in the latter form, metal is taking the place of wood to a very large extent.

The President has just signed a proclamation creating additions in the Trinity National Forest, California, amounting to 350,471 acres. The additions to the forest are contiguous tracts of timberland lying for the most part in Humboldt and Trinity counties, with smaller areas in Shasta and Tehama counties. This new land brings the total area of the Trinity Forest up to nearly 1,600,000 acres. Valuable forests of yellow and sugar pine, incense cedar and a few stands of redwood included in the additions are estimated to contain more than two and a quarter billion board feet of timber. The market value of this timber is \$4,500,000. These forests have been neglected by lumber interests up to the present time because it was more profitable to exploit the valuable and more accessible redwood forests lying farther west.

The coming campaign for United States senator promises to be one of the liveliest in our history under the primary system. Senator Fulton states that he will soon be home to answer the charges made by Francis J. Honey. Honey states that he will prob-

ably return to the state before the primary election. We all knew that Honey is a fighter and those who personally know Senator Fulton, are well aware that he is no quitter and there will be something doing upon his arrival.

The Eagle sees on the horizon a big building boom for Milton this year, and admonishes the people over there to grasp the opportunity and give the town the push of its history. Four new business houses have recently been established; a new national bank is to be incorporated; a deal for property for an ice manufacturing plant is being negotiated for, all of which the Milton paper sizes up as an auspicious beginning of the season's progress.

By order of C. A. Jobus, mayor of Eaker City, the last "open town" in Eastern Oregon is to have the lid nailed down tight. An association, composed of the ministers of that city which came into the lime light a few days ago by retracting allegations sent broadcast in a circular are now taking a back seat, letting the mayor do the work.

Among the referendum bills that will come before the people this spring will be one that deals with the appropriation for the State University at Eugene, and unless the signs are misleading it will be approved by an overwhelming majority, and it is up to eastern Oregon to do its part in this matter.

And it was the Union Republican that said: "Ex Governor Geer was through the Grande Ronde Valley last week, looking up matters political, but did not stop off at Union. Can it be that the ghost of that old Panhandle affair still appears? Forget it, Governor."

Congressman Tawney, chairman of the committee on appropriations, warns his colleagues they must face a deficit of \$118,000,000 in the revenues of the government.

United States Senator Guggenheimer is having good success in controlling the patronage of Colorado. Trust magnates seem to still be welcome at the White House.

Jim Crow telephones are proposed in Oklahoma. Why not Jim Crow postage stamps and Jim Crow milk tickets?

The orbids used at the Vanderbilt wedding cost \$40,000, most of which money is now in general circulation.

The man who takes the affinity route has found the shortest way if he has started for the house of trouble.

Market days in other towns are carried on successfully—why not try them in Athena?

EMPHASIZING THE THREE RS.

A movement for a return to first principles in educational methods is taking on significant proportions in Chicago, where a committee of the board of education is studying proposed radical changes in the curriculum of the schools. The trend of affairs is toward a greater attention to the "three R's," and in this the Chicago authorities are following the example recently set by Cleveland. In the latter city an educational commission devoted a year and a half to thorough investigation of school methods and results, and then submitted a series of recommendations relative to elementary schools the main features of which were as follows:

More effort and time to reading; supervision of writing to be increased; thorough and continuous training in mental arithmetic in every grade where the subject is taught; more time to the essentials—reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling; smaller school classes; greater use of the dictionary by pupils; better correlation of the physical training work with other studies.

Adoption of a policy of this nature would mean the elimination of some fads on which many parents think time is wasted. It would result in more thorough grounding of the pupils in the essential elementary subjects to which not enough time is now given. It is a gratifying sign of the times that this movement is taking definite shape in the larger cities, and hope is entertained that before long it will spread over the whole country.

"FIGHTING BOB" EVANS.

In these columns recently Admiral Evans was mentioned by his popular sobriquet "Fighting Bob" Evans, and that leads George V. Alexander, a Republic attorney, to ask "by what feat of arms he won that sobriquet? What naval battle or otherwise did he ever fight which enabled him to receive the title 'Fighting Bob' Evans? Where a man is so generally referred to by a name that indicates some great act of heroism or feat of arms in battle there should be some historical basis therefor. I ask for the historical facts on which you base your editorial, or rather the name you apply to Admiral Robley D. Evans."

A sobriquet is almost never of the

choosing of him who wears it. In this case it was given to Evans by some of his admiring comrades, and not without justification. He was fighting his country's battles at the boyish age of 17 and participated, as a youthful naval officer in the civil war, in both attacks on Fort Fisher. He was severely wounded in the second engagement. Evans commanded the Yorktown at Valparaiso in 1891 and 1892, and during the war with Spain was in command of the Iowa and rendered conspicuous and gallant service in the battle at Santiago. At one time in that engagement the fire of the entire Spanish fleet was concentrated on his ship.

Let us not be parsimonious in our meed of praise to a gallant soldier or sailor, even though Admiral Evans may not, as Mr. Alexander suggests, have won as yet the preeminent distinction that came to John Paul Jones in the fight between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis in the revolutionary war. For his opportunities he has won some laurels, and possibly greater achievements are yet to be recorded against his name.—Spokesman-Review.

Suffering and Dollars Saved.

E. S. Loper, of Marilla, N. Y., says: "I am a carpenter and have had many severe cuts healed by Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It has saved me suffering and dollars. It is by far the best healing salve I have ever found." Heals burns, sores, ulcers, fever sores, eczema and piles. 25c at Palace Drug company's store.

Ring's Little Liver Pills wake up lazy livers, clean the system and clear the skin. Try them for biliousness and sick headache. Price 25c. Sold by Pioneer Drug Store.

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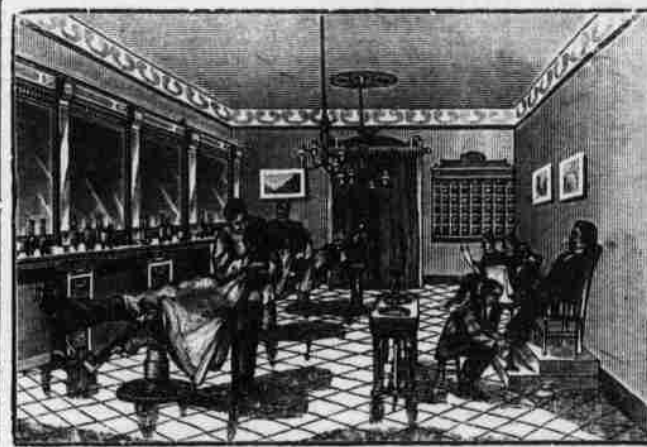
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