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ATHENA, ORE., FEB. 26, 1909

The student dependent on personal earnings or parents with limited means are the ones on which heavily fall the results of normal school abolishment. The well-to-do can afford higher education, no matter where the location of the school or college, and the expense which is the stumbling block to the student of small means, is given no consideration. The abolition of the normals brings the communities where their educational influence was felt, face to face with the problem of giving children opportunity of advancement above the eighth grade. The only solution of this problem is to maintain a high school; the school to be of a standard of merit that will attract people to the towns in which they are located. In the whole of Eastern Oregon there is no town that is more seriously affected by the killing of the Normal school than is Athena—Weston alone excepted. To overcome this educational blight, it is up to the school board of this district to provide high school facilities of such character as will appeal to the patronage of the people remaining here, and strong enough in the way of faculty domination to give the school such standing as will cause people to come here for the purpose of schooling their children. Until such time as the Athena public school is strengthened in the departments above eighth grade, and a gilt-edge high school such as the wealth of the district can well afford, be maintained, just so long will vacant houses be in evidence here. Present conditions can no longer be tolerated. A district having an assessed property valuation of \$683,000, together with a pronounced sentiment favoring a good high school, is behind the board of directors, and that the members of the board will use every effort possible to secure a capable principal and a competent assistant for next year, the Press firmly believes—but the proper man to give Athena the school she so richly deserves, can be secured for no \$900 per year. Bear this fact in mind. The opportune time for the discussion of a better school in Athena is now. The columns of the Press are open for publication of opinions of its readers relative to securing school advancement in Athena.

Figure and statistics, generally speaking, make dull reading; but such is not the case with the report of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson in which he tells of the fabulous gains in the wealth produced by the American farmer during his twelve years of service as a cabinet official. As a record of the past and a prophecy of the future the report has almost the fascination of a national novel. But it is all fact, and the optimism that predicts a more wonderful development year by year is entirely warranted. The figures are of such magnitude that the mind scarcely can grasp them—\$7,778,000,000 as the value of farm products for 1908—the most extraordinary amount in the history of the world," as Secretary Wilson declares or again, "an unthinkable amount of real, tangible wealth as it exists at the time it leaves the hand of the producer." The figures, not alone for the aggregate of farm products, but as to King Corn and King Cotton, wheat, dairy products and the product of the American hennery are actually thrilling in connection with parenthetical comment and word painting of the Secretary of Agriculture.

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"What makes you newspapers tell so many lies?" asked a rather inconsiderate Daytonian of a newspaper reporter the other day. "Because we have to get most of our information from liars," was the jolting reply. When a newspaper reporter asks you for information do you tell him the truth or only so much of it as will help your cause? When you have a chance to give your side of an affair in newspapers don't you take precious good care to make a good argument for yourself? A newspaper cannot manufacture knowledge it must collect it. Every news item that is published, providing it is not a court record—and newspapers have been sued for mistakes in court records, too—is based on information secured from some one.—Dayton Chronicle.

A female character in "The Flower of the Ranch" poses for her picture, revolver in hand; while in the corner of the reproduction a male character is seen discharging a pistol. Of all the absurd rot human gullibility has permitted fakers to make a living from this about the wild west is the worst. The percent of pistol-toters in the west, in frontier days was less than that in New York today, and the per cent of gun plays was trifling in comparison. What is there interesting in a weapon? Any fool can pull a trigger. What is there heroic in this perennial bad man stuff? It is time the west refuted a slander which leads the ignoramus east of the Mississippi to presume that we are a parcel of murderers.

The new alliance between the Orientals and America, formed in Walla Walla, the other day, should be an object lesson to President Roosevelt and other almsy lovers of Japs and Chinamen. It would appear that the "fool-killer" in Walla Walla was not attending to his business or he would have got the girl that loved the chink to distraction, her parents and the eminent divine who tied the knot. A preacher named Thoroughman was the officiating clergyman and the notoriety gained by him, in performance of duty (?) is not enviable, to say the least.

It is said that a farmer can always find something to complain about. To illustrate this the man making the assertion said that he was talking with a farmer while riding on a train, and pointing to the field of grain said: "Crops are fine this year. You surely have nothing to complain of?" The farmer replied that crops were going to be very heavy, but he added, "It's going to be mighty hard on the land!"

Out of the educational wreck, Eastern Oregon finds some solace in the loss of the Normal in the gallant fight her legislators made on behalf of retaining the school. In the shadow of

the empty Normal buildings, grim and silent monuments to the death warrants decreed by the Oregon senate and the Portland Oregonian to Normal school education, the people of Weston know their friends. And among the warmest of these loyal friends they will always remember Kirk and Barrett, nor will they forget the splendid vote given by Athena people favoring the appropriation held up by the long whiskered yams of Yamhill.

The Walla Walla Union temporarily suspended publication on account of printers striking for 50 cents per day increase in salary. The rosy path of the two "Colonels," Wood and Boyd is never blocked by arbitrary actions of labor organizations. Both the Leader and the Press are open shops and are frequently "panhandled" by the wandering tourist. The Press also has the distinction of rustling a V once a year as a toll for "factory inspection."

It is important that the water ways should be utilized everywhere in the interests of cheap freight rates. The railroads are moving for an increased rate, and with the full tide of prosperity on we shall again experience that congestion which some time ago taxed the railroads beyond their power and tied up transportation. We have got to guard against that, and the only way to do it is to open up the rivers and canals.

Dr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California said recently to a Boston audience, "The old New England characteristic of gumption is dying out. If you don't know what gumption is you are no New Englander. But New Englanders, east and west, still know what it is, for they still have it."

"I do not want to hear of Wall street; I am resting," exclaimed E. H. Harriman at Birmingham. There have been occasions when Wall street would have been happy if it had never heard of Harriman.

Pendleton has resurrected her dog tax ordinance and it may be supposed that the welkin rings with the crack of the pistol and canine yells, for dog tax in that town ranges from \$2.50 up.

There is in New Jersey a minister who makes marrying people his specialty, while his son is doing a thriving business as a divorce lawyer. Thus they catch them coming and going.

Governor Chamberlain is using the ax on bills passed by the legislature. This was to be expected on the salary grab list, but there are other bills getting the gash, too.

The statement is made that Mrs. William Howard Tatt is a splendid cook. Her distinguished husband certainly makes a convincing after-taking picture.

After success in having the courts declare bleached flour unlawful, will Dr. Wiley kindly turn his attention to the peroxide chorus girl?

From general appearances, Athena does need a license ordinance for near beer joints, and a stiff one at that.

Suppose you clean up your alley.

**WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY.**

Shipwrecked—Go ashore as soon as possible; remove wet clothing and relate your experiences to nearest reporter. Add photograph if possible.

Baby, cut on face of—Remove cut. Train, run over by—Remove train, using force if necessary. Upon release, acquaint nearest station master with the facts and proceed as in case of shipwreck.

Pantry, burglar in—Procure a copy of the Tariff Reform League's latest publication on free food fallacies, and read same to intruder, taking care to elucidate most telling arguments. The contrite crackerman will at once turn over a new leaf and express his sorrow. Under the circumstances you will do well to accept his assurance of regret.

Crime, having committed, or being suspected of—Apply to nearest music hall manager for an engagement. Insist on being put among the "star" turns, and demand a salary proportionate to the gravity of the crime in question.—Punch.

**Revolts at Cold Steel**

Your only hope, said three doctors to Mrs. M. E. Fisher, Detroit, Mich. suffering from renal trouble, lies in an operation. "Then I used Dr. King's New Life Pills, she writes, till wholly cured. They prevent Appendicitis, cure constipation, Headache. 25c. at Palace Drug Co's."

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**Soldier Barks Death Plot.**

It seemed to A. J. Jackson a civil war veteran of Kemp Tex., that a plot existed between a desperate lung trouble and the grave to cause his death. I contracted a stubborn cold, he writes that developed a cough that stuck to me, in spite of all remedies, for years. My weight ran down to 130 pounds. Then I began to use Dr. King's New Discovery, which restored my health completely. I now weigh 178 pounds. For severe Cold, obstinate Coughs, Hemorrhages, Asthma, and to prevent Pneumonia it's unrivaled. 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by Palace Drug Co.

For health and happiness—DeWitt's Little Eraly Risers—small, gentle, easy, pleasant little liver pills, the best made. Sold by Palace Drug Co.

Washington Once Gave Up to three doctors; was kept in bed for five weeks. Blood poison from a spiders bite caused large, deep sores to cover his leg. The Dr. failed then Bucklens Arnica Salve completely cured me, writes J. Washington, of Bosqueville, Tex. For eczema, boils, burns, piles its supreme. 25c. at Palace Drug Co's.

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In piece goods as in ready-to-wear goods, this store is now showing the largest and most metropolitan stocks of spring fabrics in approved styles.

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