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The Best Meat to be found in Town. Come and see me. I will treat you right.

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SCHOOLS ARE AIDED

County High Schools—Small Districts May Draw on General County Fund.

Several bills relating to the public schools were passed at the recent legislative session, the most important being one increasing the minimum school year to six months, and another providing for an apportionment of \$100 to each district before the per capita distribution is made. The present first apportionment is \$50. The change favors the small districts. Superintendent Ackerman gives the following summary of new school laws:

First, the Hawley bill: Every district in the state must maintain at least six months of school each year. A County Court of each county must levy a tax for school purposes that will produce an amount which will aggregate at least \$7 for each child of school age, 4 to 20 years. If a district's share of this sum does not amount to \$300, six months at \$50 per month, then the county court must levy upon the property of such district a special tax large enough to produce the difference between such district apportionment of the county fund and \$300; provided that such special levy does not exceed a 5-mill tax. If the district's share of the county school fund and the amount raised by a 5-mill tax (special school tax) does not amount to \$300, then the county court must transfer from the general county fund to the special fund of such district an amount that will equal the difference.

Second, the Philpott bill: This bill makes a change in the manner of apportioning the county and state funds. As the law now is the County Superintendent apportions the money by first giving each district \$50 and then distributing the balance according to the number of pupils in each district.

Third, the bill introduced by the Lane County delegation, providing for a county high school fund. This bill provides that a county at any general election may vote upon the question of creating a county high school fund. When such fund has been created it is placed under the control of a county high school board, consisting of members of the county Court, the County Treasurer and the County School Superintendent. Every high school in such county that maintains a school up to the standard prescribed by the State Board of Education is entitled to receive tuition from this fund for all pupils attending such high school. The basis of the distribution is the average daily attendance during the school year. A high school shall receive not less than \$40 per pupil for the first 20, \$30 per pupil for the second 20, and \$12 per pupil for all the remaining pupils, provided that the total paid any district shall not exceed the amount paid by the district to the high school teachers.

Fourth, the Dodd bill: Gives the County Superintendent authority to make a partial apportionment of the money to any district upon the request of the board of directors of such district.

Fifth, the Cole Bill: Declares unlawful any secret societies, including fraternities and sororities, which may now or hereafter exist in any of the public schools of this state, including high schools. It makes it the duty of each School board in the state to examine into the condition of all schools under its charge and to suppress all secret societies therein. The act does not apply to the Oregon Agricultural College or to the State University.

Sixth, the McArthur bill: The Governor shall appoint by the first Monday in July 1909, a board of five members, called the Board of Higher Curricula. The members shall serve without pay, excepting traveling expenses. This board shall first meet on the first Monday in July, 1909. The

duty of the board shall be to determine what courses of studies of departments shall not be duplicated in the higher educational institutions of Oregon. The secretary of the board shall keep a record of such determination and shall notify the Governor and the secretaries of the several boards of the higher educational institutions of such determination. It shall be the duty of each institution to conform thereto. Any changes that are made shall become effective at the beginning of the school year following such determination. It provides that the board of Higher Curricula shall visit each of the institutions and that the board of each separate institution shall have a hearing before the Board of Higher Curricula relative to any change that may be contemplated.

Seventh, the Farrell bill: This bill affects schoolhouses by providing that the outside doors and other exits of all school buildings shall be so swung and hinged that they shall open outward. These changes must be made within six months after the time that this act takes effect.

A PROSPECTIVE BALL TEAM

Chance For Athena to Have First Class Amateur Team.

With the ball teams organized at Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Echo and other towns in the county, fanning bees are in evidence in Athena. Henry LaBrasche, the clever little pitcher, has instilled enthusiasm in the proposition and with proper encouragement Athena can have a swell amateur team to represent her on the diamond this season.

There is good material available for a team, in fact better than ever before, considering players from a local standpoint. A list of the eligible fellows:

(David Stone, Henry LaBrasche, P. Wilson, Dean Dudley, pitchers; Frank Sanders, Byron Hawks, J. Lacourse, catchers; Virgil Willaby, Ralph DePeatt, 1b; C. Streus, H. LaBrasche, 2b; Jesse Myrick, Frank Swaggart, ss; W. Boeber, R. DePeatt, 3b; D. Stone, D. Willaby, C. Christian, F. Johnson and A. Bell, fielders.)

A crackerjack bunch could be rounded into shape from the above personnel, and all it requires to have good ball in town this year is for some one to take the lead and start to pushing.

JUDGES' LAND CONTESTED

Government Alleges Fraudulent Use of Contract For Water.

Charges have been brought against Judge H. J. Bean in the land office at La Grande, on the ground that the judge fraudulently obtained a contract from the Hinkle Ditch Co., and had afterward used this contract to prove up on his desert land claim on Butter creek, says the East Oregonian.

According to the testimony of the witnesses for the government, who consisted of the Hinkle Ditch Company incorporators, a contract had been drawn up whereby the ditch company was to supply to Bean with 200 miners' inches of water in the months of March, April and May, for irrigating, stock watering and domestic purposes. The contract was drawn to run for 99 years. It was drawn up, signed by the Hinkle Ditch Co., June 15, 1904, and sent to the judge for his signature.

The contract was not signed by the judge for a year afterwards.

It is claimed by Hinkle that he and Mr. Teel, one of the principal stockholders, that the contract was called in by the ditch company and destroyed. On June 24, 1905, Bean had his contract put on file and then proved up on his land and as the prosecution claims, without authority to do so.

Mr. Bean's defense will be that the contract was illegal; that he did not know that the other contract had been destroyed; that he was acting in good faith in having the contract put on record. Later he had a complaint filed in the circuit court to enjoin the water companies in that section from stopping his water supply. The evidence for the government was completed last week and the testimony for the defense will start, perhaps next Friday. Attorney Winter has been engaged to represent Judge Bean.

It is alleged by the attorneys for Judge Bean that he paid the ditch company the sum of \$1,000 and turned over to the company about a mile of ditch, having received in return, the contract which the ditch company is now seeking to repudiate.

Band Benefit.

A special program will be given for the benefit of the Athena band at the Dime tomorrow evening. For the occasion, Mr. Tharp has secured an accomplished impersonator and the motion pictures will be exceptionally good. Mr. Tharp will donate a percentage of the proceeds to the band. The program will be supplemented with selections by the band. Admission for Saturday evening, adults 25c; children under 10 years, 15c.

THE CITY ELECTION

Only One Ticket in the Field Attracts Little Interest and Vote Is Correspondingly Light.

Athena's city election passed off quietly Tuesday. There being but one ticket in the field, the vote was correspondingly light.

About the only issue raised was the proposition of licensing near beer joints, but for the reason that everybody in Athena favors licensing these resorts, the issue failed to be an issue, and but one ticket was put out. The citizens' ticket as nominated in mass meeting, polled the following vote:

For Mayor—A. B. McEwen, 92.
For Councilmen—Wm. Tompkins, 91; S. F. Wilson, 87; A. M. Johnson, 91.

For Treasurer—A. A. Foss, 89.
For Recorder, B. B. Richards, 88.
For Water Commissioner, William Winship, 93.

As usual, there was a number of scattering votes. For instance, York Dell, Dr. Sharp and Fred Keshaw each received one vote for the office of councilman, and J. B. Dickenson received two. Ed Knight was left out of the race for councilman, entirely, but he showed class against Foss, receiving eight votes for city treasurer, and he butted in on Judge Richards' majority for one. Will Dobson, John Douglas and "Slim" Miller each has a friend who preferred them to Foss for treasurer.

A NEW TOWN THAT IS OLD

Stanfield Is to Be On Site of Voting Place Older Than Echo.

The announcement that a town is to be built at Fosters station and that it will be known as Stanfield has brought forth many pioneer reminiscences of incidents that occurred there in early days, says the East Oregonian.

"The first vote I ever cast in this county I cast at that place," declared J. M. Bentley this forenoon. "The place was then called Franklin and all the people in that neighborhood voted there. It was before Echo had been started."

"It was back in '73 and it was a state and county election, almost the first one held in this county. At the time A. W. Nye was a candidate for sheriff and H. G. Yoakum was a candidate for county Judge. Both were elected."

That was in the days before we had any primary or any Australian ballot. When a man voted he gave his vote to the chairman of the judges. The chairman then read off the ballot right at the time and the vote was set down by a clerk. Every body there could tell how everybody else voted."

SPOKANE WINS HER RATE CASE

Will Make That City the Greatest Jobbing Center in the West.

The famous Spokane rate case which has been in the hands of the commission for more than two years is now with the printer, says the Chicago Record Herald. It is understood the decision will be given within a week and that it is favorable to Spokane.

It is rumored in railroad circles that the commission insists that the transcontinental freight rates to Spokane will be reduced between 50 and 20 cents per 100 pounds. The first figure is said to be the reduction ordered on first class articles, and the last figure to be the reduction on fifth class. Reductions on the other classes range between these two figures.

Spokane complained against having to pay in the majority of cases the rate to the Pacific coast plus the local rate from there back to Spokane, which the railroads said was necessary because of the water competition. If the decision is as rumored it will, railroad officials assert, make Spokane the greatest jobbing center of the northwest.

Judge Bean Explains.

Pendleton, Ore., March 2, '09. To the Public: One word is due, I think, on account of the land contest involving my Desert Entry, about four miles from Echo, Ore., an account of which has been published in papers of the state with large and glaring headlines. The question is dispute is between myself and Attorney Joe Hinkle, and I am content to let those who know us both draw their own conclusions on the matter is fully heard in the regular way. The case involves a water right, a contract for which was executed by the officers of the Hinkle Ditch Company. J. T. Hinkle, president, and H. S. Garfield, secretary, and acknowledged and sworn to by the secretary in the regular way. The Hinkle Ditch has now transferred by that company and a suit to settle the water right, which cost me about \$1000, and about one mile of ditch constructed, estimated to be worth \$3000—was commenced by me a few

weeks ago and is now pending in the circuit court. I am out of the money and property and now it is attempted to take from me the water right and also the land, valued at \$10,000—upon which I have expended about \$4000. I have only to say that I have acted in good faith in the matter and God knows it. Faithfully yours,
H. J. BEAN.

Echo Flooded.

Echo was flooded with water Monday night as a result of a break in the government ditch at that point. The break occurred just above the depot and the water rushed down the hill at a tremendous speed. After the water was shut off at the intake, one mile and a half distant, water flowing at the rate of 50 second feet had yet to find its way into the streets. A large portion of the town was protected by the railroad grade, which turned the flood. The schoolhouse, the scouring mill and depot are in two to three feet of water.

ATHENA GREATLY HONORED

Most Remarkable Missionary Now Living Coming.

Dr. Royal J. Dye, of Bolingi Africa, a man who has attracted the attention of the religious world by his wonderful accomplishments on the Congo will tell his wonderful story at the Christian church Friday night March 12. This story is more than interesting—it is fascinating. It is the one opportunity of a life time to hear this great man, as he soon returns to Africa. We have no hesitancy to say that the accomplishments of this man have not had an equal in the churches' history since the Missionary journeys of Paul.

If you have never been to church before and never expect to go again you cannot afford to miss hearing Dye. Remember Friday night March 12 7:30 o'clock. Tell your friends. No admission will be charged.

New Manager at Davis-Kaser's.

The Davis-Kaser Co., of Walla Walla have secured Mr. W. H. Beharrell, of Portland to manage their furniture department. Mr. Beharrell has broad knowledge of furniture in both the wholesale and retail ends of the business, having spent several years in furniture factories and as traveling salesman for some of the best lines of furniture in the market and later had charge of the furniture department of one of Portland's largest retail establishments.

Mr. Beharrell has already made several improvements in the Davis-Kaser store, and while this department has always been a credit to the Inland Empire, it will now carry a more complete line of fine furniture than ever before. The next time you are in Walla Walla it will pay you to visit their store and look around, for you will be welcome at Davis-Kaser's.

Another Amendment Allowed.

The long-drawn out libel suit of Homer I. Watts of Athena, vs. Jerry Stone of Athena, says the Tribune, was again up in the circuit court yesterday on a demurrer. Mr. Watts argued his own side of the case and spoke two hours and forty minutes. Will M. Peterson spoke forty minutes. The demurrer was sustained and Mr. Watts was given ten days in which to file an amended complaint. The new amended complaint will be the third to be brought before the court, or the fourth complaint.

In reference to the above, Attorney Watts, says it places him in a wrong light, inasmuch as each time the complaint has been amended, the demurrer was the result of his own motion.

A Bad Injury.

John Mitchell, an Indian, has been lodged in jail at Pendleton charged with an assault on his mother, which nearly resulted in her death. Mitchell went home with too much firewater and when he arrived at the house proceeded to beat his mother. She was beaten badly about the head and suffered several other bruises.

Kills Would-Be Slaver.

A merciless murderer is Appendicitis with many victims. But Dr. King's New Life Pills kill it by prevention. They gently stimulate stomach, liver and bowels, preventing that clogging that invites appendicitis, curing Constipation, Biliousness, kills Malaria, Headache and Indigestion. 25c at Palace Drug Co.

Sold Booze; Fined.

Judge Harris of Eugene imposed a fine of \$500 on Hartwig for violation of the local option law. Hartwig had been running a "blind pig" in a schoolhouse at Vida, and was arrested a few weeks ago at Vancouver. At first he pleaded not guilty, but changed his plea to guilty.

It Saved His Leg.

"All thought I'd lose my leg," writes J. A. Swenson, Watertown, Wis., "Ten years of eczema, that 15 doctors could not cure, had at last laid me up. Then Bucklin's Arnica Salve cured it sound and well." Infallible for Skin Eruptions, Eczema, Salt Rheum, Boils, Fever Sores, Burns, Scalds, Cuts and Piles. 25c at Palace Drug Co's.