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ATHENA, ORE., MARCH 19, 1909

As an echo from a far-off shore comes the announcement of the death of Admiral Cervera. A valiant toeman and gallant fighter, the Spanish admiral made a heroic attempt to put to sea with the fleet comprising the flower of the navy of Spain. Being overwhelmed by the American fleet and driven to desperate straits for his personal safety, he plunged into the sea, clad only in his undergarments, but was rescued and taken aboard the flagship of the American squadron, treated with the consideration due his rank, and finally in the course of negotiations was released. Severely censured by his government for the loss of the fleet, he has since lived in retirement at Puerto Real, where he faced his last enemy. The incidents thus briefly recalled, though but little more than ten years old, seem as ancient history, so rapidly do events crowd each other in the presentment of the great drama of life.

In view of what is happening in the great west the attitude of some of the earlier statesmen toward that part of the United States is not without interest. On January 28, 1844, Daniel Webster, in a letter to Edward Everett, who became Fillmore's secretary of state in 1852, said in reference to the Oregon country: "I believe Oregon is a poor country, no way important to England except that she happens to have a few settlements in that region, and of little consequence to the United States." Mr. Webster—and who will question his Americanism—would have been willing to have made the Columbia river the northwest boundary, surrendering practically the whole of what is now the great state of Washington, to England, and believed he was handing Great Britain a "lemon." It was this lack of knowledge of the character and possibilities of the great west which largely failed to bring forth a free land settlement policy in the early days, such as was subsequently developed.

The special session is over and no aid given the Normal schools. The knife was again unsheathed by Bowerman and his cohorts, and the bill for the miserable, pitiful pittance of \$8000 that was so miserably squeezed out to each school was promptly left dead in the house when that body adjourned. The loyal friends of the Normals would have none of the paltry crumbs, and did the right and proper thing in rejecting the overture, which is undoubtedly the most flagrant insult yet heaped upon a meritorious branch of state education.

That all is serene in Oregon is the belief of the Echo Register. Hear it prattle: "With a U. S. Senator the democrats are happy, with a governor, the republicans are tickled. With a State railroad the socialists should be pleased; as while it is a little one so

is the party. The prohibitionists have several dry counties that are encouraging them immensely, while the liquor interests have a numerous litter of blind pigs, through and by which they prosper, so they assert, more than if the localities where blind pigs root were wet. In view of the above delightful conditions in Oregon we can afford to drop politics for a few months and get some flour, calico and hardware for home consumption, letting the politicians absorb the lacteal fluid called public pay undisturbed except for their own nudging and scheming."

The Northern Pacific seems never to have appreciated the volume of freight business it receives at this point, to the extent of giving daily service and bidding for passenger traffic. The every-other-day-maybe-will-come-in-and-maybe-we-won't service is a pestiferous sore that long ago should have been healed by demands of Athena shippers. A railroad company that does not appear to care a flip for a town further than to bleed it for its tonnage, merits little consideration from the public. Are we to presume that "special" trains made up of box cars will transport passengers between Athena and Pasco during the Seattle exposition?

It is understood that Francis J. Heney who has pocketed \$65,000 of Uncle Sam's coin, will be dropped from the pay-roll after March 4. Mr. Heney has made an enviable record in prosecuting, grafts and land frauds, although in earning a world wide reputation for himself he brought meager returns to the government.

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.

Chauncy Depew paid \$300 for a room from which he could view the inaugural parade and it must have hurt him like sin to think of the days when he had a chance to become the leading figure in a similar pageant.

An Ohio politician remarks that "corporations have no souls, nor do they wear clothes." Well, anyhow, they don't try to advertise their business by doing the Salome dance in public.

An Italian historian claims to have unearthed evidence which shows that Mark Antony married Cleopatra for her money. We feel sure, however, that she didn't marry him for his title.

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

Chancellor Buelow says Germany favors reform in Turkey. England will therefore, begin to regard Turkish reform as a distinctive blow to civilization.

While some babies have nothing more serious than an old maid aunt to get along with, the new Emperor of China will have thirty nurses to look after him.

The Chicago professor's defense of the dog as an article of diet looks suspiciously as if he had been retained by the sausage trust.

Now Emperor William is in a position to agree with those pessimists who say that conversation is becoming a lost art.

The house denied Speaker Cannon an increase of salary but it has not yet denied that he is boss around the house.

The trial of the Coopers in Nashville is going to raise havoc with their barrel all right.

WHY IS IT?

Can you tell me reader why it is that the people of Athena had rather go to something with a cheap laugh in it, than to something thought producing? I have heard it said "People won't patronize a lecture course." The same people will go to all the cheap shows that come along. They will laugh their lungs out at a minstrel joke. But when they have a chance to get something that "sticks to the ribs," they prefer loafing or sleeping. Why is it? Because it is too hard to think. Costs an effort. Laugh is cheap. Anybody can laugh. Not everyone can think. I know of people who can laugh at nothing. Why not learn the art of thinking? Laughing is all right if you learn to laugh at the right thing. It is just as wrong to become mentally intoxicated as physically, so far as your mind is concerned. The literature of the average home is mind intoxicating stuff. A good lecture course, and a good library with a patronizing public is the surest source of culture. People must learn to think before they can claim culture and think independently. Concentration of mind is very essential. Try this experiment. Take out your watch and try to think for one minute—sixty seconds—on one subject. See if your mind wanders. If it does you are diseased. Something is wrong with your mind. Let me diagnose your case. We will call the disease "incoherititis." The cause may be traced directly to what you read, and what you allow yourself to hear and see. Cure: read something that makes you think. Listen to something that makes you think. Avoid trashy literature and anything else that makes your mind wander.

U. Gesagen.

THE JEWS TAKE UP FARMING.

An event of importance was the formation of the federation of Jewish Farmers of America at a convention in New York a short time ago. Most people did not suppose that there were enough Jewish farmers in this country to hold a convention.

But there are at least 25,000 Jews in the United States who are engaged in agriculture pursuits. The late Baron Maurice de Hirsch, recognizing the importance of adapting the Jewish immigrant in every way to his new environment, placed funds in trust to encourage farming settlements and to found an agricultural school.

Several colonies are in existence and new societies to promote the movement have been formed. Loans have been made to Jewish farmers in 24 states, an itinerant lecturer is supported, and there is a Yiddish paper known as the Jewish Farmer.

The most recent efforts have been in line with the advice of the country life commission, and many local associations have been organized, with a thoroughness that should be a good example to all farmers.

At the recent convention resolutions were adopted in favor of cooperation in buying supplies and selling products, the establishment of canning and pickling factories by the farmers, protection against fraud support of the state colleges and experiment stations, higher standards in the rural schools, and the creation of a parcel post.—Spokesman-Review.

Near Death in Big Pond.

It was a thrilling experience to Mrs. Ida Soper to face death. "For years a severe lung trouble gave me intense suffering," she writes, "and several times nearly caused my death. All remedies failed and doctors said I was incurable. Then Dr. King's New Discovery brought quick relief and a cure so permanent that I have not been troubled in twelve years." Mrs. Soper lives in Big Pond, Pa. It works wonders in Coughs and Colds, Sore lungs, Hemorrhages, LaGrippe, Asthma, Croup, Whooping Cough, and all Bronchial affection. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by Palace Drug Co.

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Soldier Balks 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 spider's bite caused large, deep sores to cover his leg. The Dr. failed then Bucklin's 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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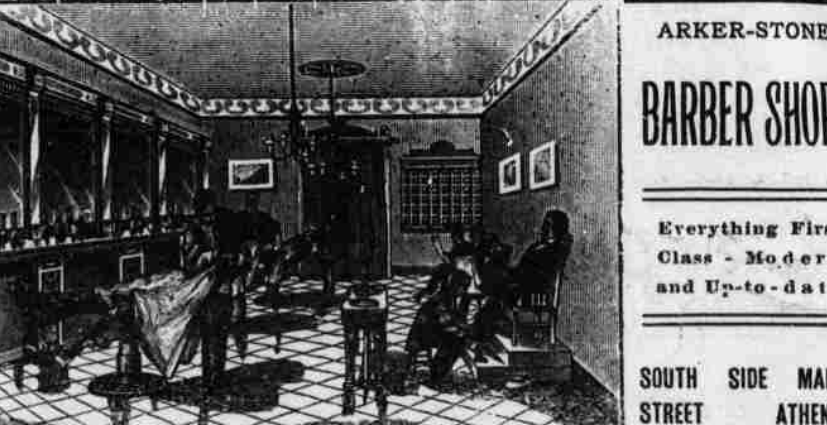
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