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### WHY NOT ALDERMAN

Straw Vote Over the State Shows Him to Be Choice for State Superintendent of Schools.

Prof. L. R. Alderman, who spoke at the educational rally in this city has bright prospects of succeeding J. H. Ackerman to the office of State School Superintendent.

Sometime ago, Charles H. Jones, editor of the Oregon Teachers Monthly sent out circular letters to each of the county superintendents asking them to nominate candidates for state school superintendent. The superintendents responded generally and the following candidates were named: L. R. Alderman, of Eugene; E. D. Resler, of Coquille; A. J. Chubbill, of Baker City; R. F. Robinson, of Portland, and P. L. Campbell, of Eugene. Mr. Jones took these candidates as a basis for a "straw vote," and in the January number of the Oregon Teachers Monthly will make the following announcement:

"The Oregon Teachers Monthly's straw vote contest for state school superintendent closed December 25. Altogether 1609 votes were cast and each county, in the state was represented except Curry and Lake. The votes were fairly well distributed and the following are the results obtained: L. R. Alderman, 916; E. D. Resler, 218; R. F. Robinson, 182; P. L. Campbell, 139; A. J. Chubbill, 101; scattering, 53. The candidates in no way have taken any special interest in the matter. So far as we know, no solicitation or pressure by them has been brought to bear upon any of the teachers. The candidates were all known to the teachers."

L. R. Alderman, associate professor of education in the University of Oregon, who wins in the straw vote contest by the teachers of the state, received over four times as many votes as his nearest competitor. The present superintendent, J. H. Ackerman, who will have had 12 years of successful work in the office is not a candidate for re-election.

Mr. Alderman was born in Yamhill county 37 years ago of a pioneer family. He attended the Dayton public school and later was a student at McMinnville college. While there he represented his college in the first inter-collegiate oratorical contest. He entered the University of Oregon in the fall of 1895 and graduated in June, 1898, with an A. B. degree. He was a hard student, an able debater and was honored by being elected president of the student body.

After graduating he taught school in Hulsey and Brownsville, in Linn county, and was then elected vice-principal of the schools of McMinnville. Next year he was elected principal, which position he held for three years.

In 1904 he was elected superintendent of schools for Yamhill county. While in this position he started the school fair, to bring the schools and homes closer together. Under his leadership 1500 children had home gardens and over 500 girls made bread every Saturday under the instruction of their mothers.

In the spring of 1907 Mr. Alderman was elected superintendent of the city schools of Eugene. While in this position he started many kinds of industrial work and also got the co-operation of his teachers, pupils and parents, so that the school board raised his salary and offered him a three year contract, but two state schools offered him a position. He accepted the position he now holds in the state university.

He is a man of vigorous health and has a strong personality and broad sympathies.

#### Card of Thanks.

The family and relatives of Albert Brouillard who died Friday, desire to thank all for the many kindnesses shown them in their bereavement.

### RECEPTION TENDERED PASTOR

Tendered Under Auspices of Young People's Ideal Christian Club.

The members of the Christian church and their friends tendered a reception to Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Harris Wednesday evening. The retiring pastor and his estimable wife have a host of friends in Athena and vicinity, who are sorry to see them leave the city. The reception which was held in the church, was largely attended. Plenty of entertainment was offered, refreshments were served and the evening thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The reception was given under the auspices of the Young People's Ideal Christian Club, and was attended by more than 200 persons.

The Bible school room was easily arranged for the occasion, and after the musical program, the older ones of the assemblage repaired to the dining room in the basement, where the refreshments were served. Joseph N. Scott presided as toastmaster and notable among the responses were those of Mr. S. E. Wilson and Rev. Ryder.

The former paid a high tribute to Mr. Harris and his persevering effort in church work. Rev. Ryder commended the retiring pastor for labor well performed and spoke of the pleasant relationship existing between the Athena pastors. Prof. Mulkey, on behalf of the public schools, told of the deep interest Mr. Harris had taken in school work, and Mrs. Harris, Rev. Hammond, James Foss and F. B. Boyd responded. Mr. Harris feelingly told how inadequate words were to express his appreciation of the good will and assistance given him by the people of Athena during the eighteen months he has worked here.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris will enter the evangelistic field. They will engage in their new work shortly and they will take with them the best wishes of every one in Athena.

### METHOD OF KILLING COYOTES

Mining Prospector Uses Nitro-Glycerine on Meat with Success.

Unique and certain of results is the method employed by S. G. McMahon, a mining prospector, in killing coyotes and other predatory animals in the Whiskey valley district of central Washington. He uses nitro-glycerine and has already collected more than \$250 in bounties on scalps brought to the office of the auditor of Kittitas county since January 1.

While at Ellensburg with a wagon load of pelts the other day he told a number of sportsmen and habitues at the court house the secret of his success as a bounty-earner, saying:

"I'm out in the hills prospecting most of the time and my only companions are the coyotes and other wild things. In this instance the company is worth money only when dead and is nothing more or less than an annoyance when alive.

"I haven't the time to hunt coyotes but to make a little 'easy money' and at the same time rid the district of some of the nuisances I 'load' pieces of meat with nitro-glycerine, such as I use in blasting the ore rock, and scatter the tid-bits near the coyotes' haunts in the hills.

"The coyotes come along, sometimes singly, but more often in twos, threes and in packs; they find the meat and, as it looks good to 'em, they gulp it down and then—it is all over with 'em.

"The explosive kills instantly, but does not injure the pelt enough to prevent the county auditor from paying the bounty.

"I've killed hundreds of these pests in my time and I expect to 'bag' many more before the end of the year. The game is worth while, for I not only get the bounty but also help the farmers and stockgrowers in getting rid of their worst enemies."

#### Storing Ice.

Two carloads of ice, 110 tons, have been stored in the Athena Truck company's house this week. The congealed aqua pura comes from North Powder and is first class in every respect.

### DISTRICT MINISTERIAL CONVENTION HERE

It is practically assured that the annual convention of the Walla Walla District Ministerial Association of the Methodist Episcopal church, will convene in this city during April.

Rev. Hammond, pastor of the Methodist church in this city, informs the Press that Walla Walla has relinquished her request for the convention in favor of Athena, and that all delegates except one—he being in an inaccessible place in Idaho and not yet reported—are favorable to Athena as the place of meeting. The Commercial Association, at its meeting Wednesday evening, voted to extend a letter of invitation to the Ministerial association to hold its convention here.

### WILL DIVIDE STOCK

Athena Department Store Will Continue Under Management and Control of Mr. Brown.

After March 1, or sooner perhaps, the Athena Department Store will pass to the management and control of J. F. Brown, of the firm of Steward and Brown, present owners of the big store. Mr. Steward will retire from the firm and will take the Jarman portion of the stock to some other point where it will be disposed of.

This portion of the stock which consists principally of the heavier lines of shoes, clothing, Underwear etc., will find ready sale in lumber or mining camps, and it is the intention of Mr. Steward to find some such location.

By the division of the stock on the basis mentioned above, the Jarman stock will be totally eliminated, leaving Mr. Brown the new lines that have been purchased since the firm engaged in business here.

These lines taken in connection with the big stocks which have been ordered for the spring and summer trade will give Mr. Brown a complete new stock of goods, and of a higher grade than has heretofore been offered for sale in Athena.

Mr. Steward tells the Press that his business relations with the people of Athena and vicinity have been most pleasant, and he is loath to leave. In the short time they have been residents of Athena Mr. and Mrs. Steward have made many friends.

The division of the stock will probably begin when the present 30 per cent discount sale, now running, is concluded. As soon as the old Jarman stock is out of the way, Mr. Brown's new goods will begin to arrive and the big store will soon be filled with the best the market has to offer.

#### More Land Reclaimed.

Twenty thousand acres of land bordering upon the Columbia river, embraced in the third unit of the Umatilla irrigation project in Oregon, will be thrown open to homestead entry at 9 o'clock February 16. This announcement was made Saturday by the secretary of the interior. Opportunity will be given to take up a farm varying in size from ten to 40 acres. Upon which the charge for building the irrigation system is \$60 an acre, payable \$18 per acre at the time of making entry and \$6 per acre annually thereafter. The land is all below the elevation of 600 feet above the sea level, thus insuring climatic conditions favorable to the early ripening of fruit.

#### A Pleasant Party.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. James Potts west of town was the scene of much merriment on the evening of the 14th when a party of friends and neighbors met there to spend the evening in a sociable way. Games were indulged in until a late hour, when refreshments were served by the hostess. Those present were:

Mr. and Mrs. George Hansell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmitt, Mr. and Mrs. Caspar Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Hansell, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kialer, Miss Charlotte Wall, Miss Falah Lawson, Ray and Blain Hansell and Mr. John Benson.

#### Pendleton Academy Won.

At the opera house Friday night, Athena High school lost a double header basket ball game to Pendleton Academy. The boys' game was won by the Academy by a score of 29 to 14 and the girls lost, 30 to 7. The score for the first half of the boys game was 22 to 10 in favor of the academy, while that for the second half was 7 to 4 in favor of the academy. The girls showed considerable improvement, and demonstrated that they are fast learning the game.

#### Hay In Demand.

The unusual length of time required to feed stock this winter, has drawn heavily on the hay supply in all parts of the Northwest. In this section there is sure to be a scarcity of hay and many farmers will be compelled to buy before the new crop comes on. Predictions of \$20 hay are heard.

### SCHOOL DEBATE IS POSTPONED

Contests Will Be Held Thursday Evening of Next Week.

The three high school debates which were to have occurred in this county Friday evening of this week have been postponed until Thursday of next week. The debates will be held simultaneously in this city, Pendleton and Weston.

These are a part of the state series which are now being held throughout the state and are the first that the schools of this county have participated in this year. Each of the three schools has two teams, one to uphold the affirmative and one to uphold the negative of the same question.

The question to be debated is, Resolved, That life imprisonment with restricted pardoning power should be substituted for capital punishment in Oregon.

Pendleton's affirmative team will debate Athena's negative team there.

Athena's affirmative team will debate Weston's negative team in this city, while Pendleton's negative team will debate Weston's affirmative team at Weston.

#### Dry Vote in a Dry Town.

Dayton's council is facing a question unlike any previously decided by a municipal body in the northwest. Although Dayton is now a "dry" town, a special election will be held March 29 to settle local option. If the town is voted "wet" which is declared to be probable, will the council, which is "dry" to the man, permit the return of saloons or will it ignore the desire of the voters as expressed at the polls and refuse to grant licenses? This is the question foremost in the minds of the populace and a preliminary to what will unquestionably be the hottest fight on record there. "Wets" say if the town is voted "wet" and the council refuses to grant licenses that a "wet" council will be nominated at the December election. Business men and others who voted "dry" when the saloons were closed a year ago have declared a desire to defeat local option because the "dries" are desirous of calling a special election and putting the city to the extra expense when the authorities now have the liquor traffic well in hand.

#### On Way to California.

Louis Hodgen, the well-known reservation farmer, who has been spending the winter in California, is in the city today. He was called back to Oregon by the sudden death of his mother, Mrs. James Clinton Hodgen, which occurred at her home near Vincent a few days ago. She was a victim of a stroke of paralysis and died suddenly. Mr. Hodgen is on his way back to California where his family is visiting at the home of Charles Brown and family who are living in Sawtelle, near Los Angeles. —East Oregonian.

#### Brakeman Gets \$14,000.

Damages of \$14,000 were awarded George Bowlin, a former O. R. & N. brakeman Monday by the jury, before whom the case had been tried for three days in Judge Bean's court. He sued for \$35,000. Bowlin was made a cripple for life in an accident at Githor station more than two years ago. He spent 25 months in a Portland hospital and is now compelled to use a crutch and a cane. In switching the train was snapped in two, allowing the brakeman to fall between the cars.

#### Sussex Chickens.

An attractive feature of the Umatilla-Morrow county poultry show at Pendleton next week will be the exhibition of the new Sussex chickens, a recent importation from Ireland, by Mr. Elliott of Waitsburg. These birds were originated by the British government experiment station in Ireland, and out of 26 eggs received from that country by Mr. Elliott 25 chickens were hatched. The Sussex is said to be the greatest egg producer in the world.

#### Wants Divorce.

A suit for divorce was filed Monday in the circuit court by Mrs. Minnie A. Baker against David C. Baker. The parties to the suit were married in Athena in 1899 and have three children, ranging in age from five to nine years. Drunkenness and desertion are alleged as grounds for divorce. Mrs. Baker asks for the care and custody of the children and for \$15 per month alimony.

#### Roads in Bad Shape.

Snow drifts and high water made the roads almost impassable during the fore part of the week. For a time teams passed over the drifts but when the snow became soft it was necessary to do considerable traveling through fields.

#### Selling Oil Stock.

J. P. Wilbur of Union, who has been in the city for several days, has disposed of quite a large block of stock in the Eastern Oregon Oil and Gas Co., to Athena investors. The company's well is near Vale, in the Malheur oil fields.