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HON. THOMAS J. KIRK.

In community, town and city, there is always one individual character which stands pre-eminent above all others. In these individual characters, trait of character and qualification are linked inseparably in the community verdict, which is gauged by the esteem in which it holds the individual. To the Athena community the name of Thomas J. Kirk will ever be revered. On the highest pedestal of regard will the memory of those who knew him best, revert in the true knowledge of being better for having known him. This is but the parting of the ways but in the parting there is scarcely a man or woman in Athena but who, sifting through the ashes of the past, can recall some legacy left by Tom Kirk in act of charity, noble deed or fatherly word. To you who yet remain in the pioneer ranks, thinned by the hand of time, will come recollection of his assistance when help meant victory in a struggle for existence known only to those who have hewn a path to a new home in the wilderness. To you of later years, when a "lift" from Tom meant independence, and you got the "lift," deep down in your heart you are thankful and appreciatvie and in your memory you will cherish the friendship that only such generous attributes of character can weld man to man. And to all of you who read these lines, will come the remembrance of some kind turn or word of advise that was meant to shape the rough edge of life's destiny into a better mold. For such was the man, Kirk—brother, friend and neighbor—and he lived to the very outer rim of every atom of their word meaning and all they stand for. The editor feels that he could write much in enumeration of the blessings the departed friend has bestowed on this community, but it would entail only repetition of what the many of you already know and have in common, felt. "A man of fine executive ability, with breadth of intellect to correspond, he has ever devoted himself to those lines which operate for the benefit of all," run the ilnes of his sketch in a history of this and Morrow county, to which could be appropriately and truthfully added: He died a friend of man, and beloved by man.

The movement to combat the high prices of meat is spreading through the east and middle west until it is assuming proportions of a national character. Coincident with the growth of the movement come announcements from the large cities that the price of meat has dropped. Dispatches from Baltimore, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Memphis, Omaha, Pittsburg and other cities tell of the rapid growth of the movement. Cleveland, credited with being the place of origin of the scheme, now has 30,000 names enrolled in the crusade while Kansas City reports that it may soon have 80,000. In Milwaukee two retail butchers quoted porterhouse steaks at 10 cents a pound, a sirloin at the same price and other meats in proportion. The wholesale price of beef fell off 15 cents a hundred pounds in Cleveland. The meat trust blames the farmer and stockman for the high prices, and at Denver the stockmen's association come back with resolutions which censure the action of universal boycott as being against the interests of the stockmen rather than against the packers. In the meantime the consumer, believing he has discovered the hole, proposes to crawl out of it, regardless of loss either to packer or stockmen. And if he be successful in forcing meat to a normal price level, it is but reasonable to expect him to employ like methods against other food commodities until they are priced within range of his wage-earned dollar. The limit has been more than reached. Either the price of foodstuffs must come down, or wages go up.

Fruit growers of the Northwest are interested in the protest against the Lafean Bill now in Congress, which was adopted at the recent convention of the Washington State Horticultural Association. This measure was prepared by the eastern fruit interests for standardizing apple packingboxes, in a manner unsuited to the superior fruits of the Northwest. The box now in general use in this section is best adapted to Washington and Oregon apples, and the growers are reluctant to give it up for a substitute that will not permit them to make a satisfactory pack. A delegation will be sent to the National capital to oppose the passage of the Lefean Bill.

The demand of city workers is for an employers' liability law that will enable the employes of a factory to secure adequate protection. Efforts are being made to line up the farmers against it. The farmers can wisely refuse to fight the battles of the manufacturers. It will be better for the people as a whole, as well as the taxpayer, to have men given enough to partly support them when an eye, hand or leg is lost. The farmer can secure insurance from damages by paying a few cents a month for each hand he employs. He don't need to worry about the manufacturer, who can do the same.

All previous fishery records were broken by Washington last year. This industry alone produced in excess of $13,000,000, according to the reports of the state fish commissioner. In 1890 Washington fish products amounted to $525,000, showing the rapid growth. Latest reports from the Atlantic coast are to the effect that the fishing industry is declining there, so that Washington now stands at the head of the list among the states, in fisheries as well as lumbering.

Recently the Diamond Rubber trust of Akron, O., declared a dividend of 10 per cent and raised its capital stock from $5,000,000 to $10,000,000. It is one of the tariff pets, and it is in entire sympathy with Mr. Jolin Kirby Jr., in protesting against the "unsettlement of business conditions" which would follow upon any further discussion of the tariff. Why not let well enough alone? Why should it not enjoy the prosperity it has earned?

A report of the Pennsylvania mining bureau gave the labor cost of a ton of coal at the mouth of the mine at a fraction less than half a dollar. The duty on coal is 67 cents a ton. Can any sensible person believe that it is kept at that rate to protect American labor? The duty is one third more than the whole labor cost, and the foreign miner must get something. How long will the people be deluded?

Mount Rainier is to be featured by the advertising matter of the Milwaukee railway this year, and it is predicted that before long it will be the goal of as many tourists as Pike's Peak and other well known western mountains. A handsome booklet of Rainier is in preparation and it will be distributed extensively through the eastern and central states.

We are told that young folks should wait until they are old enough to know what they are about before they get married. However, some old people seem to tumble into the mire when they start out to make a cruise in the ship Matrimony as bad as the young folks.

A great shortage of fuel is the cry going up from most places around the state. The unexpected severity of the winter has caught most everyone short on coal and wood.

Teachers Examination.

Notice is hereby given that the School Superintendent of Umatilla county, Oregon, will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county certificates at Pendleton, as follows:

For State Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 9, 1910, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, February 12, 1910, at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, spelling, physical geography, reading, psychology.

Thursday — Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, bookkeeping, physics, civil government.

Friday — Physiology, geography, composition, algebra, English literature, school law.

Saturday—Botany, plane geometry, general history.

For County Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 9, 1910, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Friday, February 11, 1910, at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, orthography, reading, physical geography.

Thursday — Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, physiology.

Friday — Geography, school law, civil government, English literature.

Frank K. Welles,
Superintendent Umatilla Co.

KILLED THE COBRA.

Methods of a Mongoose In Attacking the Big Snake.

I had the good fortune to witness a fight between a four foot cobra de capello and a mongoose.

On first catching sight of the cobra, rikki tik (as Rudyard Kipling calls the Indian mongoose) quietly smelled its tail and then hung around awaiting events with curiosity, but he had not long to wait, for the cobra spread its hood, hissed out its death sentence and prepared to dart from its coil at its natural and hated enemy.

Now commenced a most interesting and deadly battle of feint and counter feint by the mongoose and strike and lightning-like recovery by his adversary, who was also on the defensive, all the time watching for the opportunity to get in his properly aimed bite.

Time after time rikki tik squirmed slowly up to within reach of those terrible fangs, belly on ground, with every gray hair of his body erect with anger and excitement, his eyes glaring from his head, which, by the way, he invariably held sideways during this approach and attack, but the moment the cobra struck in a flash back sprang master mongoose, and, although often it appeared as if impossible that he could have escaped the dreaded fangs, ne'er a scratch harmed him, and there he would be again wearing the cobra out and pressing his advantage inch by inch. At last, with a growl and sharp rikki cry, the plucky little beast flew in, avoided the strike and seized the snake behind the head, never for a moment getting under his mouth, but right at the nape of the neck and head, which he scrunched with a loud cracking sound despite the struggles and twisting and turning of the cobra. Again and again rikki returned to the now writhing reptile and bit its head and body until it lay dying.

Finally he ate three or four inches of his mortal foe, but carefully avoided eating the fangs and poison glands, which I picked up by a stick and found them broken, but with the venom sacks attached.

Contrary to popular belief, I am of opinion the mongoose is not immune from snake poison, else why should he so particularly and carefully avoid being bitten? It is only by his marvelous activity that he escapes the spring and darting strike of his deadly enemy, the cobra de capello.—Ceylon Times.

DESTROYED BY CHEMICALS.

Weapons Used by Assassins Against Royal Personages.

Very few people are aware that as soon as the trial of an assassin of royalty is concluded the weapon with which he accomplished his crime is carefully destroyed so that no trace of it remains.

The reason of this is twofold—first of all, the possibility exists that at some time or other the weapons used in a royal tragedy may be exhibited to the public in some museum or show, and, second, there is a strange superstitious dread existing among reigning houses that the existence of the innocent but unhallowed weapons by which rulers have been dispatched to eternity is fraught with peril to their descendants.

The method of destroying these weapons is a curious one. The wooden portions, such as the stocks of pistols or the handles of poinards, are burned, and the metal portions are eaten away in a bath of nitric acid.

This has been the custom ever since the attempted assassination of Queen Isabella of Spain in 1852 by Merius. Prior to that date the metal work of firearms or knives was ground or filed away, but the blade of the dagger with which Merius sought to execute his dastardly crime proved to be of such exquisite temper and hardness that it resisted both file and grindstone.

This became known to the populace, and the superstitious Spaniards believed that Merius had invested his weapon with magical qualities. To divest them of this absurd belief the authorities had the weapon destroyed by immersing it in chemicals, a rule that has been followed ever since.

High Class Suicide.

In China suicide has been a fine art for several centuries. If a mandarin is guilty of misconduct he is requested to put himself out of the land of the living. There is a distinction, too, in the manner in which the oriental may die. If he is of exalted rank and entitled to wear the peacock feather he is privileged to choke himself to death with gold leaf. This is regarded as a distinguished manner of ending life. If the mandarin is only of the rank that is entitled to wear the red button he must be content with strangling himself with a silken cord. Such are the distinctions of caste.

Financial Information.

"So you at last yielded to that man's importunities and gave him some tips on the market?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Dustin Stax.

"What happened?"

"Well, they turned out so badly that I'm mighty glad I didn't invest any money on 'em myself."—Washington Star.

Consoling.

"That was tough meat you gave me last night," said the customer.

"Oh, run along!" said the dealer. "You will forget it by the time you pay for it."—Buffalo Express.

Fame.

Little Willie—What is fame, pa?

Pa—Fame, my son, is a ladder with grease on each rung.—Chicago News.

The Abyssinian wife is the head of the house.