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ATHENA, ORE., DEC. 2.....1910

A very important meeting has been called by the county superintendent, to convene at Pendleton on December 10. On that day will occur the third annual school board convention, and every school officer should make an effort to attend. Many questions of vital importance to the public schools are discussed at these meetings, and district officers cannot afford to miss this opportunity of becoming better informed regarding their duties. The taxpayers and voters of the districts elect these men to represent them in school matters, and they have a right to expect that their representatives will administer the school affairs according to law and for the best interests of the people. They cannot do this unless they keep themselves informed regarding the laws, and the conditions existing in other districts. Here is where the directors' convention helps.

"You cannot punish corporations," says Woodrow Wilson. "Fines fall upon the wrong persons—upon the stockholders and the customers rather than upon the men who direct the policy of the business. If you dissolve the offending corporation you throw great undertakings out of gear. I regard the corporation as indispensable to modern business enterprise. I am not jealous of its size or might. If you will but abandon at the right points the fatuous, antiquated and unnecessary fiction which treats it as a legal person. It is childish; it is futile; it is ridiculous. Society cannot afford to have individuals wield the power of thousands without personal responsibility. The officer, the committee, the board which orders an act or originates a policy contrary to the law of the land or intended to neutralize or contravene it, is an insurgent against society. The man or men who originate any such act or policy should be punished and they alone. You will say that in many instances it is not fair to pick out for punishment the particular officer who ordered a thing done, because he really had no freedom in the matter; that he is himself under orders—is a dummy manipulated from without. I reply that society should permit no man to carry out orders which are against law and public policy and that if you will but put one or two conspicuous dummies in the penitentiary there will be no more dummies for hire."

The dog poisoner is again abroad in Athena, with the result that several canines are dead. The wrath of the dog owners is against him, and if caught he will surely get the punishment he so richly deserves.

Oregon apples have accomplished a signal victory by capturing the sweepstakes prize at the recent National apple show at Spokane. A carload of Hood River Spitzenbergs, exhibited by C. H. Sproat, took the \$1,000 award and gold medal banner over apples exhibited by practically every fruit growing section of the Northwest. This is the second year that Oregon apples have won first honors at Spokane, last year Rogue River taking the sweepstakes. Apples from the Rogue River district also took first prize at the Canadian national apple show recently held at Vancouver, B. C.

W. O. Minor of Heppner, is one of the state's most useful citizens. He has bred a famous herd of Shorthorn cattle that are the delight of livestock experts. Mr. Minor has sent seven head of his cattle to the International Livestock Exhibition at Chicago where they will be exhibited and later sold. This is the only exhibit Oregon will make in what is claimed to be the greatest livestock show in the world. What Oregon needs is more Minors rather than more professional men.

Portland leads the entire United States in wheat exports for the first 10 months of 1910. At the present look it is not unlikely the Beaver metropolis will stand first in the country for the entire year. Increased wheat production in the tributary country and additional railroad lines that bring a wider area within the city's reach as a marketing point are adding to Portland's prestige all the time as an export center.

The Oregon Highway association has been formed by good roads advocates for the purpose of building a main thoroughfare from north to south across the state, becoming part of the main highway along the coast from Canada to Mexico. Monday, December 12, has been fixed as the date of the state good roads convention, when all interested in the work will meet in Portland to formulate good roads bills to present to the next legislature.

With the completion of the Panama Canal, believes Secretary Williamson of the state board of Horticulture, will come the opening of much wider markets for Oregon apples. He thinks the people of Europe can be supplied direct from Portland and that the demand there for this highly prized fruit will be strong.

The Umattilla-Morrow Poultry show takes place at Pendleton, December 13 to 18 inclusive. It promises to be larger than any show of the kind held in Eastern Oregon. The birds will be scored by an Eastern graduate poultry judge, and the exhibits will embrace all the leading breeds.

Oregon.
"The Last Call of the West" by Walter V. Woolke. Beautifully illustrated in four colors, in November Sunset Magazine. Now on sale at all news stands, 15 cents.

Get your Xmas Doll at wholesale here. Athena Department Store.

BANNER SALVE
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ARIZONA ROAD RUNNER.

A Sociable Bird That is Said to Hate a Rattlesnake.

The road runner is one of Arizona's distinctive ornithological institutions. It is a long legged, long billed bird, slender of build and standing some ten inches high. It is not often seen in the farming districts, but is a familiar sight on the desert.

It has gained the name of road runner from its habit of taking the road in front of travelers be they on horseback or wheeled conveyance, and running swiftly or slowly, as occasion requires, showing off its neighborly spirit and running qualities. It is not uncommon for it to keep in company of the traveler for several hundred yards.

No resident of Arizona would kill a road runner. It is firmly believed that the bird is the deadly enemy of that monster of the desert, the rattlesnake. We don't know whether any of our readers ever saw a road runner kill a rattlesnake. If there is an authentic story of such a thing we would be glad to publish it. But the accepted tradition is that the road runner and the rattlesnake are deadly enemies and that the rattlesnake fears the road runner beyond anything else.

It is told that the bird drives the snake into a coil and then, darting around the serpent like lightning, pecks it to death. Whatever truth there may be in the stories of the road runner's accomplishments as a disciple of St. Patrick, it deserves the friendly protection it receives. Its quaint sociability is always a diversion for the lonesome desert traveler. —Arizona Republican.

BRAINY BABY.

John Stuart Mill Was a Genius at Three Years of Age.

At three years of age John Stuart Mill began the study of Greek, with "arithmetic as an evening relaxation."

At eight he began Latin, Euclid and algebra and had to act as tutor to the younger children. He was a stern and efficient tutor.

At twelve he began scholastic logic and political economy—the latter his main lifework.

At fourteen, while paying a long visit to Sir Samuel Bentham in southern France, he learned French as a relaxation from studying two or three hours before breakfast, five hours between breakfast and dinner and two or three in the evening. Being for the time master of his own hours and not subject to a stern father, he took lessons also in his spare hours in music, singing, dancing, fencing and riding, but never became proficient.

At sixteen Mill could speak in debate with adults with ease and freedom. At eighteen he contributed to the Westminster Review. At twenty-one he was made assistant in the India office and received a large salary for those days.

But Mill was bald at twenty-two. He did not marry until he was forty-five. He himself said: "I never was a boy. It is better to let nature have its own way."

The Green Flash of Sunset.

One of the most rarely witnessed of natural phenomena, but one that has often been discussed at scientific meetings and that always awakens wonder when seen, is the so called "green flash" occasionally visible at the moment of the disappearance of the sun behind a clear horizon. The observer's eye must be fixed upon the rim of the sun as it disappears in order to catch the phenomenon. One authority tells us that he has seen the green flash, although rarely, at the instant of the setting of a bright star. Among the explanations offered is one based upon the optical principle of complementary colors. If one looks at the sun and then closes the eyes a green disk will be perceived. A sensitive eye might be similarly affected by a brilliant star. —New York Herald.

He Took the Blame.

"The guilty man always gives himself away," said a detective. "For, like the chap who bought the forty-cent bathing suit, he can't hide his guilty conscience. The chap I have in mind entered the water at Atlantic City in a forty-cent suit of blue flannel. As he splashed about he was joined by a girl friend. The girl flashed her bright eyes over the tumbling expanse of sea and then with a sigh of delight she said:

"Isn't the water blue today?"
"It's shameful," said the man, with a hot blush: "it's perfectly shameful how this cheap bathing flannel runs!"

How to Look Pleasant.

By her gracious and cordial manner the wife of a western senator has long charmed those so fortunate as to attend her delightful "functions."

On one such occasion a close friend was alluding to the hostess' graceful method of making every one feel at home. "How on earth do you manage to do it?" the friend asked.

"Oh, it's easy enough," replied the woman with the engaging manner. "As each guest approaches to shake hands I just pretend to myself that the person I am going to speak to is some one I like." —Chicago Record-Herald.

Up the Rhine.

Mrs. Robinson—And were you up the Rhine? Miss Nurich (just returned from a European trip)—I should think so, right to the very top. What a splendid view there is from the summit!

Duty and today are ours; results and futurity belong to God.—Horace Greeley.

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