

RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Some More NEW TOYS

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A large line of Shos for men and boys, women and Misses and children.

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We wish to call your attention to our Miller-made Clothing. A shipment of this well known brand has arrived this week.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, we are Respectfully,
Fix & Radtke, Athena.

The Athena Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Six and Eight Pages Every Friday.
F. B. BOYD, PUBLISHER.

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ATHENA, ORE., DEC. 23, 1910

Practically every part of the state of Oregon will be benefitted by the plan for the extension of experiment work in all phases of horticulture and agriculture which is now under consideration by President W. J. Kerr of the Oregon Agricultural College and the authorities of Washington. The plan will be submitted to the regents of the college at a meeting which will be held within the next two weeks. In all probability the regents will approve the plan and it will then be ready for presentation to the legislature at its next meeting. The plan includes extensive experiments in irrigation in the Willamette valley. The experiments will be carried on in cooperation with farmers and fruit growers at such points in the valley as will best suit the varying conditions. This may necessitate work in as many as fifteen different communities in the valley. It will include investigations of methods of irrigation and testing of soils, drainage, the adaptability of various kinds of farming and the time and methods of tillage.

Edgar Allan Poe got into a niche in the hall of fame just in the nick of time. He had 96 votes. "Only this and nothing more." His spirit has been "tapping, gently tapping" at the door of the hall of fame for some time. Poe was a genius sure, for did he not write much that nobody knew what he really meant?

State banks have been prosperous the past year, as shown by the annual report of State Bank Examiner Wright who found individual deposits in Oregon banks on November 10 totaled \$104,270,300, a net gain since November 10, 1909, of \$14,321,550. Total resources of Oregon banks increased during the year almost \$30,000,000.

The biggest wheat cargo ever sent away from the Columbia river was that taken the past week by the Norwegian tramp steamship, the Bjornstjerne Bjornsen, which sailed with 205,866 bushels for Europe. This is the second largest cargo of wheat ever loaded on the Pacific coast.

The annual report of the Portland Union Stockyards company shows Portland is becoming a great packing center. The value of livestock shipped the first year the concern was in operation amounted to \$8,335,000.

Oregon has a population of 672,765, according to the figures of the thirtieth census, an increase of 62.7 per cent over ten years ago, when the state had 413,536. The increase of 20 years has been 114 per cent.

Four hundred boxes of Comice pears, grown near Madford, sold in the London market this season, for \$10 a box.

Wallowa has a startling potato story. One vine that grew on new ground, is said to have attained the height of 6 feet, 1 inch, and produced 40 tubers, the total weight of the potatoes being 16 pounds.

A large acreage around Hermiston is being seeded to alfalfa. This is not only a profitable crop for hay, but there is money in raising seed which brings 23 cents per pound.

Oregon's financial condition, as shown by the state treasurer's report, is in excellent shape. There is \$424,913 on hand, with no debts, bonded or otherwise.

The writer who said that an optimist believes in a mascot and a pessimist takes stock in a hoodoo, had a fair view of human weakness.

Somebody said that there are no flies in the Philippines for an ant devours them. This is an anti-fly crusade of the right kind.

Oregon City has a paper mill that is the third largest in the world.

AMBASSADORS.

They Enjoy Some Curious Privileges at European Courts.

In the popular mind—the American mind at least—there is very little difference between an ambassador and a minister, but the former is entitled to very many privileges abroad that are denied to a mere envoy.

For instance, one curious privilege of an ambassador is that he, and he alone, when dismissed, may turn his back to the sovereign to whose court he is accredited. The mode of procedure, generally speaking, is as follows:

When the audience is at an end the ambassador waits to be dismissed by the sovereign. When dismissed the ambassador bows, retires three paces, bows again, retires three paces, bows a third time, turns on his heels and walks to the folding doors. But when the reigning sovereign is a woman, still politer methods obtain. To turn his back would be discourteous; to walk backward would be to resign a privilege; therefore the ambassador retires sideways like a crab. He keeps one eye on the sovereign and with the other he endeavors to find the door. By this unique means he contrives to evince all politeness to the sovereign and at the same time retain one of his privileges.

Another privilege of ambassadors is the right of being ushered into the royal presence through folding doors, both of which must be flung wide for him. No one save an ambassador can claim this privilege, the most any non-ambassadorial individual can expect is that one of the doors shall be opened to him.

One privilege appertaining to the ambassador, one capable of causing great inconvenience to the ruler, is the right of demanding admission to the sovereign at any hour of day or night. This was one of the reasons why Abdul Hamid, when sultan of Turkey, opposed the raising of our mission at Constantinople to an embassy. It was decidedly inconvenient at times to see the American representative at all.

To the European the most important feature of the ambassador's makeup is his sword. There the blade of the sword is a rapier blade with the point blunted. It has been facetiously observed abroad that the use of the sword is put in addition to its trick of tripping up its wearer is usually the harmless one of poking fires. One diplomatist was said to file his bills on his sword when it was not otherwise engaged, and for a long while it was a standing witticism of the corps diplomatique in Europe that the Russian ambassadors used their swords to file broken treaties, a circumstance that was held to account for the inordinate

length of their weapons.—Harper's Weekly.

Emmet's Presence of Mind.
A story is told of Robert Emmet which proves his secretive power and resolution. He was fond of studying chemistry, and one night late, after the family had gone to bed, he swallowed a large quantity of corrosive sublimate in mistake for some acid cooling powder. He immediately discovered his mistake and knew that death must shortly ensue unless he instantly swallowed the only antidote, chalk. Timid men would have torn at the bell, roused all the family and sent for a stomach pump. Emmet called no one, made no noise, but, stealing down stairs and unlocking the front door, went into the stable, scraped some chalk which he knew to be there and took sufficient doses of it to neutralize the poison.

Queen Elizabeth's Amulet.
Queen Elizabeth during her last illness wore around her neck a charm made of gold which had been bequeathed to her by an old woman in Wales, who declared that so long as the queen wore it she would never be ill. The amulet, as was generally the case, proved of no avail, and Elizabeth, notwithstanding her faith in the charm, not only sickened, but died. During the plague in London people wore amulets to keep off the dread destroyer. Amulets of arsenic were worn near the heart. Quills of quicksilver were hung around the neck and also the powder of toads.

No Swelling at All.
"I see not one ripple on the water. All is calmness," said the little German lady, looking out dreamily over the quiet sea. "I had crossed the ocean when it was calm like this all the way over."

"Do you mean that there was no swell even in midocean?" asked her companion, who had never crossed at all.

"No, no swelling at all," was the reply.—New York Press.

Wherein They Differ.
Jack—Widows are wiser than maids in one respect at least. Tom—What's the answer? Jack—They never let a good chance go by, thinking that a better one will come their way.—Chicago News.

Bad men excuse their faults; good men will leave them.—Johnson.

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