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The Athena Press

Athena Merchants Carry Big Stocks

Buy Your Groceries from Your Home Grocer

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YIELD INCREASED BY HYBRID WHEAT

TWO MILLION BUSHELS ADDED TO OUTPUT.

Palouse Country Reports increase of an Average of Five Bushels on 400,000 Acres.

A Spokane despatch to the Walla Walla Union says: Hybrid No. 143, originated by Professor W. J. Spillman, now connected with the United States department of agriculture, while director of the experiment station at the Washington State college, Pullman, added about 2,000,000 bushels to the wheat production in Eastern Washington, this year. The yield on 400,000 acres sown to hybrids of a total acreage of 1,700,000 in the state devoted to spring and winter wheats, was increased by five bushels on an average. The hybrid acreage in 1910 was 300,000 and 39,000 in 1908. The principal acreage is in the Palouse and Big Bend districts, south and east of Spokane. The hybrids, it is officially announced, are not more susceptible to smut than any of the club varieties grown as winter wheats.

The work was started in 1896, after the farmers reported that either the crop was lost or was not worth the cost of production. Where the rainfall was about 18 inches the ranchers grew red chaff, because it stood up better than bluestem and yielded better than little club. In regions of lighter rainfall they grew bluestem. Where the rainfall was in excess of 20 inches they grew little club because it stood up higher than red chaff and held the grain better.

The farmers wanted a winter wheat. In the little club region they wanted a winter wheat as good as little club, while in the bluestem and red chaff districts they desired a winter wheat as good as those varieties. These three varieties had been found the best. They were all spring wheats but were usually sown in the fall, because they made a better yield.

Tests of winter wheats, collected in various districts, disclosed two serious drawbacks: The straw was weak and after the heads had formed the wind would blow it over, also the ripe chaff was partly open and shattered. The problem presented was to breed a wheat that would not winter kill, that had a stiff straw and a closed chaff.

Wheat breeding began under the direction of Professor Spillman. Either little club or red chaff was used in every cross made, as these varieties seemed well fitted for the territory.

Out of 1000 seeds treated, 149 hybrid plants matured seed. The work was carried on by experts at the station and sufficient wheat was raised from hybrids during the seasons of 1902, 1903 and 1904 to permit the distribution of seed among farmers in eastern Washington. The regular field tests began in 1905. Close check was kept and the data collected to date satisfies the authorities that the experiment has been a success.

Modern Cave Dweller.

Pendleton papers are excited over the discovery that within three miles of the county seat, a man has been discovered, making his home in a cave and subsisting upon the proceeds of his prowess as a marksman. He is said to have appeared in that city recently with a large number of coyote hides, which he sold. Whether he was clad in skins, deponent sayeth not. But presumably he is thoroughly civilized, for it is reported that the strange being has fixed up the cave with a few modern improvements and has a good gun and a revolver. Apparently he is averse to human companionship, for he never comes near the city except to sell his hides and purchase a few meager supplies.

Settle Large Estate.

The final account and report of Attorney Will M. Peterson as administrator of the estate of Henry C. Adams who died a little over a year ago, leaving a large estate, has been filed with the county judge.

FOOD OF THE MEXICANS.

Frijoles and Tortillas the Main Diet of the Poor.

People at home in the "states" may think the food of the Mexicans meager. It is comprised chiefly of frijoles and tortillas, supplemented by the fruit of the cactus when in season.

Tortillas are thin little cakes made of corn boiled with lime, and these serve as the chief food. Every house has a metate, a sort of stone trough, which rests on the ground, and on this the corn is crushed to a paste and then patted into thin round cakes and tossed on a clay griddle to cook. Don't think as you ride down the street that in every house a child is being spanked—it is only the patting sound made by the women as they deftly shape the tortillas in their hands.

The lime in which the corn is softened is said to account for the very strong white teeth of the natives. Frijoles are, of course, beans and after being boiled a long time with onions, chili and other savory bits are put into boiling lard for their final flavor. Knives and forks are not needed where a tortilla can be folded in the middle and used as a scoop for the beans. These two articles of food form almost the entire diet of the poor.

All food is very hot, from the chili put in it, and one doesn't realize the peculiar flavor that cinnamon will give to many dishes until he has eaten it in everything, from coffee to ice cream. While pulque, the fermented juice of the maguey, our century plant, is the national drink, if a peon is very drunk it is probably due to mescal or tequila, two stronger drinks made from the same maguey.

Cooking is generally done over a few pieces of charcoal on the ground. Often have I seen women cook an entire meal over as little charcoal as one hand can grasp.—Los Angeles Times.

LURE OF DANGER.

Tragic Recklessness of a Trio of Fire Fighting Heroes.

Former Chief Croker of New York in the World's Work says that, although the whole fire service is founded on the principle of obedience, it is almost impossible to drag a man from danger when his battle blood is up.

"In 1905," he says, "I lost three good men in a big warehouse fire in Thirtieth street through recklessness inspired by this spirit. The building had been pretty well gutted, and one of the walls was getting shaky. Directly under this wall were three men from an engine company hugging a 'lead' of hose, their helmets down over their eyes and playing their water on the flames, which almost singed their faces. I saw their danger—it would have been obvious to any one but these three fight maddened heroes—and shouted: "Get back there, men! Get back from that wall!'

"They paid as much attention to me as if they had been stone deaf. I ran over and shoved one after the other back into the street out of danger.

"'When you're told to get back, get back,' I said. 'You obey orders.'

"Then I turned my back and hurried to another point of the fire. The wall fell before I had gone ten yards. I looked around for the three men. They were nowhere in sight! The moment my back was turned they had rushed back to play their stream in that place of peril, and when the wall fell it buried them beneath the bricks—dead."

Lost Time.

The late Sylvanus Miller, civil engineer, who was engaged in a railroad enterprise in Central America, was seeking local support for a road and attempted to give the matter point. He asked a native:

"How long does it take you to carry your goods to market by muleback?"

"Three days," was the reply.

"There's the point," said Miller. "With our road in operation you could take your goods to market and be back home in one day."

"Very good, senor," answered the native. "But what would we do with the other two days?"—Boston Record.

The Last Luxury.

Ten-year-old Arthur had been telling impressively of the number of servants employed in his home. He continued, "And our house is fixed so that if you want a drink or a window raised or to go upstairs or anything all you have to do is to pull a chain."

"But what do you want with so many servants in that sort of a house?" asked one of his hearers.

"Oh," replied Arthur, "we have the servants to pull the chains."—Judge.

Drops and Minims.

Drops vary in size according to the conditions under which they are produced. Some are large and some are small, some long and some short. The drop of the druggist is called a minim, of which 480 go to make a fluid ounce and 76,800 to make a gallon. An actual experiment in filling a one ounce measure will probably show that 400 drops make a fluid ounce. The average drop is 20 per cent larger than the minim.

Too Big a Pill.

The man in bed had never been sick before. The doctor, wishing to ascertain his temperature, pointed the thermometer at him and commanded, "Open your mouth, Jim."

"Wait a minute doc," objected the patient. "I don't b'lieve I can swaller that."—Judge.

Ill habits gather by unseen degrees, as brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.—Dryden.

ORIGIN OF "MARK TWAIN."

Samuel L. Clemens Quoted as Saying He Inherited the Name.

The familiar story of the origin of Samuel L. Clemens' use of the name Mark Twain is now declared to be incorrect. It pictures Clemens, Mississippi river pilot, listening to the men heaving the lead at the bow of a river boat and singing out, "By the mark, three; by the mark, twain." Tableau! Clemens smites his brow and soliloquizes, "There is my nom de plume."

It is true that the name originated with the picturesque cry of the man with the lead, but a man other than Mr. Clemens first discovered the picturesqueness. That man was Captain Isaiah Sellers, who furnished river news for the New Orleans Picayune. To Professor William Lyon Phelps of Yale Mr. Clemens confessed that it was from Sellers he got the name. Professor Phelps' story is quoted in Professor Henderson's "Mark Twain."

According to this book, Mr. Clemens said to Professor Phelps: "Captain Sellers used to sign his articles in the Picayune 'Mark Twain.' He died in 1863. I liked the name—and stole it. I think I have done him no wrong, for I seem to have made this name somewhat generally known."

Professor Henderson records a number of interesting incidents connected with the use of this name. For awhile, when he was a miner in Nevada, Mr. Clemens sent to the Virginia City Enterprise humorous letters signed not "Mark Twain," but "Josh."

When he became a regular reporter on that paper and reported the legislature he signed his reports "Mark Twain." When questioned as to his use of this name Mr. Clemens declared: "I chose my pseudonym because to most persons it had no meaning and also because it was short. I was a reporter in the legislature and wished to save the legislature time. It was much shorter to say in their debates 'Mark Twain' than to say 'The unprincipled and lying parliamentary reporter of the Territorial Enterprise!'"

Mr. Clemens made the name known on the Pacific coast, but the world at large did not hear it for years after the "Jumping Frog," reprinted in hundreds of exchanges without credit, had jumped into such notoriety as is rarely accorded well mannered frogs. In fact, its first use in any eastern magazine was a fiasco.

Mr. Clemens made a great scoop on the Hornet disaster when he was writing up the Hawaiian Islands in 1866, says Professor Henderson. His account of the disaster Mark sent to Harper's Magazine, where it appeared in December, 1866. But, alas, it was not as "Mark Twain," not as a drawling, lovable river pilot sort of person that the world beheld the new author, for he had not written his pseudonym plainly on his copy, and Harper's cheerfully introduced him to fame as "Mike Swain."

Not Purely Curiosity.

Among the passengers in one of the cars of a train running between Springfield and Boston was a nervous little old man who evinced a keen interest in a sinister looking person who took a seat beside him.

"How do you do?" said the nervous little old man to the sinister looking person. "Now, what might your name be? Do you live in Boston or beyond?"

"What business is it of yours where I live or who I am?" growled the other.

"Strictly speaking, it ain't none of my business," admitted the old gentleman mildly, "but it's jest like this: I've got a cousin in this part of the state that I've never seen, and I've always thought I might come upon him some time jest by asking folk their name and so on."—Harper's.

The Hourglass.

Instead of being obsolete and simply an interesting relic the hourglass in various forms is a twentieth century necessity. For such purposes as timing, hardening and tempering heats in twist drill manufacture, where seconds or minutes must be gauged accurately, nothing serves like the hourglass with the right amount of sand. Accuracy to fractions of a second can be obtained much more easily by an hourglass than by watching the hands of a watch.—London Graphic.

Just Suited.

"There's only one objection to these apartments," said the agent of the building. "From these two windows you can't help seeing everything in the dining rooms of the neighbors on both sides of you."

"What's the rental?" smilingly asked the portly dame who was looking for a flat.—Chicago Tribune.

The Mandrake Legend.

There is an old legend connected with the mandrake which states that when the plant is uprooted it utters a piercing cry. The forked tubers bear a fantastic resemblance to the body and legs of a man, and from this fancied likeness there grew the belief which was widespread during the middle ages.

Heine and Hugo.

Heine had a preconceived idea that Victor Hugo, called by him "the French poet in whom all is false," had a hump on his back. He was delighted when he was told that one of Hugo's hips protruded owing to malformation.

Caustic.

Delighted Mamma—Oo—professor, what do you think of little Arthur as a violinist? Professor—I like the way he puts the fiddle back into the case—Chicago News.

Happiness is the natural flower of duty.—Phillips Brooks.

COL. JOHN SOBIESKI IN ATHENA NOV 7.

OPENS LECTURE COURSE IN M. E. CHURCH.

First of a Series of Splendid Entertainments to Extend Through the Winter.

The coming of Count Col. John Sobieski, the noted Polish lecturer, on Tuesday evening, November 2, marks the beginning of a series of lectures and entertainments that will extend throughout the winter. These attractions are to be given under the auspices of the Athena Commercial Association, and will prove of great value from a literary, musical and educational standpoint, to the people of Athena.

Col. John Sobieski, the first on the program, is a most interesting and distinguished character. He is a descendant of the great warrior king, John Sobieski of Poland. He is the only son of Count John Sobieski, who commanded the last Polish uprising in 1846, and who was executed by the Russians, with his kinsmen. His mother was banished, and made her way to Italy, then to England, where she died. Young John, then scarcely 12 years old, stole on board a United States man-of-war at Liverpool, and unnoticed, embarked for America.

He saw service in the Indian wars and in the war of the rebellion, and afterward enlisted in Mexico, against Maximilian.

During the last 25 years he has lectured in every state in the Union, in Canada and in Great Britain. His press notice are voluminous and enthusiastic. He is spoken of as a whole book of wonders, a walking and talking encyclopedia. Sparkling with wisdom, wit and good humor, he holds his audience spellbound.

The second entertainment of the series is announced for Friday, December 15, when the famous Ricketts Concert Company will appear here. This is composed of five people, and includes Chester L. Ricketts, the impersonator and reader.

The other entertainments comprising the course, which is all under the management of the Meneley Lyceum Bureau of Chicago, will be dispersed throughout the winter and embrace such attractions as the Meneley Concert Company; Miss Belle Kearney, the noted lecturer, writer and traveler and James R. Barkley cartoonist, chalk-talker, crayon artist and clay modeler.

The first lecture will be given in the Methodist Episopal church, on November 7. A large number of season tickets have already been sold and it is certain that the lecturer will be greeted by a large audience.

M. A. KEES DISCUSSES WAR

Former Athena Man, Returned From China, Quoted by Oregonian.

The Portland Oregonian of last Thursday gives the following interview with Marion A. Kees, well known in Athena: Mr. Kees is secretary of the Canton, China, Young Men's Christian Association, and arrived in Portland last week, having left Hongkong September 26. He came home on account of his wife's health:

"In my opinion, the French revolution was only a melodramatic incident compared with the slaughter that is in store for China. The revolution in China is far from surprising to those of us who are familiar with affairs in that country. Our only surprise is that it came so soon; most of us thought the uprising would not come for two years yet but that it was sure to occur."

Mr. Kees believes that the revolutionists will be successful, but he realizes that they have a mighty struggle before them.

"The revolutionary feeling is very strong among the young Chinese," he said. "It is impossible to estimate just what their strength is, but dissatisfaction with the ruling dynasty is indeed widespread. If the revolutionists are able to capture several large cites, so that their finances may be strengthened, there is little doubt as to the ultimate outcome.

"But it must be a most bloody struggle. There are few places on earth where human life is held so lightly as in China. The hatred of the Manchus is intense, and if they are overcome they will be shown little mercy. On the other hand, there is no doubting the fate of the revolutionary leaders if their cause is lost.

"I do not think there is any great danger for foreigners in China. Their greatest danger would come in event the revolutionists overthrew the existing government and then should prove unable to set up a strong government of their own. In fact, the establishing of a strong government, in case the revolutionists win, is the great problem that China faces. If the new government should be weak, there is danger that the mob spirit would run riot. The mob spirit is strong in the Chinese.

"Great numbers of young students are included among the revolutionists. I saw 35 boys, all of whom looked to be under 20 years of age, led out to be executed after the Canton riots. These young men and others besides died fearlessly. When the riots occured the gates of the city were locked and the rioters were sought high and low. Those who were found unhesitatingly admitted that they were revolutionists and said they would willingly die for the cause. This attitude on the part of the young Chinese has greatly impressed their elders and has won many of them over."

County Press Association.

With newspapermen and other boosters present from every section of the county and with a thorough concord and harmony of desire and intention manifest, a movement destined to unite the different communities into a co-ordinated and effectively active unit, says the East Oregonian, was given its initial impetus Tuesday night, by the organization of a county press association and a county development league. At a banquet in the Quelle restaurant at which the managers of the local commercial association were hosts, the views of representative men from the various sections of the county were aired, their ideas expressed and their pledges made to actively aid in the exploitation, development and upbuilding of Umatilla county.

PENDLETON HAS FIRE FIEND

County Seat Aroused Over Attempt to Burn Home of Minister.

That a pyromaniac is operating in Pendleton, says the East Oregonian, has been the belief of many people for some time and an incendiary attempt made upon the house occupied by Rev. Frank J. Milnes pastor of the Presbyterian church, early Sunday morning, strengthens this belief. Only by the merest chance was a disastrous conflagration prevented and as it was, a large hole was burned in the corner of the pastor's woodshed, which adjoins the house.

After the quenching of the flames an investigation revealed the burnt ends of kindling which had undoubtedly been used in starting the fire. This is the third time within a year that supposedly incendiary attempts have been made in the block in which the house is situated. Moreover, a number of other fires and near-fires in the last few weeks have been attended with very suspicious circumstances. Thursday night the barn of E. F. Averill was discovered afire and the recent conflagration which destroyed the feed yard and the skating rink has never been explained.

There is no clew whatever to the identity of th malicious person or persons responsible for this chain of fires and the situation is growing so bad that many residents are growing uneasy.

Attend Family Reunion.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Dudley returned home Sunday from Walla Walla, where they attended the family reunion at the home of the parents of Mrs. Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. Donald McDonald, All of the children of the aged couple were present to enjoy the pleasures of the family circle. The daughters are: Mrs. Captain Seeley, of Seattle, Mrs. E. A. Dudley of this city, Mrs. Anson Wood and Miss Mabel McDonald of Walla Walla, and Mrs. Will M. Peterson of Pendleton; and Victor. McDonald, of Walla Walla, the son. Several of the grandchildren were present, among them Mrs. Sam D. Peterson of Milton. The daughter-in-law and sons in-law, excepting Captain Seeley, were also of the party. Mr. McDonald has passed his 80th birthday, and his wife is a few years younger. The occasion was the 55th anniversary of their wedding day.

Helix Property Burns.

Through a fire that broke out Saturday morning about 5 o'clock in Helix, the grocery store of C. A. Herman was completely destroyed as was also the building in which it was located. The stock that was burned was estimated as worth $3000, and it was insured for the sum of $2000. The building was the property of C. A. Bott. Aside from the Herman store the barber shop adjoining and which belonged to Murray Ferguson, was destroyed the barber shop fixtures being saved. The origin of the fire was unknown.

WAITSBURG BANKER IS KILLED

Machine Refuses to Work and Backs Down Hill to Death.

While attempting to drive his large Pope-Hartford touring car up Skyrocket hill, two miles west of Prescott, Saturday afternoon, on the high speed gear, says the Walla Walla Union, J. D. Laidlaw, banker and pioneer resident of Waitsburg, lost control of the machine and was carried to the bottom of the hill with it, where it ran into a bank and pinned him helpless under it, while his adopted son, Ellis was thrown clear of the car, suffering only slight injuries.

A passerby soon called assistance and succeeded in getting Mr. Laidlaw from under the machine, when he was taken to Prescott and examination by doctors showed several broken ribs, the and other internal injuries. After healthy wounds were hurriedly dressed, dangerous dressing. Prescott an attempt was made to him to his home in Waitsburg, he died on the way.

Mr. Laidlaw was manager of the Preston estate, at Waitsburg.