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ATHENA, ORE., SEP. 19.....1913

Athena is now getting pure spring water in plenty, through its gravity water system, no pumping whatever being resorted to at this time. Every morning the reservoir is found to be sending forth a surplus through the overflow pipe, all from the supply furnished from the springs. This is indeed a gratifying condition—a condition in very marked contrast to what stared us in the face a year ago. The fact is, the pipe system has been effectively repaired so that the entire water supply is safely contained in reservoir and pipe leads, to be used as wanted. Once repaired, the maintenance of the system will be nominal for the reason that the excessive pressure on the mains under the former method employed at the old pumping plant has been relieved. The system is loaded only with a "down hill pull," as it were, where formerly the mains tumbled under the weight of the reservoir water head, with the force of pumping added. The change has been for the best, and the Press is more than pleased to offer congratulations to the Mayor and city council for making the change—made in the face of considerable criticism. And while congratulations are in order, the Press is not overlooking the efficient work of I. John Dobson either.

Here it is—"It has come!" A little 24 standpat republican paper in Minnesota says that "a textile factory at Chester, Pa., has closed its doors on account of the democratic tariff bill, and thrown thousands of men and women out of employment. The reason given is that the wholesale clothiers refuse to place orders, holding off until the tariff bill goes into effect so they can buy the cheaper foreign-made goods." But the truth of the matter is not as above stated, the statement of the Minnesota paper to the contrary notwithstanding. The Chester factory closed as the result of the textile workers' wage troubles that originated at Lawrence, Mass, and elsewhere, over a year ago—under Taft's administration and the standpat protective policy—and has extended to other factories from time to time.

Senate bill 330, which became a law last week, makes it unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, to sell, transfer or give away any revolver or pocket pistol, unless the purchaser is provided with a permit from the proper officer. It is also unlawful for any retail dealer to even display such a weapon for sale. An exception is made in favor of policemen, members of the militia and peace officers of the state. Under the terms of the measure the municipal judge or city recorder or county judge or justice of the peace of the county in which the prospective purchaser resides may issue the permit when he shall furnish an affidavit from at least two reputable freeholders as to his good moral character.

New faces in the Roundup arena breaks the monotony of the exhibition and insures the perpetuation of the world's greatest outdoor show. Bob Gavin of Idaho and the boys and girls from Obeyenne enacted their thrilling stunts no better perhaps than others before them, but the fact that new performers were striving for championship added zest and "pep" to the great show. The basis of the Roundup is cowboy life and frontier frolic, and the only criticism one can offer is that the management advances the magnitude of prizes, so that even South America could afford to enter the lists.

Minnesota banks have arranged to loan Minnesota farmers money with which to buy and ship cattle from the drought stricken portions of Kansas and Oklahoma. It's an ill wind that blows nobody good. The hot winds of those states help Minnesota. The bankers are patriotic in helping farmers in this cattle-feeding enterprise.

New Yorkers don't appear to get along well in Canada. Thaw was run out as an undesirable citizen, and District Attorney Jerome was arrested for gambling. Both are prominent citizens of New York City.

"Bigger and better," is the unanimous verdict, after the Roundup.

Now comes "Frontier Days," at Walla Walla next week.

LONDON BOOTBLACKS.

Street Corners Knew Them Early in the Eighteenth Century.

Liquid blacking, such as is now used, was invented early in the nineteenth century. Previously various mixtures were used.

There are many allusions in eighteenth century literature to shoeblocks and blacking. In the London World of Jan. 31, 1754, Edward Moore, describing the miseries of an author, says that he would rather have started in life as a shoeblock had he but had the money to buy or credit to procure "a stool, brush and blackball."

An old kind of blacking consisted of ivory black, very coarse moist sugar and water, with a little vinegar. A mixture of whale oil and soot was used in Gray's time. The author of "Trivial" has several allusions to the "black youth" who stood at street corners then as now:

Hark! The boy calls thee to his destin'd stand,
And the shoe shines beneath his oily hand.

Defoe makes his Colonel Jack describe himself when a boy as a dirty vagabond, "like a 'Black your shoes, your honor?' a beggar boy, a black-guard boy or what you please, despicable and miserable to the last degree."

Here is another quotation from "Trivial" (1715):
His trable voice resounds along the mews,
And whitethill echoes, "Clean your honor's shoes!"

—London Notes and Queries.

FIRST SLOT MACHINE.

It Was Invented by Hero of Alexandria About 125 B. C.

Hero of Alexandria (about 125 B. C.) was an ingenious inventor of mechanical toys. In his works, "Pneumatics" and "Automata," he describes some hundred small machines that he probably never carried beyond the "model" stage.

These included a steam engine and a double forcing pump to be used as a fire engine.

Hero was also the inventor of the automatic delivery, or penny in the slot machine. He describes "a sacrificial vessel which flows only when money is introduced."

When the coin is dropped through the slit it falls on one end of a balanced horizontal lever, which being depressed opens a valve suspended from a chain at the other end, and the water begins to flow.

When the lever has been depressed to a certain angle the coin falls off and the valve, being weighted, returns to its seat and cuts off the supply. The mechanism is practically identical with the present system.—Baltimore Sun.

A Peer and His Patent.

After it is once issued the patent for the creation of a new peerage cannot be altered. Otherwise Lord Glenawly would be written Lord Glenawly, as Glenawly was written by a clerk in mistake for this word. Another interesting case of a similar nature is that of Charles Pawlet, afterward third Duke of Bolton, who died in 1754. In 1717, while his father, the second duke, was still alive, Pawlet was made a peer as Lord Pawlet of Basing, although the intention of the king and his advisers was to summon him to the house of lords under one of his father's junior titles—that of Baron St. John of Basing. However, the writ of summons had been made out to Lord Pawlet of Basing, and Pawlet bore this title until he became Duke of Bolton in 1722.—Westminster Gazette.

Maiden Insurance.

The Maiden Insurance company is a singular Danish institution. It is confined to the nobility, and the nobleman, as soon as a female child is born to him, enrolls her name on the company's books and pays in a certain sum and thereafter a fixed annual amount to the treasury. When the young girl has reached the age of twenty-one she is entitled to a fixed income and to an elegant suit of apartments, both almost princely, and heaps until she either marries or dies. The society has existed for generations. It has always prospered. Thanks to it, poverty stricken old maids are unknown among the Danish nobility, but every maiden lady is rich and happy.

Nicely Arranged.

It is related that the negroes were once greatly excited in Johannesburg over a rumor of a Kafir uprising. One white woman said to her black boy: "You wouldn't kill your missus, would you?"

"Oh, no," the boy replied; "boy next door kill you, and I kill his missus." The affair, it seemed, had all been arranged, and very delicately at that. This boy's name was "Machinery." The blacks take any name they bear used among the whites, and "Machinery" is a very common name in Johannesburg.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

Sound Advice.

"These shoes you sold me last week squeak so that they actually keep me awake nights," said the customer, entering the shoe store.

"My dear sir," replied the shoe dealer reassuringly, "you shouldn't sleep in them."—Yonkers Statesman.

Human Nature.

Tell a man that there are 270,100,325,481 stars and he will believe you. But if a sign says Fresh Paint, he has to make a personal investigation.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Oh, how hard it is to die and not be able to leave the world any better for one's little life in it.—Abraham Lincoln.

New Land Scrip.

By special act of Congress, nearly 2000 acres of approved Land Scrip is now available for use in Oregon. It is the best and cheapest scrip put on the market in several years. Will go quickly to patent. Take any land subject to homestead entry. Can furnish in applications from forty acres up, as long as it lasts. We guarantee validity. The price will attract you. If you need some of it, prompt action is necessary. Write or wire us. The Collins Land Company, Helena, Montana.

WILSON AND SCOTT.

and the Other Didn't

Wilson and Scott were offered the laurel wreath in 1842 he declined the laurel wreath, as he wrote to Lady Aberdeen "The necessity of writing often takes a year is a difficulty which no one ought to encounter who has any practical character to lose; at least I am sure I should find it insurmountable. The thing might be easily done in a decent sort of way as old Whitehead himself describes it:

"Whose name obtained by sack or pension, without a subject or invention. Must certain scribbles in order set. As in such as a Gazette, Must some half meaning half disguise And utter neither truth nor lies."

Tommy had received the letter offering him the laurel wreath one morning before he was out of bed. On rising he immediately wrote two replies, one accepting, the other declining the offer, and determined to consult with his friends at dinner which to tend. Ever afterward he would jokingly declare that he accepted the honor because Venables assured him that if he became laureate he "would always, when dining out, be offered the liver wing of a fowl!"—London Chronicle.

A Haunted Library.

One of the most curious "hauntings" occurs in a northern castle of great antiquity where Mary, queen of Scots, rested when she was being conveyed a prisoner through England. It is manifested in the library and takes the form that the books cannot be kept in order. They move about or are moved about from shelf to shelf. If you arrange the works of Shakespeare in correct order on one shelf, by next morning the volumes are scattered anyhow on different shelves. This has gone on for years. At different times the library has been searched and locked, watches have been set all night, mysterious occurrence goes on and is vouched for not only by the family, but by the guests who have stayed in the house. There is no legend to account for it.—London Mail.

China Decoration at Limoges.

Decoration of china has been reduced to an art in Limoges. The processes of lithographing and decalcomania have replaced all hand painting, except for rich decorations and special orders. Another process is that of applying soft underglaze colors so as to produce fine effects, and it is probable that very soon the leading styles of the best classes of goods will be decorated in this manner. The large manufacturers make their own decalcomania sheets, work out their designs and control their decorations. They employ girls to apply the decalcomania lithographs on the china. After the paper has been removed therefrom the articles are fired in the "mouffes" to set the colors.

She Knew.

"Miss Janet is a long time coming down," he said to the pretty parlor maid. "Perhaps she is—ha, ha—perhaps she is making up her mind whether to see me or not."

The maid smiled coldly. "No," she said; "it is not her mind she is making up."—Philadelphia Ledger.

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