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ATHENA, ORE. MARCH 10, 1916

There is a noticeable stiffening of the county political trenches during the past week and the armor for the primaries is being buckled on. Candidates are beginning to feel around and let their wangs be known. County Recorder Ben Burroughs will be a candidate and so will Frank Salton, county clerk. G. W. Bradley will seek to be county treasurer for another term, and W. H. Mosselman, a school teacher, will oppose him for the nomination in the republican primaries. Henry M. Allen of Holdman, is out for the republican nomination for sheriff, and is "jes' dyin'" to oppose our Til Taylor, who will be the democratic nominee. To date no democrat has appeared in the arena for legislative honors, but there are oodles of republicans seeking nomination. Ralph Folsom and J. T. Brown, both of Pendleton and both republicans, want to be coroner. Jim Ashworth of Weston, and Pete Sheridan of Buttersreek, are scouting after the nomination for county commissioner in the republican primaries. J. Roy Raley is spoken of by the democrats for district attorney, while the republicans are dangling the plum before the eyes of Homer I. Watts of this city, W. J. Warner of Hermiston, and Omer F. Smith, R. I. Kester, Algot Fee and G. W. Counts, all of Pendleton, and S. D. Peterson of Milton.

In view of the ever increasing demand for gasoline and the increase in price of crude oil, from which it is obtained, it is important to know that an almost inexhaustible supply of oil may be obtained from the shale of northwestern Colorado, northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming. This shale contains materials which, when heated, may be converted into crude oil, gas and ammonia. The high cost of distilling oil from shale as compared to the cost of producing oil from wells has thus far prevented the development in this country of such an industry and may continue to prevent it for some time, but sooner or later this great source of supply will be utilized to supplement the decreasing production from the regular oil fields.

The merits of the men on the two tickets presented for the consideration of the voter at the Athena city election Tuesday, resulted in the largest vote ever polled at a municipal election in the history of the city. This is as it should be. The way to find out whether or not the verdict of a caucus is satisfactory in the nomination of candidates is to put the second ticket in the field and thereby give the voters an opportunity to decide with the ballot. A healthy scrap once a year, in which a large vote is polled indicates an interest in city affairs.

All state moneys are loaned on real estate secured by first mortgage notes drawing six per cent. The state land board does not loan more than \$2500 to any one person. Umatilla county is the third heaviest borrower of all the counties from the state \$6,000,000 school loan fund, according to a statement of State Treasurer Kay. Farmers in the county have borrowed \$304,175 from the state land board, which handles the fund. Marion county farmers have borrowed \$365,825 and Gilliam county farmers \$351,044.

The demand for ostrich plumes has fallen off to the extent that the birds on the famous farms of California are being sold to parks and zoos. Price is no object and the big birds are being shipped to the eastern cities in large numbers. Milady finds that it does not take an ostrich plume to bring the cost of her headgear up to the \$20 mark, thanks to the genius and science employed in hat creations—but the ostrich farmer is the one who is receiving the jolt.

The West end of the county is entitled to one commissioner on the County Court, in point of location, if for no other reason. The name of George Cressy has been mentioned by the Herald for the office. The Herald, a republican paper, gives it's support to Mr. Cressy, a democrat, for the position he seeks; all of which speaks well for both the Herald and Mr. Cressy.

The big snow was good for something else besides moisture. In the sage brush country it starved thousands of jack-rabbits to death. Anything that helps your town helps you—push it along.

A Mulligan Stew

I know a fellow who has a pair of Alredale pups, which he is training for the mountain trails. And, his method of training is novel, to say the least. There is a certain red hog running at large out in his neighborhood and the Alredales are having a phat time of it boosting the hog from one field to another. A friend of mine tells me that he has already run down three saddle horses in Folleria's hunt. The hog seems to hold its own, well enough, and if it can stay in the game long enough for its owner to find out where it is, there's liable to be a damage suit at the end of the trail.

The only thing I can conservatively compare Kernel Wood to, is a jobster. He is obsolete in every other particular.

I understand the Democrats were upstump for while last week when Bill Peterson resigned the chairmanship of the County Central Committee. But they are relieved now. Ol' Nor Berkeley is on the stool and everything is serene within and without the ranks of the unstarified and unwashed. I never did have any apprehension. Whatever. Except that Sim Barnes, the Weston Warwick, might by some political hook or crook, fasten his talons on the vacancy caused by the resignation of Our Bill. But that's all off, now. Too.

It must be exasperatingly exasperatingly embarrassing to the good people of the metropolis over the hill to have in their midst an editor who is continually offering veiled proposals of marriage to the leading actresses of the nation, through the medium of his nefarious sheet.

I haven't anything but a good word for our girls' basket ball team—even though they lost their last game of the season to Pendleton by a score of 22 to 7. There is consolation in knowing that Pendleton won games from larger schools than ours by overwhelming scores. And then there's next year to look forward to. And the next year, too. And the next.

Bailing with Billie Burke, his platitudes decorously directed, might more fittingly appeal to the Jersey Lily.

The main issue was never obscured for an instant in the municipal election Tuesday—every office has been filled as a result of the vox populi. I observe that competing tickets in the field this year, where in former years I might mention there was only one, stimulates interest, gives everybody a chance to holler louder and commuise in larger bunches—so to speak, clarifying the political atmospheric conditions of our municipality, with everybody on the live end of the Push. Count me in on the two-ticket racket every time. Another thing in favor of always having two tickets is that it gives the judges and clerks a chance to earn their day's salary.

Library Board Statement.

Mrs. A. A. Foss, Secretary-Treasurer of the Athena Public Library Board, submits the following financial report for the period from March 9, 1915, to March 3, 1916:

Amnt. received from City	\$100.00
" " " Library Ball	53.10
" " " other sources	15.69
Total	\$168.79
Disbursements.	
Rent	\$84.00
Janitor	16.00
Coal	8.50
Sundry acc't	15.88
Magazines	9.90
Books	15.70
Book cases	17.00
Total	\$166.98
Balance from 1914-1915	72.70
Amnt. received 1915	168.79
Total	\$311.19
Total disbursements	\$166.98
Cash on hand	\$74.48
Anna Foss, Sec.-Treas.	

For Sale.

One brown mare mule, no brand visible, buckskin nose, star in forehead, 3 years old, weight 850 pounds; also one 3 year old trible cow, brand on side resembling figure 1 with half circle above, ear marks resembling crop of each ear, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at the Barrett place, one mile north of Athena, Oregon on Saturday, March 4, 1916, at 2 o'clock, p. m. to pay costs of advertising and feeding. H. A. Barrett, Athena, Oregon, Feb. 11/16.

Antiquity of the Organ.

The organ is the most magnificent and comprehensive of all musical instruments. While the pipes of Pan, aside from that mythical personage, indicate a very ancient use of pipes as a means of producing musical sounds, the "water organ of the ancients" furnishes to the student of organ history the first tangible clue regarding the remote evolution of the instrument. In the second century the magister, an organ of ten pipes with a crude keyboard, is said to have existed, but accounts of this instrument are involved in much obscurity. It is averred that an organ, the gift of Constantine, was in the possession of King Pepin of France in 757, but Aldehelm, a monk, makes mention of an organ with "gilt pipes" as far back as the year 700.

Proof Against Wasp Stings.

A Scottish naturalist in a paper on the habits of wasps tells how a black-bird wasp's nest and deliberately tear it in pieces in order to get at the larvae, apparently undisturbed by the swarms of angry insects, whose vicious stings instantly put to flight the human curiosity-seeker who ventures near to watch the demolition.

MAYOR WATTS IS RE-ELECTED

One of the Largest Votes Polled in the History of the City.

With opposing candidates for all municipal offices except that of city recorder, considerable interest was manifested in the results of Athena's city election Tuesday and one of the largest votes in the history of the city was polled.

The issues of the election centered in the re-election of Mayor Homer I. Watts, who championed the policies of the present administration of city government, the proposed Sunday closing ordinance being the second issue of importance. These issues brought out a total of 303 voters to the polls. Mayor Watts defeated David Taylor by a decisive majority and the Sunday closing bill was snowed under. The verdict of the ballots is as follows: For Mayor—David Taylor, 121; Homer I. Watts, 177; majority for Watts 56.

For Councilmen—Charles Kirk, 149; W. P. Littlejohn, 157; Charles G. McFarland, 155; William T. McLeod, 210; H. O. Worthington, 111; I. W. Ware, 65.

For Treasurer—A. M. Johnson, 139; Ernest A. Zerba, 157.

For Recorder—B. B. Richards, 236; scattering votes, 27.

Sunday Closing Ordinance—Yes, 104; No, 179. Majority against Sunday closing, 75.

The three councilmen receiving the highest number of votes, W. P. Littlejohn, Chas. McFarland and Wm. McLeod, will serve for the ensuing year with M. L. Watts, Dr. Welch and N. A. Miller the holdover councilmen.

Mr. McLeod, who received a flattering vote, was a regular nominee of the citizens mass meeting, and no one appearing against him by petition, he had a clear field. The name of Mr. Ware was written on the ballots, and he was not an avowed candidate for the office of councilman.

Notice.

A mass meeting of the citizens and taxpayers of Athena and community will be held on Monday evening, March 13 at 7:30 p. m. in the auditorium of the school house in Athena for the purpose of discussing and considering the proposed bond issue by Umatilla county in the sum of \$980,000 for the purpose of good roads. Every taxpayer and person interested in the bond issue is requested to be present.

B. B. Richards, G. W. Gross, A. B. McEwen, Committee.

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SOLDIERS AND CANES.

English Military Men Must Not Go Out Walking Empty Handed.

It is one of the regulations of the British army that every soldier when walking out must carry in his hand a stick in order to preserve a soldierly appearance and prevent anything like slouching in his gait.

This rule applies to all ranks, and should any one seek to evade it he would find his progress barred by the sentry at the barrack gate or entrance to camp.

Privates generally carry light canes or "swagger sticks," noncommissioned officers fairly stout sticks, and officers invariably go in for the more expensive kind. It is a question that has often been asked. Who first suggested the idea? But nobody seems to know.

From the earliest times drill sergeants and drum majors have carried sticks, and the fashion may have come from that fact. Soldiers as a rule buy their own sticks, but in one or two regiments a recruit is presented with one when he gets his uniform. If this gets lost, however, he has to buy the next and subsequent ones.

There is a story told of a soldier one day who couldn't find his cane and, knowing he would be challenged if he didn't have something in his hand, quietly picked up a poker and passed through the gate all right with it in his fist.—Dundee Advertiser.

HE DWELT IN PEACE.

Revolutions in Haiti Didn't Bother the Old Darky Settler.

During one of the revolutions in Haiti a party of Americans made a riding tour of the mountains. One morning a member of the party suddenly drew rein and pointed to a lone ridge where an old tattered stars and stripes fluttered on a bamboo pole.

"We must pay our respects," some one said.

After some search they found a path that zigzagged up to the wild place. They followed it and at last discovered an aged negro sitting before his wattle but smoking his pipe, while he kept an eye on the flag.

"What's the flag for?" some one asked.

"Perfection," said the old man quietly. "I heah dey done begin anudder revolution, so I put it up. Yes, sah, I come hear twenty-two yens ago, an' has dat flag wld me. I'm George, cook on a steamer outer Savannah.

"Like de place? Yes, sah. Plant yam an' coffee an' cassava. Resolutions don't trouble dis nigger. Ebery time dey resolute yander up goes de flag, an' dat's all dere's to it."—Washington Star.

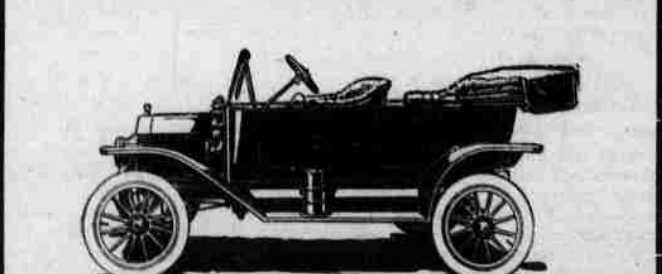
Ho—Why does old Miss Tittletattle use an ear trumpet? Is she deaf? She—Not a bit. She employs that instrument as a bluff and to induce people to talk freely in her presence.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

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