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**23 Years Ago.**  
[From the Press of Dec. 21, 1894]

The continued decline of the value of horses until they are now seldom worth feeding is turning the most civilized of the animal kingdom back to barbarism. On the desert of Lake county there is now a roving band of 1000 "unemployed" horses that are running wild and are almost as shy and hard to approach as the deer or bear of the forest. Shooting horses to get rid of them as an expense is becoming more frequent every year.

At the regular communication of Dolph Lodge No. 80, A. F. & A. M., last Saturday night, the following officers were elected: I. D. Lively, W. M.; J. W. Smith, S. W.; Clark Walter, J. W.; B. D. Clemons, Treas.; J. Bloch, Sec.; E. R. Cox, S. D.; A. R. Bradley, J. D. and J. S. Myrick, Tyler.

As an evidence that Athens is not dead, we are informed that C. W. Hollis, one of our enterprising merchants, received new goods every day except Sunday, during the month of November.

Miss Harriette C. Woodruff, county superintendent, has recommended that a scholarship to the state agricultural college be granted to Phil M. Price of Athens.

Wednesday morning at the Bergevin ranch south of town, there came near being a serious conflagration. A hot fire was kindled in the stove which ignited the wall, the smoke and flames making their way to an upstairs room where four men were sleeping. They were awakened and quickly gave the alarm, and by prompt action the flames were subdued before much damage was done.

Master Rawl Miller entertained a few of his little gentlemen friends last Friday, December 14th. Those present were: Masters Ralph DeFatt, Dick Winship, Melville Johns, Clarence Lively, Jesse Edington, George Rosenzweig, Roderic Hollis, Frank Kirkland, Sammy Bloch and Craig Wilkinson.

Friday night several parties disturbed the peace and quietude of our city by taking on a surplus of that which intoxicates, and vented their spleen on the saloon and fixtures of Lew Shaw's resort. Five were arrested and will receive their sentence today from Judge Gilman.

**A Woodhouse Fire.**  
A woodshed in the rear of the cottage occupied by E. E. Keller, on High street east of 5th, burned about 1 o'clock Saturday night, and the fire alarm turned in by A. B. Steele roused the citizens from their sleep. The building was a mass of flames when the hose cart reached the scene. N. A. Miller saved his outbuildings by using garden hose. Had the surrounding buildings been dry, a serious conflagration would have resulted. It is said the fire originated from ashes dumped close to the woodshed, which were fanned by the high wind.

**\$100 Reward, \$100.**  
The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is catarrh. Catarrh being greatly influenced by constitutional conditions requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in the curative powers of Hall's Catarrh Medicine that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by all Druggists, etc.

**WARTIME SIGNALS.**

**A Clever Device That Was Used by the Ancient Romans.**

In view of the varied and scientific signal methods used in modern warfare a description of the ancient signaling methods found in the writings of Polybius will prove of interest. This writer had observed the operations of the Roman generals before the fall of Carthage in 146 B. C. and says they provided their signal stations with earthenware vessels, exactly equal in all respects and fitted with cocks which allowed the water to escape at the same rate. They were carefully tested to make sure of the last requirement. Corks of smaller diameter than the vessel were floated in them, bearing a distance of three fingers apart the simplest and most urgent military messages. They were used as follows: The sending station raised a torch. The receiving station, seeing it, did likewise. This was a signal for both stations to open the cocks of their water jars. When the rod at the sending station had sunk so that the desired message appeared at the edge of the jar another torch was raised, and the receiving station shut off its cork and read the message on the rod, marked identically with that at the sending station.—Detroit Free Press.

**MAN AND THE APES.**

**And the Anatomical Flaws in the Theory of Evolution.**

Dr. Matton M. Curtis, professor of philosophy in Western Reserve University, protests in a letter to Science against the assertion, still common in current scientific literature, that man is a descendant of the anthropoid apes. He quotes Professor Duckworth, the leading authority in this field, who wrote in his "Morphology and Anthropology":

"We must conclude that the existing anthropoid apes, constituted as they now are, did not figure in the ancestral history of man." And he points out some of the fundamental differences between man and the apes, differences which defy any theory of evolution to explain. Among these differences are those in the form of the skulls, the shape of the most ancient skulls that have been found being substantially the same as the shape of the skulls of today.

Professor Curtis pleads that sound science and sound education be based upon actual facts and such theories as grow out of them rather than upon mere speculations.

**Cut the Ship in Two.**  
"I was a passenger on one of the old fashioned sailing steamers going from London to Australia in 1888," said a traveler. "In the Red sea we ran plump into a vessel, and our boat cut it entirely in two, so neatly that it might almost have been done with a huge knife. We went clean through her, and the men on the vessel struck stepped from the two halves of their ship on to our deck. The injured vessel went down within a few minutes after it had been struck. The thing was so strange that when the captain of the vessel we had struck went back to London an investigation was held, and it was substantially proved that the officers had with design got in the immediate track of our vessel in order that they could collect insurance money. The captain and some of the officers were punished by imprisonment."

**The Crow Family.**  
The crow family, to which the rook belongs, is placed by ornithologists at the head of the bird world, as being more highly organized than any other. Linnaeus gave the post of honor to the eagles because of their kindly quality of rapacity. The eagles were then dethroned in favor of the thrushes by reason of the higher development of their vocal organs, but two great authorities on ornithology, Professor Parker and Professor Newton, agreed in assigning the highest place to the crow, on account of their "wit and wisdom," their development of social habits, their "subtlety" and their possession of larger brains in proportion to the weight of the body than those of any other birds.

**WHY IS A CAT'S TAIL?**

**Does It Serve a Useful Purpose, or is It Merely Ornamental?**

The question having arisen, "Why does the cat have a tail?" the scientists seem willing to answer it with another question, "How would the cat look without a tail?" No one can gainsay the fact that the tail is a valuable ornament. The cat without one is a sorry sight. But there are those who maintain that the tail serves the cat as a sort of gyroscope, balancing the body in leaping, says the Popular Science Monthly.

This cannot be wholly true, for Manx cats get along very well without tails, and rabbits have no use for them at all. Yet both the Manx cats and rabbits do a lot of leaping. After all, it looks as if the tail is only an ornament unless it is a kind of safety valve for expression in exciting times.

Of course there are instances where the tail serves some purpose other than that of art. The monkey finds his useful as a sort of fifth leg; the horse uses his as a fly swatter, as does the lion; the crocodile uses his for swimming, as do the seal and the turtle and other aquatic creatures, and the rattlesnake uses his for warning enemies.

According to W. D. Matthews of the American Museum of Natural History, the tail was a necessary organ for the aquatic and amphibious ancestors from which the higher animals are descended. When they took to terrestrial life and to walking on all fours the tail became more or less superfluous.

**DON'T NEGLECT A FEVER.**

Keep a Clinical Thermometer in the Home and Use It.  
Every home should have a thermometer in the household medicine closet. No family, especially where there are children, should be without a thermometer. The thermometer gives the correct temperature of the body whenever it is necessary to find out what it may be.

The beginning of an illness is shown by the thermometer. When one is well the normal temperature is 98.6 degrees. Any rise in the temperature, especially if it reaches 100 or 101 degrees, shows there is fever, and a physician should be called in to treat the condition and find out the cause of the fever.

Children and adults having a temperature of over 100 degrees should remain indoors and in bed. It is always dangerous to go about the house or out of the house when there is any elevation of the body temperature.

When one suffers from a cold there may be a temperature of 101 or even 102, and if one goes about the house or out of doors it is no uncommon thing for him later on to find himself in bed suffering from bronchitis or pneumonia, and death frequently results, and all from neglecting to remain indoors when having a bad cold.

Buy a clinical thermometer and use it. It may save you from severe illness by showing you that you require the services of a physician.—Philadelphia Record.



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**Peace and Goodwill**  
There is a tinge of sadness in the Christmas season this year because peace is not worldwide. We of America have much to be thankful for. May we use our prosperity to such a good advantage that it may be maintained indefinitely. Accept our hearty good will and best wishes for the season.  
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ATHENA, OREGON, DEC 21... 1917

Two recent arrests of men in a munitions plant in Pennsylvania for improper fusing of shell cases, making the shells practically worthless, will probably lead to an investigation which may result in disclosing a plot in that particular factory to send out worthless ammunition. The fact that both men arrested bear foreign names leads to the suggestion that munition factories may be better served if there were more Jones', Smiths and Browns on the pay rolls. The two prisoners, experts in their line, assert that it was to work faster and make more money that prompted them to turn out the shells without certain wrappings, and that they were unaware that by so doing the efficiency of the shell would be nullified. An example should be made of Mr. Sloviski and Mr. Stello, so that once and for all, munition workers would come to know that fat pay checks do not have precedence over the lives of American soldiers on the firing line in France.

"Unofficially," the word comes from Berlin that the Kaiser's Christmas message will include a peace proposal to the Allies. The mere facts that Italy's lines are still held; that our Uncle Samuel has not yet uncorked his offensive, and that Kaiser Bill has been precluded in his visit to Paris, will preclude a serious consideration of any proposal that Bill may make at this time—other than that he is ready to abdicate his soap box and sign up on the side of world-wide democracy.

Petunias and wall-flowers blooming at Christmas time! That is what Red Cross membership solicitors found in gardens along Wild Horse creek during their drive Monday. Can you beat it?

But two requisites are needed for Red Cross membership—a heart and a dollar. With your heart in the cause, it is a very easy matter to dig up the dollar, even though you have to borrow it.

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**CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS**

DuBerry, Parisian, Pyrolin Ivory  
Fancy Box Candy, Fancy Box  
Stationery, Columbia Grafonolas,  
Watterman Fountain Pens, Fancy  
Box Cigars, Kodaks, Imported Per-  
fumes in packages, Serving Trays

**Ware's Pharmacy**

**Desperate.**  
Mr. Smith (making a purchase for Mrs. Smith, who has instructed him to get her a pair of shoes and a half dozen—Let me see a pair of ladies' 5's, wide.

Shopman (who knows the Smiths)—Why, Mr. Smith, your wife always orders 3 1/2!

Mr. Smith—My man, I am not going to suffer the tortures of the infernal regions every morning watching that woman trying to get a bushel of feet into a peck of shoes. I am going to take her a pair that will fit her.—London Answers.

**Badly Expressed.**  
Mrs. Key was visiting some friends and left the following card to her next door neighbor: "Dear Mrs. Garrison—Would you please put out a little food for the cat I have been feeding all season? It will eat almost anything. But do not put yourself out."—Dallas News.

**Some Hope Left.**  
"Henry, the flour is all out."  
"So is my money."  
"The potatoes are all gone."  
"So is my credit."  
"Well, we can't starve!"  
"Can't we? That's good! I was afraid we might."—Boston Transcript.

**Blessings.**  
Blessings may appear under the shape of pains, losses and disappointments, but let him have patience and he will see them in their proper figure.—Addison.

**Used Proper Food.**  
Humane Officer—I trust that you feed your horses with punctuality. Driver—No, sir; with hay and oats.—Boston Transcript.

That which starts upon stilts often ends upon crutches.—Italian Proverb.

**Clean Breast of It.**  
Mother (seeing from pantry)—Robert, did you pick all the white meat off the chicken?  
Bobbie—Well, ma, to make a clean breast of it, I did.—Boston Transcript.

**Perplexing.**  
"This bit of literature hasn't any plot to speak of, but it's got me guessing."  
"Detective story, eh?"  
"Nope; time table."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

He that plants thorns will not gather roses.—Freverb.

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