

# The Athena Press

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ATHENA, OREGON, JAN. 11 ..... 1918  
UNSCRUPULOUS GRAFTERS.

The deeper the Senate investigation committee goes into the details of war preparation, the more scandalous are shown the methods employed by unscrupulous grafters. Ship building and wearing apparel contracts, involving millions of dollars have been drawn into the limelight, and show that gigantic abuses have been perpetrated. As an illustration, take the case of the Sloan shipyard corporation of Seattle, which has a contract to build 16 wooden ships for the government for a total price of \$7,840,000. The concern is in a bad way and to protect itself, the government has had to take a \$780,000 mortgage on the plant. In the course of his investigations Admiral Bowers found that the Seattle corporation had paid \$400,000 to the Clinchfield Navigation company. "What was that for?" the admiral asked of the organizer and head of the Seattle concern and the answer was that it was for brokerage or commission for obtaining the \$7,840,000 contract. The vice chairman of the contracting committee of the council of national defense admitted on the witness stand Thursday that nine firms that had representatives on this contracting committee got army supply orders from the committee that totaled \$149,000,000. The witness asserted, however, that all but \$15,000,000 of these contracts was placed before the contractors' representatives became connected with the committee. He should have finished by saying that they probably wormed their way on the committee to protect these \$15,000,000—in other words seeing to it that they "got theirs." This sort of thing cannot go on, and America win the war. It seems that Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee goes to the heart of the evil with his bill to create a new cabinet member, to be known as the secretary of munitions and have complete charge of all war material purchasing.

Serbia is a ruined nation. According to a Geneva newspaper, one-quarter of the population of 3,000,000 which it had in 1914 is dead, either killed in the war or victims of disease or privation. The survivors are permanently weakened. There is no way for the allied or neutral nations to send into Serbia enough food to sustain the people, and the Germans do not care what becomes of them. For Serbia, with her Slavie opposition to Teuton control, had stood in the way of the pan-Germanic plan for many years. It was on the cards that the country must be abolished, so that Germany would have an easy path to Constantinople and beyond.

The "Two-Bit Club" is the most effective kind of a war-club. Members

are pledged to buy government thrift stamps for 25 cents each at regular intervals—one a day if possible. When sixteen of these stamps have been pasted on the thrift card that goes with the first stamp sold, the card will be exchanged for a government War Savings Stamp, which cost \$4.12 now and for which Uncle Sam will pay \$6 in five years. "Two-Bit Club" members will thus become holders of United States "baby bonds" and will be lending their financial aid in winning the war. A "Two-Bit Club" will be organized in Athens, so be sure and join.

Thrift Stamps appeal to everybody, because everybody loves a "sticker."

"Kaiser Bill went up the hill To lick the folks of France; Kaiser Bill came down the hill With bullets in his pants."

## The Churches.

**Methodist Episcopal Church.**  
Sunday school 10 a. m. The annual election will be held at this session. Preaching services 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. The morning topic is: "Successful Sin." The evening services will be enriched by illustrated songs, solos and lectures. Prayer meeting will be held at the home of Prof. and Mrs. R. E. Gribble on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p. m. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend these services.  
Walter S. Gleiser.

**The Christian Church.**  
The Bible school will begin promptly at 10 a. m., with Geo. R. Gerking, director. The school is growing in interest and numbers. Classes for everybody. Preaching 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Evening topic, "The Sinner's Responsibility."  
The first floor is almost completed and we will soon be in the new home for special meetings. It will be the best room in the building and the most attractive in every way. Get ready to boost every department of the church. Everybody welcome. Chorus rehearsal Thursday evenings.  
D. Errett, Minister.

**Baptist Church Notes.**  
The revival meetings are starting off fine. Attendance is gaining at every service. The special topics are creating some concern. Topics beginning Saturday evening of this week at 7:30: "The Church with a Hobbie Skirt;" Sunday, 11th at 11 a. m., "The Wilderness Wooing;" 2:30, p. m., "Ruth, a Type of the Church;" a study in the Book of Ruth; 7:30 p. m., "The Dry Bones of Athens;" Monday, "Side Stepping;" Tuesday, "Four Men Under One Hat;" Wednesday, "A Run-away Couple;" Thursday, "Midnight in Daylight;" Friday, "Yard Sticks;" Saturday, "Little Foxes;" Sunday, 20th, 11 a. m., "Does It Pay to Be a Christian?" 2:30, Address to Mothers; 7:30, "The Glories of Heaven." The afternoon Bible studies next week will center around the general topic, "The Holy Life, and How to Live it." These studies will be helpful to every Christian. Let everybody arrange to attend these services.  
D. E. Baker, Pastor.

## 23 Years Ago.

[From the Press of Jan. 11 1895]

Elgin is battling with diphtheria. Born in Milton, Dec. 29, 1894, to the wife of J. E. McQuay, a boy.  
Born near Athena, Jan. 10, 1895, to the wife of A. W. Plankinton, a 13-pound girl.  
Our "Scribbler" exhibits much enterprise by illustrating his scribbles. "Scrib" is all right and don't you forget it.  
The Press has more and better correspondents than all the papers in Umatilla county combined.  
A. J. Parker returned Wednesday from the Willamette valley. Jack says Athena is good enough for him.  
Born, near Walla Walla, Jan. 7, 1895, to the wife of H. P. Banks, a 10-pound boy.  
Tuesday Dr. Keylor of Walla Walla was on his way to see a patient and as he passed Mr. Bogle's home he saw

men setting fire to an adjoining building. The doctor called out, and for his answer was fired at twice, one bullet passing close to his head.

During 1894, County Clerk Burroughs issued 123 marriage licenses.  
Carl S. Wheeler, a Pendleton photographer, and Miss Etta Swaggart were married in Walla Walla last Monday.

Frank Gagnon and Miss Lizzie Watson were married in Pendleton Monday. Both resided south of town.

Trains running between Pendleton and Portland have been passing through great walls of snow, the rotaries having cut tunnels. The heaviest snow was between Troutdale and Mosier.

"It is said Senator Alf. Price will push a bill for adoption which changes the manner of assessing property. He favors the system of precinct assessors. Mr. Price will "push" in the right direction.

"Scribbler" remarks: The entertainment given by the "Social Club" at their next to last meeting was first class in every respect. The singing was superb. The drama, "Fruits of the Wine Cup," was rendered in an acceptable manner, as was also "Hans Von Smash," a farce. A roast chicken was one of the leading characters of the drama. "Alas! poor Yorick, hast thou to this complexion come at last?"

## MARTYRS TO GIRDLERS.

**A Native Protest Against Feminine Fashions in Japan.**  
A caustic Japanese critic, Saito Man, has this to say in the Tokyo Advertiser about women's fashions in Japan:

"Archaic costumes, especially those universally worn by ladies, demand reform. The indigent world can be clothed out of the materials wasted in gorgeous kimono sleeves. Nothing is so absurd as the long, heavy, pendulant sleeves attached to a girl's holiday kimono. They serve no purpose, impede locomotion and are a pitiful spectacle. The girdle is more cumbersome and expensive, especially those woven in one piece of heaviest silk.

"Formerly the latter were only worn at weddings and state affairs; now every girl has one. Every wife must have one to sport at the theater. In price this marvellous variety from 30 to 1,000 yen (\$15 to \$500) and upward. To girdle it requires all the strength of a well built husband or father. I do not know any Japanese woman who ever succeeded in putting on one herself.

"It is over three feet wide, folded into half that width when worn, and its length is three times the full height of its wearer. In weight it is terrific, thickly embroidered as it is with golden threads. It is chiefest attraction in the whole dress scheme of Japanese womanhood. One night as well ask a woman to discard her hair as it. Every well dressed Japanese lady is a martyr to her girdles. Her entire waist is covered with layers of belting. From the viewpoint of health the girdle (obi) is a most vile contrivance, as every doctor asserts."

## REALISTIC STAGECRAFT.

**The Electric Light is Responsible For Many Innovations.**  
The introduction of electric light was, of course, responsible for greater innovations in the art of stage decoration than any other one thing. It was now possible to light up equally well any portion of the stage, and so the "apron" was dispensed with and the picture frame proscenium introduced.  
The cry for realism which Ibsen's dramas had aroused was now taken up by the scene builders with enthusiastic vigor, and "nature" was reproduced in every material detail. "We must show life exactly as it is," became their motto.

These changes naturally also had an effect upon the actors themselves and upon what they said. Formerly the actors were continually conscious of the presence of the audience, and to a considerable degree addressed it directly. Now they could interpret the story on the stage, entirely ignoring, apparently, the presence of the audience.

This change in the conception of the play as a whole, as being made up not alone of dialogue and recitation, but also of action and pictorial representation, has had a very far-reaching effect on our present day conception of the drama.—Review of Reviews.

**Luminous Eyes.**  
Cats among animals and owls among birds, says W. H. Hudson in his book, "Idle Days in Patagonia," are the most highly favored of any creatures in the matter of luminous eyes. "The feline eyes, as of a puma or a wildcat, blazing with wrath, sometimes affect one like an electric shock, but for intense brilliancy the yellow globes of the owl are unparalleled." Mr. Hudson asserts that nature has done comparatively little for the human eye either in these terrifying splendors or in beauty. He says that in Brazil he was greatly impressed with the magnificent appearance of many of the negro women, but that if they had only possessed the "golden frides" of certain intensely black tropical birds their "unique loveliness" would have been complete.

**Preparedness on the Farm.**  
Every farmer ought to believe in preparedness, says Farm and Fireside, the kind of preparedness that provides tested rather than guessed seed corn; that sees that all farm machinery is carefully looked over and the badly worn or broken parts replaced before the beginning of the rush season; that makes ready a supply of bolts and taps, extra tap rings and clevises, singletrees and at least one extra pair of doubletrees. Man labor and horse labor are too expensive and time too precious to take chances of risks which might easily be avoided.

**State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.**  
Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE. FRANK J. CHENEY.  
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1894.  
A. W. GLEASON, (Seal) Notary Public.  
Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. Send for testimonials, free.  
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## SONG OF THE BOOTS.

**The Melody That Spelled Merit to the Thrifty Chinaman.**

John Chinaman often has peculiar ideas about the wearing apparel that he buys in America. For one thing he always wants boots that are several sizes too large, for he believes that in that way he gets more value for his money. In addition to excessive size, boots may have to possess other peculiar characteristics before they meet his full approval, as the following story indicates:

A California merchant offered a pair of fine boots that he had long kept in stock to a Chinese for \$3. The oriental finally took them, but two days later he brought them back.

"What's the trouble, John?" inquired the merchant. "Him good boots." "Him no good," declared John. "Him no singsong boot. Velly soon wear out. Me like singsong boot or me catchee back t'ree dolla'."

"Singsong boot?" exclaimed the merchant. "Me no sabe."

"Me tink you sabe, all lite," replied John. "What fo' him boot no singsong a squeak, squeak, when Chinaman walkee, aile same good boot?" When the merchant had given him in exchange for the fine boots a pair of coarse, cheap ones that squeaked loudly John Chinaman departed highly satisfied.—Youth's Companion.

## OUR ORGAN OF BALANCE.

**When It Becomes Affected It Produces an Attack of Vertigo.**

When any one feels dizzy and perhaps almost about to faint his brain cannot properly control the working of his eyes. They may move round from side to side, perhaps independently instead of together, and so it may look as if things were spinning around.

Another reason for dizziness has to do with a wonderful part of the body near the ear and without which none of us could sit upright, much less stand, though few people have ever heard of it. This organ, which used to be thought to have something to do with hearing, really controls our balance. In some people it is affected by disease, and these people constantly suffer from dizziness and a feeling that everything is spinning round and round.

As every one knows, we can make ourselves dizzy and so think everything is spinning round by whirling around ourselves several times in one direction. This disturbs the organ of balance, and this disturbance gives us the feeling. If you turn round the other way you put things right by restoring the original state of affairs within the balancing organ. The name for the feeling that things are spinning round is vertigo, and "vert" simply means "turn."—Kansas City Star.

**A Mediterranean Phenomenon.**  
Mirages are common in many parts of the world, such phenomena being familiar to travelers in the tropics as well as in the arctic regions and on deserts just the same as upon the waters of lakes, seas and oceans. The most peculiar of the whole list of atmospheric illusions is that species of mirage called the fata morgana, which is peculiar to that portion of the Mediterranean sea which lies off the coast of Calabria between Italy and Sicily. Exhibitions of the fata morgana are the most fantastic spectacles imaginable. If a city is presented to view some of the buildings are seen standing in their natural positions, while those adjoining may be standing at every conceivable angle or are completely inverted. The morgana has been known since before the time of Christ and has always been viewed with awe by superstitious people.

**Preserve the Wild Flowers.**  
An earnest appeal has been made by the Kansas City Star for the preservation of one of the most beautiful of wild flowers, the columbine, particularly along tourist routes. This appeal will find sympathetic support everywhere throughout the states in which the columbine is a natural annual, but it should be broadened to include all wild flowering plants that are needlessly and often wantonly pulled up by the roots. The conservation of wild flowers is a patriotic duty.—Christian Science Monthly.

**Have an Old Fashioned Garden.**  
If you wish to grow flowers in quantities for house decoration or other purposes grow them in a border three or four feet wide along a back fence. This is the place for larkspurs, hollyhocks, dahlias, columbines, phlox, shasta daisies, gladioli, etc. Call this an old fashioned garden if you will, all the same everybody likes it.

**Pomegranates.**  
The pomegranate was early cultivated in Egypt; hence the complaint of the Israelites in the wilderness of Zin (Numbers xx, 5), this "is no place of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates."

**Geometrical.**  
"Don't know her? Why, she lives in the same square with you."  
"Yes, but she's not in the same circle."—Cleveland Leader.

**Natural History.**  
A naturalist asserts that bees have advance guards. Possibly. But the rear guard is more feared.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Take a good book slowly. You see much finer country in a mover's wagon than you do from a car window.

**Fresh Air as Medicine.**  
It has taken centuries for us to find out and know that fresh air is the cure of consumption, pneumonia and colds, and probably it will take another century to make us know and use fresh air as a preventive of these and some other diseases.

**Filling a Need.**  
"I'm doing my best to get ahead," asserted Cholly.  
"Well, heaven knows you need one," asserted Dolly.—Puck.

**The Crop That is Always Short.**  
Knicker—What is the most needed grain crop? Bocker—Grains of sense.—New York Sun.

I call that man idle who might be better employed.—Socrates.

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**Alcohol for Fuel.**  
A committee of Australian scientists is investigating the possibilities of commercial alcohol in place of gasoline as a fuel for internal combustion engines, notes a correspondent. They find that an engine can easily be run on alcohol and that its thermal efficiency, when so run, is somewhat higher than with gasoline fuel. However, they also find that alcohol must be far cheaper by the pound than gasoline, and somewhat cheaper by the quart, if it is to be as economical a fuel in terms of dollars and cents. Moreover, an engine will not start from a cold condition on alcohol.

**Lantern on Broadway.**  
The dimming of the white lights in New York has brought the jokers to the fore. Recently after the current had been turned off a man walked up the big street with a lighted lantern. He wended his way across Broadway, and after swinging the lantern about his head much after the fashion of trapeze signaling, he continued up the street. He had soon seen that began to sprout in many directions and a few minutes later rival humorists appeared with lanterns, electric flashlights, and one optimist tried to keep a candle going as he walked down toward Times Square.

**Boche Had Sense of Humor.**  
Rain had fallen steadily for three days and nights and the trenches were in frightful condition. The German trenches, a few yards distant, were in an even worse state. Suddenly a plaintive voice cried out:  
"Are you dere, Jock? Haf you whisky? We haf plenty water!"  
Not bad for a boche, the platoon decided.—From "All in It," by Ian Hay.

**Catty Comment.**  
"Girls, I did have the hardest kind of work to keep Mr. Jims from proposing."  
"I suppose you mean to some other girl?"—Baltimore American.

**NOTICE.**  
All parties knowing themselves indebted to me for the year 1917 will please come forward and settle the same.  
N. A. Miller.

**Notice of Final Account**  
In the County Court for Umatilla County, Oregon.  
In the matter of the estate of Maggie La Brache-Franz, deceased.  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed her final account and report in the above entitled matter, and that the above entitled Court has fixed Saturday, February 2, 1918, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., of said day as the time, and the county court room as the place, for hearing said account and report. Objections to said final account and report should be filed on or before said date.  
Mary LaBrache-Badeley, Executrix.  
Dated January 4, 1918.



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