

The Athena Press circulates in the homes of readers who reside in the heart of the Great Umatilla Wheat Belt, and they have money to spend

# The Athena Press

Entered at the Post Office at Athena, Oregon, as Second-Class Mail Matter

VOLUME XL.

ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1919.

NUMBER 9

## FRANK C. AYRES A SUICIDE BY HANGING

Frank C. Ayres, a farm hand who has been in the employ of David Stone for the past three years, committed suicide at the Stone place west of Athena, Tuesday. The body was found by Mr. Stone, hanging by a strap extending from the ceiling of the driveway in the barn.

The body was found about one o'clock p. m., when Mr. Stone went to summon the man to dinner, having last seen him alive between 10 and 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

The authorities were at once notified, the coroner coming from Pendleton. The body was brought to Miller's undertaking establishment Tuesday evening.

Ayres, who was about 50 years of age, probably committed the act while dependent. He left a note to Mr. Stone, and also letters to Peter Inman and Postmaster Richardson, of Adams. The note to Mr. Stone, the wording of which is badly misspelled and disconnected, read:

"D. T. Stone: I thank you for the many favors you gave me. I have been losing my mind for the last two months, I never sleep, and the last ten days the top of my head feels as if it was on fire. I think the best thing for me is to end it in 8 feet of ground."

"Kindly turn over all the books to Rattlesnake Pete, at Adams."

"I know that I am not much use to myself or any one else."

Indications showed that the man had deliberately set about the task of ending his life. Climbing to the hayloft, he had removed his hat and coat. He then tied a strap around a joist that ran through the center of the double door leading up to the loft, and slipped down through the open hatchway. The strap was used as the butt end of a four-horse line, with a ring at one end. A loop was made by passing the end of the strap through the ring. After placing this loop around his neck, the man dropped several feet, without touching the floor of the driveway.

It is known that Ayres had a half-brother and sister, but it is said that he destroyed all evidence as to the whereabouts of his relatives. He was a man of slight build, sandy complexion, and will be remembered as always wearing leggings when in town. He first came to this part of the county selling Couch's patent medicines.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, at 2:30, by Rev. Burton, interment being in the Athena cemetery.

## BILL PUNISHES DECEIT IN HIRING FARM HELP

Laws to punish employers who knowingly misrepresent living, working or wage conditions to prospective laborers, and laborers who accept advance pay and then refuse to render the services, are sought by the office of the federal and farm help specialist, J. W. Brewer of O. A. C.

A bill for this purpose has been introduced into the Oregon Legislature at the request of the employment office. It provides a penalty for accepting an advance of wages, transportation or money values and then refusing to perform the labor or refund the advance.

A penalty is likewise provided against employers for misrepresenting, knowingly and with intent to deceive, wages to be paid, work to be done, and conditions under which it is to be performed.

"Last season a good many employees accepted an advance of railway fare and then failed to report," says Mr. Brewer. "Then, too, some employers grossly misrepresented wages and character of work, with the result that laborers lost their time and transportation expenses."

## Gun Club

Annual interest is being shown in the success of the Athena Gun Club, by its members. A new trap has been purchased and was in use for the first time Sunday afternoon. The trap has been installed on new grounds and permanent equipment has been installed. The grounds are located near the Northern Pacific railway, just north of the Standard Oil service station. The place is easy of access and affords ample room for shooting purposes. The club has a membership of 26, and is organized for the purpose of promoting sportsmanship and the protection of game and fish.

## Thomas Braden Dead.

Thomas Braden, a former resident of the reservation, died at Toppenish, Wash., last Friday, of heart trouble. Mr. Braden leaves one daughter, Mrs. Orvil Olney, and two sons, Roy and Ralph Braden, who have recently been discharged from the Army. Mr. Braden had resided near Toppenish for the past three years.

## RESUME OF WORK OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Solons Obligated to Hold Over to Finish Large Amount of Business.

**Big Bond Bill Sent to Governor**—Senate Slaughtered Salary Bills—Local Initiative and Referendum Bill Passed—Lieutenant-Governor Favored—Military Training Compulsory—Provide Tax for Farmer Roads—Threshers Regulated.

Salem.—The legislature was unable to complete its work within the 40 days legally allowed for a session, which expired at midnight February 21, and found it necessary to hold over this week to clear up the large amount of unfinished business. The members will receive no pay for sessions held after the 40 day period expired.

The senate cleared its desks and could have finished in the allotted time, but the mass of unfinished business which clogged the wheels in the house rendered it necessary to extend the session.

While there was a large amount of unfinished business to receive attention when sessions were resumed Monday morning, most of it was of minor importance, about the only matter of general interest to the state at large being reconstruction legislation.

The biggest piece of constructive legislation of the session, the \$10,000,000 road bonding bill, finally ran the gauntlet in both houses and was passed up to the governor to become a law. Inasmuch as it carried an emergency clause, when the signature of the governor was attached the vast fund created to carry out Oregon's progressive road building program could immediately be made available.

Provisions of \$10,000,000 Bond Bill. Briefly, the \$10,000,000 bond bill provides that \$7,500,000 of this sum shall be used for completion of the Pacific highway from the California line to Portland and the Columbia river highway from Astoria to The Dalles, these roads to be hard-surfaced. The remainder, \$2,500,000, is to be used for the improvement of other roads.

The principal and interest of the bonds are to be met by automobile licenses. All bids are to be let in open competition and county courts or county commissioners can bid on work in their counties. If desired, the commission can build by force account.

The bond bill provides for issuance of \$10,000,000 in bonds in denominations such as the commission may determine, and to be sold during the next five years.

Road Funds Made Elastic.

It provides for making more elastic the various funds under control of the highway department and to include in the state highway fund the various funds heretofore provided by law. The highway commission is directed to carry out the road programme enacted by the people in 1917, being empowered to make such local changes in roads as it deems expedient.

In event royalties are claimed for patented pavements, the commission may pay such royalties directly to the contractor and deal independently with contractors who in that event shall bid only on the construction of the road, without including the cost of any royalties that may be claimed.

Salary Increases Killed in Senate.

The senate upon recommendation of the ways and means committee mercilessly slaughtered bills designed to increase salaries of state officials. While the slaughter was in progress a storm of protest came from senators who saw their pet salary bills killed. The debate at times was bitter and sprinkled with personalities, but the only instance in which the senators did not sustain the recommendation of the committee was in connection with the bill to increase the salaries of supreme court justices to from \$4500 to \$5250 a year.

The only other salary bill to receive favorable consideration was a house bill by Mrs. Thompson, increasing the salary of the state dairy and food commissioner from \$2000 to \$3500 a year.

House Disapproves Death Penalty. The house killed senate joint resolution No. 21, the capital punishment bill, without debate.

The bill, requiring actual competition in bidding for public work, over which the senate wrangled for a day

## His Inspiration



and a half, was disposed of by indefinite postponement in the house.

Senator Nickelsen's bill granting to the people of various counties the state initiative and referendum powers on questions of local application, was passed without opposition. Under the provisions of this measure salaries of county officials, the creation of new county offices, questions of bounty, grazing and other problems of strictly local application, which are now dragged through the legislative machinery, will hereafter be determined by the people of the counties affected.

Practically one-third of the legislation handled by the present session has been of this character.

House Favors a Lieutenant-Governor.

Over bitter but ineffective opposition, the house passed joint resolution 31, by the committee on resolutions, providing that the people shall vote on a constitutional amendment to create the office of lieutenant-governor. Under the measure, the lieutenant-governor will be the presiding officer of the senate. In case of the death or absence of the governor, the lieutenant-governor will become chief executive of the state. The lieutenant-governor will receive \$10 per day while actually engaged in the duties of his office. The measure is patterned after the Washington system.

Military Training Bill Passed.

Universal military training in the high schools and colleges of Oregon is made compulsory under the terms of a bill by Senator Hurley of Malheur county, which passed the senate.

The bill specifies that military training shall be adopted in the high schools of the state at the opening of the new school year next fall. Exemptions to individual pupils who are physically unfit for the work may be granted and certain high schools which might not be able to carry on the work properly also can be exempted. Each male pupil must have at least three hours' training each week.

Farmers' Road Bill Passed by Senate.

To enable the construction of strictly farmer roads, the senate passed a bill which provides for a tax of 1 mill on all the taxable property in Oregon, a total of about \$1,000,000. There would be available \$2,000,000 a year for the construction of exclusively farmer roads, providing that the people, to whom the measure is referred, favor it at the next election. This is the sort of measure that the Oregon state grange has been advocating.

It is estimated by the tax department that the 1 mill will raise \$1,000,000 a year. This tax, it must be distinctly understood, is separate from the 1/2 mill tax for general road purposes. The 1-mill tax will go into a fund to be used for matching money from the counties.

Label Bill is Passed by House.

The Martin label bill, designed to advertise Oregon and give the state full credit for its products, was passed by the house. The measure provides:

Section 1. All persons, firms or corporations operating under their own private brand in the state of Ore-

gon in the business of packing or canning fruit or vegetables either fresh, canned, evaporated or otherwise, shall plainly designate on such private brand that goods were Oregon grown or packed in Oregon. For the purposes of this act it will be sufficient for the firms whose headquarters are in Oregon to either designate the local address of the cannery or to designate the location of their main office in the state of Oregon.

County Judges to Keep Their Power.

The house by an overwhelming vote refused to strip the county judges of the state of their jurisdiction over probate work and other matters of law as provided in a bill fathered by Representative Dennis and Hare. According to this bill the county judge would have been made simply a member of the board of county commissioners to act in matters of road work and other business coming under the jurisdiction of the commission.

Thrashing Machines Public Utilities.

Thrashing machines are declared to be public utilities and to come under the jurisdiction of the public service commission under the provisions of Representative Westerlund's bill, which passed the house.

The bill, according to Representative Westerlund, is designed to compel threshermen to give heed to the demands of the small farmers and not pass them up for the larger jobs, as he declares they now do. This bill does not attempt to regulate threshing charges, but simply give the farmers a chance to appeal to the public service commission in cases of discrimination as to service.

Legislative Brevities.

A bill to place a heavy license tax on oleomargarine passed the senate.

The house voted to appropriate money to adopt the federal plan for killing predatory animals.

Senator Huston's bill to exempt the homes of civil war veterans from taxation passed the senate.

By a vote of 24 yeas to 25 noes, a bill permitting women to serve as jurymen failed to receive the sanction of the house.

The house killed a bill requiring both parties contemplating marriage to secure medical certificates before being granted a marriage license.

The senate defeated Representative Crawford's bill which provided that one set of election officials should start counting the votes after 25 persons have voted.

Senator Banks' resolution for a constitutional amendment providing for paving the way for compulsory voting passed the house without material opposition.

London women are objecting because a high tax has been put on woolen underclothing. In America there would be no protest against or revenue from such a tax.

When experts tell us that cooties killed 500,000 persons in the war, we admire the patience and daring of the experts in running down and exposing the marauders.

As Lloyd George puts it, old-fashioned criminal law has not become a scrap of paper.

## FARMERS IN BEST FINANCIAL SHAPE OF RECENT YEARS

Smooth Transition of Agriculture to Peace Basis Predicted by Federal Reserve Board

American farmers are in better financial shape than they have been for years, according to a recent report of the Federal Reserve Board at Washington, which also predicts a smooth transition of agriculture and industry from a war to a peace basis. The board's review of economic conditions throughout the country is based on detailed reports made to it by the governors of the twelve federal reserve banks.

"The farmer is said to be in the best financial shape for many years," the review says. "In the South he is able to hold his cotton for better prices and is marketing his output conservatively."

"Excellent crop prospects are reported from the wheat states of the West and from California. On the Pacific Coast the prospects for excellent crops are exceedingly bright."

"Victory year" crops, according to another government report, added \$17,000,000,000 to our wealth. The principal contributions were:

- Corn—2,522,814,000 bushels, \$3,528,213,000.
- Wheat—917,100,000 bushels, \$1,874,623,000.
- Oats—1,538,259,000 bushels, \$1,092,423,000.
- Barley—256,375,000 bushels, \$235,263,000.
- Rye—99,103,000 bushels, \$134,947,000.
- Potatoes—397,676,000 bushels, \$475,721,000.
- Hay—75,459,000 tons, \$1,522,473,000.
- Tobacco—1,340,019,000 pounds, \$374,313,000.
- Apples—173,632,000 barrels, \$229,990,000.

As a result of the flourishing condition of the farmer in general the government expects him to take a large block of Victory Liberty Loan Bonds in April.

Recalls Wasted Time.

"I happened to be late at a meeting the other day and somebody asked who Ann Brown was and I didn't say a word and I happened to think just then that somebody is always late to everything and that somebody is always early to everything. If I give a formal dinner party somebody always comes early when I'm in the dining room giving my final orders to the butler, and then again after everything is all ready I have to wait 15 minutes for a tardy guest and get real fussy but that must not show it. I'll bet," says Ann, "that I've wasted thousands of hours of my young life being on time for engagements of all kinds."—Exchange.

Germany is getting ready to pay indemnities. Evidently the chastening process has begun.

Germany should beware for generations to come of inviting retribution. There's billions in it.

## LETTERS FROM OUR LADS "OVER THERE"

Ordnance Detachment 148th F. A. Jan. 28, 1919.

Dear Folks at Home: I sure am out of luck in receiving mail, for the rest of the boys seem to receive theirs, but I haven't had any for three weeks, nor did I receive any Christmas box.

The weather here is real winter time, cold but no snow. There is considerable Spanish flu in the regiment but have not had any in the detachment, and sure hope we don't. I sent a letter today for leave but don't know whether it will be granted or not, hope that it is as I sure would like to see Ireland and London before I come home, also am going to Glasgow, Scotland if I get the leave. I would rather come home than anything else, but as that is impossible, will try the next best. Here is the recommend for leave I received from Lieut. Sale:

"Forwarded, recommending approval. There are no previous furloughs on record in this detachment. The strength of this detachment is 24 enlisted men. The character of this soldier is excellent. The date of his present enlistment is May 23rd, 1917. He has sufficient funds to defray any expense incidental to the trip."

I have had no luck in locating the regiment that Dick belongs to, but found where John Wall is and am going down to see him in a day or so. This leaves me well, except for one fine cold, and that is what we all have.

Ord. Sgt. Geo. A. Winship, 145 F. A.

## Children's Books at Library.

Following is the new list of children's books received at the Athena library:

- Allen, Industrial Studies—Europe; Beard, Curious Homes and Their Tenants; Bemis, Patriotic Reader; Burroughs, Squirrels and Other Fur Bearers; Carter, About Animals; Chamberlain, North America; Chandler, Whitts of California Plants; Coffin, Winning His Way; Collins, Boys' Book of Submarines; Creighton, Nature Songs and Stories; Dodge, Reader in Physical Geography; Dopp, Tree Dwellers; Eddy, Friends and Helpers; Fairbanks, Stories of Our Mother Earth; Farmer, Food Problems; Gaynor, Songs of the Child World; George, Little Journey to Germany; Gilson, Wealth of World's Waste Places; Harington, About the Weather; Harris, Poems by Grades—Primary; Harris, Poems by Grades—Grammar; Hazard, Three Years With the Poets; Hotchkiss, Cities of the United States; Hoxie, How The People Rule; Huntington, Asia; Lane, Under Sunny Skies; Lansing, Barbarian and Noble; Lansing, Patriots and Tyrants; Long, Wilderness Ways; Lutkehaus, Story and Play Readers, Vol. III; McMurray, Excursions and Lessons in Home Geography; McMurray, Type Studies From Geography; Marsialis, Stories for the Story Hour; Monteith, Some Useful Animals; Moore, Abraham Lincoln, for boys and girls; Nivor, Great Names and Nations, modern; Parkman, Rivals for America; Peattie, Newcomers; Perkins, Belgian Twins; Perry, With Azte Girges in Egypt; Fier, Jester of St. Timothy's; Pollock, Wilderness Honey; Redway, All Around Asia; Rogers, Wild Animals Every Child Should Know; Sabin, Opening the West; Sage, Occupation for Little Fingers; St. John, How Two Boys Made Electrical Apparatus; Scott, Tale and Verse; Scudder, George Washington; Seton, Krag and Johnny Bear; Shaw, People of Other Lands; Skinner, Nursery Tales From Many Lands; Slosson, Story-Tell Lib; Sneath, Golden Door Book; Weed, Stories of Insect Life Series I; Wood, Animals.

## Norris "Tied" Into Him.

Charles Norris creditably impersonated the editor yesterday in an emphatic and conclusive argument with the representative of a lyceum course. In the absence of the editor, Chas. was seated at the desk, reading Wilson's Boston speech, when Mr. Lyceum Man entered, and hearing Mr. Norris make remarks commendatory of the speech, he volunteered the information that, though of an open mind, he was of the opinion that there are better ways to enforce peace than by forming a league of nations. Right there Charles took the negative, and those who know him can imagine the rest.

## Knee Caught in Gears.

Sterling Parris met with a serious accident at the farm home of his father, northwest of town, Wednesday evening, when his knee came in contact with the gearing on a chopper. The flesh was terribly lacerated but fortunately no bones were broken. Dr. Sharp dressed the injury and hereafter Sterling will endeavor to keep his knee out of cog wheels.

L. R. Kenney, who has been employed at the Preston-Shaffer mills in this city for the past several months left Thursday for Spokane.

**Notice!**  
If this notice is marked RED, it signifies that your Subscription expires with this issue. We will greatly appreciate your renewal—\$2.00 per year

## MOUNTAIN STORE-KEEPER MURDERED

Omar Olinger, keeper of a small store at the Tanks, on Linneton mountain, was shot in cold blood Wednesday afternoon of last week, by Harry Samuels, a beardless boy of 19 years, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Samuels, live at Milton.

Young Samuels, who has confessed to the killing of Olinger, spent Tuesday night on the mountain, leaving his horse in Olinger's barn. Returning next day from the Stark brothers' place to Olinger's store, Samuels says that he shot Olinger after they had had a quarrel, Olinger accusing the boy of cutting his telephone wires. The shot was fired from Olinger's rifle and after the shooting the dead man was dragged by the feet through the snow to a manure pile, where the body was covered with a thin layer of straw and refuse.

The body was discovered Thursday by one of the Stark brothers, who had been summoned by Mr. Sprague, a neighbor, he having discovered that the store was without its customary attendant.

Officers were notified and Sheriff Taylor arrested young Samuels in Pendleton whither he had gone from his home in Milton, suspicion of the crime being at once directed toward him.

Samuels stated that at the time he fired the shot he was standing in front of the Olinger house while Olinger was in the trail leading to the barn about thirty yards distant. He then, he says, dragged the body through the snow by the feet about 60 yards to where he buried it. He then mounted his horse and returned to his home in Milton.

The killing took place he says, between 8 and 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. He reached home about 10 o'clock that night and stayed there the next day and until Friday, when he went to Pendleton.

In following up the case Sheriff Taylor found a silver watch, which has since been identified as belonging to Mr. Olinger. The watch was found in Pendleton where Samuels had hidden it. The rifle Sheriff Taylor found at Milton, where Samuels told the sheriff he had hidden it. It is a 25-36 Marlin and belonged to the murdered man.

Among the things recovered from Samuels that were taken from the body of the dead man or his store, are two pocket knives, a silver watch, money purse, rifle, a number of other small articles and between \$5 and \$10 in small change.

The scene of the killing is near where Charles Petrie was killed by Frank Fletcher some 25 years ago, one of the Olinger brothers being in bed with Petrie at the time.

## NAMES OF TEN MORE FRENCH ORPHANS RECEIVED

Mrs. F. S. Le Grow, Chairman of the local Red Cross branch, has received a new list of French orphans, who have been allotted to Athena district for adoption.

Eight other French orphans have been adopted here and in this movement for adoptions, it is felt that Athena people will respond readily, those wishing to support a French child for one year or more, will communicate with Mrs. Le Grow, who will give full instructions and directions how to proceed. The new list comprises a total of ten orphans, nine boys and one girl. All are residents in the department Seine Inferieure, France, which is a very important part of the address to remember. The list is as follows:

- No. 42769.—Lucien Laquiere, boy, born Jan. 15, 1910; 103 rue Lamoine, Sotteville, les Rouen.
- No. 42770.—Alfred Laroche, boy, born Nov. 15, 1914; 10 rue de l'Amitie, Rouen.
- No. 42761.—Robert Lehouc, boy, born Feb. 23, 1917; 148, rue Des-croisilles Rouen.
- No. 42768.—Pierre Lacombe, boy, born June 17, 1917; St. Pierre les Elbeuf.
- No. 42764.—Marcel Lebbon, boy, born Nov. 17, 1909; St. Martin de Boscherville.
- No. 42766.—Rene Inwiller, boy, born July 4, 1913; 3 rue de la Terrasse Darnetal.
- No. 42767.—Alice Inwiller, girl, born Aug. 7, 1906; 3 rue de la Terrasse Darnetal.
- No. 42768.—Guy Jacques, boy, born July 9, 1914; 9 rue du Maulevrier, Rouen.
- No. 42769.—Louis Jacques, boy, born Aug. 3, 1913; 9 rue du Maulevrier, Rouen.
- No. 73770.—Leon Javelot, boy, born Oct. 11, 1907; 143 rue Thiers, Pettis Quevilly.

At the Methodist church in this city next Sunday night, a special attraction is promised in the appearance of a male quartette and Gospel team from the Pendleton M. E. church.