

The Athena Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
F. B. BOYD, Owner and Publisher
Subscription Rates.

One copy, one year.....\$2.00
One copy, six months.....\$1.00
One copy, three months......75

ATHENA, OREGON, NOV. 10 1922

BREAK AWAY FROM IT

Municipal election results place two new men at the head of Athena city administrative affairs and put back into office four of the present incumbents. Mr. M. L. Watts, who was elected to the office of Mayor by a splendid vote, has served the city on previous occasions as councilman and is conversant with city needs. Mr. Logsdon the new councilman elect is a successful business man, and carrying this requisite acumen with him into city affairs, should be a real asset to the governing body of the city. The tried officials who were returned their respective offices by the electorate are O. O. Stephens and W. T. McLeod, councilmen; E. A. Zerbe, city treasurer and B. B. Richards, city recorder. A representative body of men constitute the incoming administration, and it is with a sense of satisfaction that the Press expresses confidence in their ability to cut the cost of city government down to a margin within the scope and limit of present financial conditions.

Compared with other towns of the county Athena has paid, in the past three years, too much for government; too much for mistakes and miscalculations that should not have been made; too much for a system of crazy, crooked, patch-work sidewalks and crosswalks; too much for operation of the city marshal's office, and the municipal water system. A glance into the records discloses that it is high time to take stock and find out where we are at. A bond issue of \$20,000 will be made in a few days. Approximately \$10,000 of these bonds will go to pay the Bert Cartano judgment, the remaining \$10,000 will be converted into payment of accrued salaries water system, and other incidental expenses incurred, as enumerated in the resolution providing for the bond election.

WHEAT CROP FUTURE

One of the outstanding facts facing the American wheat grower is that while population and per capita consumption of wheat in the United States have steadily increased, there has been a gradual decrease in per capita production according to the United States department of agricultural. Wheat is a world commodity and the interplay of economic forces both of national and international character must be carefully considered to forecast the future.

The economic situation of the wheat crop, production and marketing, from seeding to international trade, is presented in the 1921 Yearbook of the department. This discussion is the result of combined research and study by a number of the national leading agronomists and agricultural economists connected with the department. It is illustrated with numerous maps and charts so that it is clear to those without special training in agricultural economics.

Among the significant facts presented it is shown that nearly a third of the farmers in the United States now grow wheat. In some areas more than 80 per cent of farmers are engaged in wheat growing.

Only corn and hay exceed this bread crop in acreage occupied, and normally only these two crops and cotton exceed wheat in value. In leading wheat areas what-ever affects yields, cost of production or the price, not only affects the welfare of all the farmers who grow the crop, but the whole community. Similarly the wheat crop as a whole has much to do with the prosperity of the nation, because the grain enters into foreign trade to a greater extent than any other crop except cotton.

This country has exported a surplus in every year of its history since colonial times with the exception of 1896, besides keeping pace with an ever-increasing demand at home. During the past 20 years, however, the volume of exports has been decreasing, except under the artificial stimulation of the recent war period.

Wheat production has been increasing less rapidly than population, and this tendency will probably continue, at least until we reach the point where we consume practically all we produce.

The Portland Oregonian lays republican defeat throughout the nation to irrelevant questions of sentiment, and because "President Harding did not focus the public mind on any clear principal of national policy." All of which no doubt figured materially in democratic success at the polls, but greater than either of

these two contentions made by the Portland newspaper, prior election results would indicate that the general whack at Newberryism was carried Pat McArthur, consistent scrapper

State Senator Roy Ritner is rewarded by a handsome majority over his opponent for his meritorious legislative record. That he deserved to win, is measured by the volume of votes he received.

The first real rain of the fall season commenced precipitation Tuesday, November 7th, A. D. 1922, which year in mind was a democratic day—or at least Walter Pierce has it down in his political diary as such.

State Senator E. Ritner is rewarded of the soldier's bonus measure, is among those who are "not present."

The Oregonian may blame it to "the wind," but up this way the fog was thick'n'll.

And Andy Gump was in the runnin' too.

TURNED INTO A SPEED DEMON

Things Happened When Dad O'Shea's Neighbor Tried to Pass Him on the Road.

Dad O'Shea owns an extensive apple orchard, and he and his five stalwart sons run it "to suit ourselves," though not always with the best results. Across the bay, Raymond Barlow, an eastern college man and "book farmer," owns an equally extensive orchard and somehow, much to Dad's chagrin, succeeds in making money out of it. Dad seems to take it as a personal affront that Barlow actually makes a financial success of orcharding.

But in spite of limited returns from crops Dad bought a showy, six-cylinder touring car. "Now, I'm warnin' ye," he said to his sons, "she ain't fer you young fellers to bat around the country! Recollect she cost nigh as much as a house. Tin mile an hour's enough over these roads, and I'm ridin' wid ye to see that it's kept."

One day, when they were driving homeward a little horn squawked behind them on the narrow road.

"Step on her, Frank!" urged Al. "Speed her up!"

"Ye'll do nawthin' of the kind," declared Dad. "Ye know what I told ye. 'Aw, it's only Ray Barlow; he can get by,' said Jim, glancing through the back window.

"Ray Barlow!" cried Dad. "Step on her, Frank. Speed 'er up! Shake every bolt and nut av 'er, by crickets! Let's see what she'll do fer wanst!"—Youth's Companion.

MARK OF ANIMAL AFFECTION

Dogs and Others of the Lower Creatures Lick Man's Hand as a Signal of Surrender.

When Mr. Garner spent so many months living in his iron cage in the jungles of Africa, studying apes, monkeys and gorillas, he discovered that if a monkey licked the body of another monkey or of man, it was a signal of surrender.

A traveler in South American woods along the Amazon shot a monkey. The poor little beast was badly wounded, but not dead, when approached. In its last agony it licked the hand of the man who did the mortal injury. The look and the act gave the traveler a feeling of sorrow and regret for his deed.

With other animals the act of licking indicates something akin to "I am your friend."

So when a dog licks the hand of his master, or attempts to lick his master's face, it is his expression of fidelity, affection and devotion.

The act doubtless harks back through the ages of time when the dog-wolf made the choice between man or other dog-wolves and selected man as his companion. Out of the dim past there remains with the dog this instinct, which is often not understood, and which is best and noblest in dog nature.

Use for Mummified Cats.

Some years ago a considerable trade was carried on between Great Britain and Egypt in mummified cats! The cat was a semi-sacred creature among the ancient Egyptians and because they symbolized wakefulness, stealthiness and craft they were held to be special favorites of the gods of sleep and of the land of the dead. When they died they were carefully treated by the undertakers of that day, and after careful embalming were buried in great vaults. The degenerates, or more enlightened descendants of the ancient Egyptians—however one cares to consider them in their attitude toward their forefathers' beliefs—made merchandise of the mummies of the cats, and sold them in shiploads to be ground up and converted into fertilizers for the soil. There was found to be no truth in a story that human remains were occasionally found among the embalmed pussies.

Sometimes There.

"They kissed when the judge granted their divorce decree!"

"Yes."

"There's nothing like parting friends."

"But is it proper for a man and a woman to kiss in such a public way when they are no longer married?"

"I see no objection to it, provided their future mates are not in court."

ORIGIN OF DRINKING PLEDGE

Custom Said to Have Originated at the Time of the Danish Invasion of England.

In a work entitled "Observations on the Popular Antiquities of Great Britain: Chiefly Illustrating the Origin of Our Vulgar and Provincial Customs, Ceremonies, and Superstitions," by John Brand, M. A., fellow and secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, those curious about drinking customs could find much entertainment. Under the head of "Pledging" it gives the origin of that custom.

The word pledge is most probably derived from the French plege, a surety or gage. Some deduce the expression "I'll pledge you" in drinking, from the time when the Danes bore sway in the island. It is said to have been common with these ferocious people to stab a native in the act of drinking, with a knife or dagger; thereupon people would not drink in company, unless some one present would be their pledge or surety that they should receive no hurt whilst they were in their draught.

Dr. Henry's "History of Great Britain" says:

"If an Englishman presumed to drink in the presence of a Dane, without his express permission, it was esteemed so great a mark of disrespect, that nothing but instant death could expiate. Nay, the English were so intimidated that they would not venture to drink even when they were invited, until the Danes had pledged their honor for their safety."

LIVE LIKE THEIR ANCESTORS

March of Civilization Has Had Little Effect on the Natives of the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands are still untamed, says a traveler. At Choiseul and Malaita islands the head tax cannot be imposed because it could never be collected. At Choiseul, even the district officer dare not go ashore without three forces of armed men. Quite a number of murderers are awaiting attention at Choiseul, and presently the law will go in quest of them, backed up with the might of rifles.

One of the gentlemen sought killed a man because he prayed for rain. The prayer was granted, but as a reward the palms were made slippery and a perfectly useful wife, climbing a tree, slipped and was killed. Naturally the husband was aggrieved and claimed a wife for a life!

Other murders again were purely of a social nature, an obligation. The village was proud of its collection of skulls; for the good of the community more were required.

On the coast of Bougainville the scenery is indescribably beautiful. Fish splash in the quiet waters and the flying foxes pass clumsily across the stars. Alongside is an outrigger canoe, and one of its occupants is plastered with white clay.

"His brother was killed in a brush with the police—he mourns!" explains the Chinese trader.

Modern Styles in Ancient Crete.

The frescoes on the palace walls at Knossos, many of which are beautifully preserved, fully bear out our high estimate of the ancient Cretans. The women have low-necked bodices and richly founced skirts reaching to the ground, and both men and women seem to have worn something in the nature of corsets. At all events the wasp-waist is the ordinary type. "Why, they are Parisians," a Frenchman exclaimed in astonishment when he was taken to see these pictures, which were, he was told, at least 3,500 years old.—J. McCabe in "The Evolution of Civilization."

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WALLA WALLA, WASH.

In describing the Cambria coal field of Wyoming, an expert mentions the interesting fact that gold and silver are present in small quantities in the coal. From the occurrence of iron pyrite, which is distributed throughout the coal seam, it is suspected that this mineral carries the precious metals. The coke made from the coal is used in the smelting works, and averages from one to two pennyweights of gold per ton, which is sufficient to compensate for a high ash content.

There has been a similar occurrence in South Africa. The coal occurred in small seams running through the quartzite ore, and in places was quite rich in gold, the ash being colored a bright purple by the finely divided particles of metal.—Exchange.

The Ingenious Beaver.

In a paper presented to the British association, attention was invited to the great advantage that was gained by the first animals which succeeded in securing thermal and chemical constancy in their environment, thus rendering themselves independent of changes in the external medium. Man is the most remarkable for his activity in this respect, but many other creatures differ from him only in the degree of their activity directed to a similar end, and, it should be added, in some parts of this country the activity of the beaver in creating an artificial environment has, until lately, been more marked than that of man himself.

The Professor Regrets.
Hostess (at evening party)—What, going already, professor?—What, professor—indeed, Mrs. Handsworth, I'm sorry to say I must!—London Tit-Bits.



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