

The Athena Press

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MUSCLE SHOALS

So much has been said about the leasing of Muscle Shoals by the federal government, and the offers that have been made for the gigantic power plant, that just what the project is may be of interest to the readers of this newspaper.

Muscle Shoals is a thirty-seven-mile stretch of rapids in the Tennessee River in northern Alabama, in the course of which the total vertical fall is 134 feet. The Government's project includes the construction of two monster dams for development of water-power, and a great steam-power plant, all for generating electricity; also separate plants to utilize the electricity for the production of artificial nitrate, and a small dam to serve as an aid to navigation. For some years past the work of construction has proceeded at a creditable rate of progress. The Wilson dam, nearly seven-eighths of a mile long and 117 feet high, with its power-house, about twelve hundred feet long and capable, when fully equipped, of generating more than six hundred thousand horse-power, are practically completed, at a cost of approximately fifty million dollars. This great hydro-electric section can convert its water-power into an enormous output of low-cost electric power. Another dam designed for the same purpose, but not yet begun, is to be located sixteen miles up-stream from the Wilson dam. It is to be more than a mile long and 44 feet high, and is expected to produce two hundred and eighty thousand horse-power. Its total cost is estimated at about twenty-five million dollars. Nitrate plant No. 2, which cost about fifty-one million dollars, consists of 114 permanent buildings located on twenty-two hundred acres of land near Sheffield, Alabama, and includes a steam plant containing the largest steam turbine in the world, and is capable of generating eighty thousand kilowatts of electric current, or about ninety thousand horse-power. In a performance test every unit of this plant has exceeded its rated capacity, and it is asserted that this one plant is capable of producing annually the equivalent of two hundred and forty thousand tons of Chilean nitrate, sufficient to supply the nitrate content for one million, three hundred and twenty thousand tons of fertilizer, enough to fertilize nearly nine million acres of land. It can supply nitrate in abundance for explosives to meet the needs of army and navy in case of war. Besides all this, until the nitrate sections are enlarged as they should be, there would be a large surplus of electric power that could be sold or leased for private industrial use.

That the taxes in the United States—municipal, county, state and federal—are about as high in the aggregate as they were in the peak of war expenditures, despite economies in federal government, was the recent conclusion reached by a sub-committee of agricultural, industrial and transportation representatives. They set the total for last year at \$7,907,000,000, and attribute the continued burden to steadily rising local and state taxes. State and municipal bonds issued in the country in 1924 amounted to \$1,398,953,100, or more than ten times what they were in 1901. A large portion of the new bonds issued have been for refunding. While federal taxes decreased \$128,000,000 from 1923 to 1924, state taxes increased \$172,000,000 and the increase of local taxes was \$147,000,000.

Despite the fact that the 18th amendment and mint julep do not get along well together, the growing of mint is becoming a prominent industry in Oregon. Instead of julep, the product now goes into oil manufacture. For the past fifteen years mint oils have averaged about \$3 per pound, leaving out the war peak when the price went to \$10 and last year when it reached the \$30 mark. Many growers have contracted their oils for the coming three years for \$4, \$5 and \$6 per pound.

Dinners at the newly appointed restaurants are to have something besides the price list to look to in choosing their meals. Opposite each item on the bill of fare is to appear its value in calories, so that if you must "reduce," you will know how to do it.

The National Republic says that The New Masses, the latest of the "red" magazines, has made its appearance. It contains the usual collection of blasphemy, smut, villification of all things American, cubist art, poetry without rhyme or reason

and appeals for contributions which go to make up a radical magazine. Among the "artists," "poets" and writers who contribute to the first number are such sturdy Americans as Wanda Gag, Louis Losogick, J. Klein, Otto Soglow, Hans Stengel, A. Ronnebeck, Babette Deutsch, Michael Gold, "Bishop" Brown, Karol Rembov and Scott Nearing.

We are beginning to hear of Homestead's evolution from an embryonic camp into a full fledged mining town. A \$200,000 road and a bridge spanning Snake river to the Idaho side, seems to be assured. Copper, when copper is right, is good stuff to build a town on. And Homestead mines contain lots of copper.

And so Nome doesn't like it because Amundsen put Teller on the map, by landing the Norge there. Well so long as the Norge was safely landed at Teller with the propeller blades spitting chunks of ice through the canvass covering of the ship, we should worry much over Nome's peeve.

Measuring the unsuccessful attempt of Charles Ray as a motion picture producer, we would advise Red Grange to stick to the gridiron and let the making of movies alone.

A pipe dream is liable to cause almost anything—a dream, for instance.

DEATH OF ED RUSH

Ed Rush died at Walla Walla last Friday morning, after a lingering illness. He was born in Helix, Oregon, and was 52 years of age. He is survived by his wife, Jennie Rush, a son, Lowell, his mother, Martha Rush of Prescott; and by four sisters, Mrs. F. Dooley of Prescott, Mrs. D. W. Wallace of Garfield, Washington, Mrs. J. W. Davis of Paris, Missouri and Miss Anna Rush of Prescott.

JAMES AUDETTE RELEASED

The Walla Walla Union says: James Audette, acquitted by a superior court jury on a charge of burglarizing a garage at Touchet, was released from the county jail Friday. He had been held at the request of officials at the Dalles, on a charge of issuing a bad check. The amount of the check and costs were paid by Audette and the case dismissed.

NOT BRUCE SAMUELS

Report was current in Athena last week, that Bruce, the ten year old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Samuels, formerly of Athena, now residents of Vernonia, had bled to death while his parents were absent for home. Details received this week reveal that the victim was a son of Mr. Samuels' brother, and not Bruce. The boy who died as the result of bleeding from a cut finger, was subject to great loss of blood whenever slightly cut or scratched on his person.

"MIKE" WILL BE HERE

"Mike" as played by Sally O'Neil, has been booked for appearance at the Standard Theatre Wednesday and Thursday nights, June 2 and 3. This is the picture that stood 'em up in Portland last week. Tomorrow night the Standard will show Constance Talmadge in "Her Sister from Paris." Sunday night "Paths to Paradise" a fine Paramount picture will be the feature of the program. Wednesday night a big western picture, "Fighting Heart" will be screened.

D. O. K. K. CEREMONIAL

The Dokkies, about 300 strong held a two day ceremonial at Pendleton, Wednesday and yesterday, closing last night. The ceremonial was under direction of the LaGrande district. The Hood River Dokkie band of Portland, furnished music for the occasion. Athena Dokkies are affiliated with the Walla Walla, Washington, temple, but a number attended the ceremonial at Pendleton.

TAKES HOME HARVESTER

The first of the new International Harvester Thrashers to be delivered to its owner by the Athena dealers, Rogers & Goodman, left the assembling place Wednesday morning, drawn by Frank Williams' caterpillar. Mr. Johnston and his sons assembled the machine and thus became familiar with its working parts before it will enter the field.

Eight of the machines ordered by Rogers & Goodman have arrived, and the other machines are en route here from Chicago.

BUCKS AND BEARS WIN

The Pendleton Bucks won from Pasco Sunday in the Blue Mountain league 3-2, while the Walla Walla Bears were trimming the Reservation Indians to the tune of 8-0, Walla Walla and Pendleton are tied at four games won and one lost. Pasco and the redmen are even at one game won, four lost.

CLASSIFIED

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Lost—My sable Scotch Collie, answers to the name of "Pal." Reward. Henry Koepke, Athena, Oregon.



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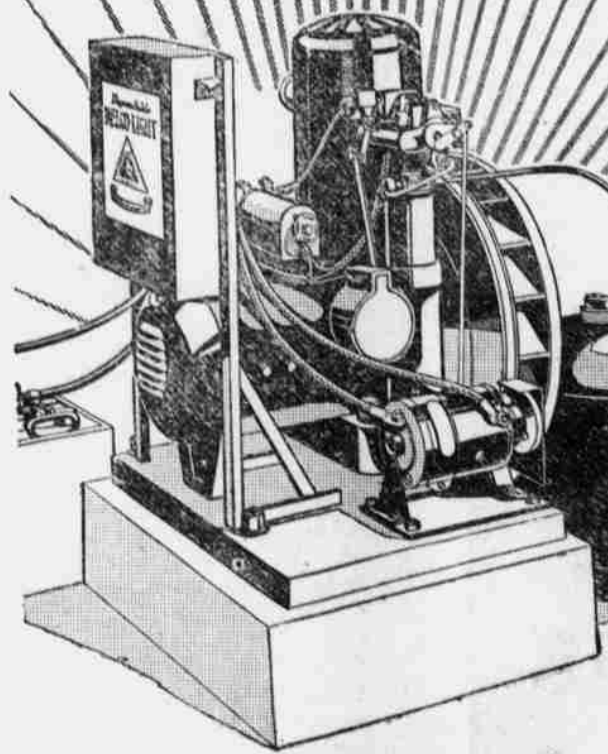
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