

ATHENA PRESS

Published Every Friday Morning
By J. W. SMITH, PROPRIETOR.

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ATHENA, OCTOBER 13, 1893.

A GOOD MOVE.

We understand there is a move on foot to call a citizen's mass-meeting to be held in some one of the towns in the East End to consider the advisability of some action in the matter of the Lee street bridge. We believe it is a move in the right direction. Since the county officials concerned in this affair, do not seem to heed the demands of the people to explain their action in this matter, it would be well for the citizens of the East End to see if there is not some recourse to defeat their little scheme to compel the taxpayers to pay for Pendleton's bridge.

Should such a citizen's meeting be called, we suggest that some action be taken also to have the county court employ two experts to investigate the books of the county clerk, sheriff and treasurer. There is much dissatisfaction among the people with the way the county's affairs are conducted. It is claimed that, while the taxable property of the county has increased rapidly for several years, the rate of taxation has not decreased. If the books of these officers are straight, the officials themselves will have no objection to such an investigation, but rather favor it, that the taxpayers of the county may know they have been true to their trust. Should there be any jobbery, and some believe there has been, the sooner the people know it the better.

"SENATORIAL COURTESY."

During the greater part of the time a senator was holding the senate entranced by his eloquence yesterday, there were present as his audience eight republicans and three democrats. At last his colleague came to his rescue, and upon a call of the senate forty-six senators answered to their names. When the call was dispensed with, they silently glided out, one by one, and the speech was, probably, finished before an audience little larger than that which had excited the active sympathies of his colleague; and yet, it is asserted that the senate cannot reach a vote on the repeal of the silver-purchasing law because of the "senatorial courtesy." Surely, this fiction should be dropped, and another name submitted for the impregnable barrier that stands between the people and their demands.

The Milton Eagle last week in commenting on a PRESS article to the effect that we endorsed the Eagle's action in opposing the county court for purchasing the Lee street bridge in Pendleton says:

"The Eagle is glad to know that the ATHENA PRESS has at last fell in on the side of the tax-payers, and it has our warmest commendations for so doing."

The PRESS is "on the side of the tax-payers," now, always was, and ever will be, but unlike the editor of the Eagle, who has for the past two weeks been filling his paper full of Lee street bridge matter, we say our little piece and quit, print the news and have no ax to grind.

A NEW LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM.

The following is a complete prospectus of a new plan of legislation which it is proposed to introduce to the voters of this commonwealth by an amalgamation of organizations and which is known as the "initiative and referendum" system. Under this system every bill receive the majority vote of citizens at the ballot box before it can become a law, which is commendatory from the fact that the will of the people should be as the voice of the law.

The "initiative" means that any

citizen may write a proposed law, and if three per cent of the citizens sign a petition in its favor, the secretary of state must submit it to a vote of the citizens at the next election. The legislature has no power over the initiative method of making laws. The law is proposed by some of the people, filed with the secretary of state and by him sent direct to the people at the ballot box.

The "referendum" means that the legislature has the power to propose bills, but any act must be accepted by a majority of the voters at the ballot box before it can become a law.

This is the Swiss method, where in some states it has been in successful operation for six hundred years. Zurich state, population 340,000, and Zurich city, population 92,000 for forty years have permitted no law, tax levy or appropriation of public money to be made without a majority vote of the citizens, and they have no beggars, paupers nor home-made millionaires. Wealth cannot buy law. Word fresh from the people through the ballot box is the highest law and cannot be over ruled.

Under this method making law is merely a business proposition of public welfare. Demagogues, wire pullers, ward heelers and pot-house politicians lose their power. Any man advocating a worthy law can bring it to a vote within a year, while bad laws are as easily repealed. By constant study of law making, the people are ready for wise action at all times.

Proportional representation gives every party representation in proportion to the number voting its ticket. Suppose a district or county casting 4,000 votes and entitled to five representatives; then any candidate receiving 800 votes, or nearer that number than any other candidate, is justly elected, because he represents one-fifth of the voters. Under the present system, if the democrats have 1,600 votes and republicans, populists and prohibitionists 800 votes each, the democrats would elect all five representatives and shut out the other two parties having 2,400 votes, from any representation or hearing. To prevent this wrong, let each voter set the figure 1 opposite his first choice, 2 opposite his second choice 3 for third choice and so on. Then if each democrat marks A as his first choice, B as his second choice and C as his third choice, when 800 ballots are counted for A, he is elected as the representative of one-fifth of the voters; the other 800 ballots are then counted for B; their second choice, and he is elected; no votes are left for C. Every democrat has voted; they have elected their share of representatives and cannot get any more. Each of the other parties, having about one-fifth of the voters, will elect one representative and will be heard in the council or legislature in proportion to the number of votes it casts. All the people will be represented, and instead of party government by party machinery we will have a country governed by the people. Under this system each party will nominate only as many candidates as it probably has votes to elect.

The PRESS is receipt from John H. Mitchell, of a copy of the Memorial Addresses upon the Life and Character of Leland Stanford.

GENERAL COMMENT.

The wool growers of Ohio have passed resolutions, asking congress not to remove the duty from wool. The vegetable growers of the island of Bermuda want the duties on vegetables removed so they can realize a better price in this country. It remains to be seen which the present congress will favor—the citizens of this country or the foreigner.—Ex.

The Oakland Home Insurance company, long regarded as the most stable corporation in California, is in distress. Its license has been revoked. Insurance Commissioner J. N. D. Wilson finds that there is an impairment of capital amounting to \$100,000 and it seems highly probable that the concern will have to go out of existence.

Richardson--Beck.

The marriage of David Richardson of this city, and Miss Elsie Beck of Pendleton, was solemnized Wednesday afternoon at the home of the bride. Mr. Richardson is a young man who graduated at the public school last term and has lately been studying dentistry under his brother, Dr. I. N. Richardson, in Athena. The young couple took a pleasure trip to Portland and on their return, will take up their residence in Athena. The PRESS and many friends extend congratulations.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at La Grande, Oregon, October 10, 1893.
Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the County Judge of Trawilla county, at Pendleton, Ore, on Nov. 14, 1893, viz:
NEIL McDONALD,
Hd 5194, for the N E 1/4 sec 31, T 4 N R 24 E W M. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: William Anderson, Jesse O. Hales, John C. Fries and Alexander McDonald, all of Athena, Oregon.
B. F. WILSON, Register.



A Sure Thing!

No Mother Ever receiving PHOTOS gets made by KENNY:

A Great HOWL,

Is going up on account of the damp weather that is now prevailing. But there will be many a long face when they find that Kenny is gone.

HARD

On the Doctors!

A good laugh is often better than a dose of medicine, and those who go to see Kenny always have the laugh on the others.

Kenny

Will be with you but

1 More week.

TO THE PUBLIC!

I BEG to announce to the people of Athena and surrounding country that I still carry a full stock of Drugs and Chemicals, Patent Medicines, Jewelry, Toilet articles and Perfumery, Glass, Oils and Pain. Also a Choice Line of Fresh Liquors and pure Wines for Medical purposes, only.

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P. M. KIRKLAND, PROPRIETOR, - - - Athena, Oregon.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK South side Main Street.
CAPITAL STOCK, \$50000
SURPLUS, \$21000
Pays interest on time deposits. Proper attention given to collections. Deals in foreign and domestic exchange.
L. D. LIVELY, Cashier, - - - Athena, Oregon

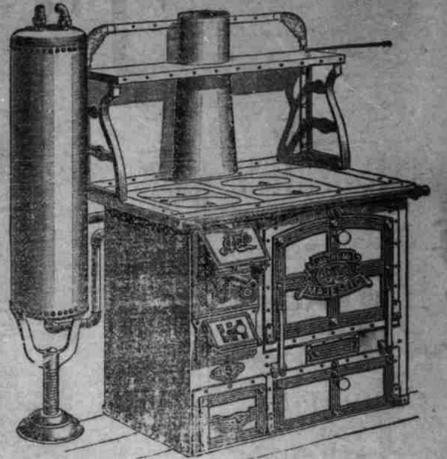
The Athena Meat Market
FRANK BEAL, proprietor.
FRESH MEAT ALWAYS ON HAND
solicit the patronage of the public and in return will give you the best of fresh cuts at the lowest prices.
FRANK BEAL.

ARE U IF SO
Call on us and get our Prices before going elsewhere
Be assured it pays to call on us
Do not be influenced by what our opponents may say to keep you from coming to see our goods. Come and see for yourselves. We carry a full and complete stock of Furniture, wall paper and underta ing goods.
GILLIS BROS.

50c For Wheat.
The proprietor of the Athena PRESS will give Fifty Cents per bushel for No. 1 Wheat on Subscription ac'ts.

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THE C. A. BARRETT CO.



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FARM IMPLEMENTS, THRESHERS, MOWERS, RAKES, HARROWS, GANG PLOWS, MACHINE REPAIRS

MAIN STREET, - - - - - ATHENA, OREGON

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THE LEADING FURNITURE DEALER

WANTS SOME CASH!

AND TO GET IT, he will for the next 60 days, sell FURNITURE at the bottom notch.

Bed Room Sets Extension Tables
Rocking Chairs Sofas Bed-Lounges
Parlor Suits Springs Mattresses.
AT YOUR OWN PRICE FOR CASH.

Wall Paper from 15 cents (double roll) to 65 cents. Border to match all paper, from 10 to 20 cents per yard.

N. A. MILLER,
STORE ON MAIN STREET, ATHENA, ORE.

THE GRANGE STORE!

Is now in its NEW BUILDING, On Corner of Main and 3rd Sts.,

Where we will be pleased to meet all of our old customers and as many new ones as we can accommodate, and we can accommodate a great many by giving them

To all Cash Purchases **A 10 Per Cent DISCOUNT** Of \$1.00 and Upwards.

We have the largest stock of Dress Goods IN THE CITY.

We have the freshest Groceries IN THE CITY.

We have the largest stock of shoes in EASTERN OREGON.

DON'T FORGET! The fact that we give you a 10 per cent rebate for every cash purchase of One Dollar and upward.

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