

The Herald

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Editor & Publisher

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1916.



Monmouth Meditations

Don't wrap the flag up in tar paper with moth balls for another year. You may need it a few times during the intervening months.

If some people would work as hard to promote improvements as they do to retard them, wouldn't things hum?

The roses thrive in the rainy weather and some of the red rambler bushes offer a fair substitute to the sun to those who get a chance to view them at this season of the year.

Why take long trips and undergo severe exertion to get some wild animal to shoot at as long as the chicken stealing cat is abroad in our midst?

The slim man has advantage when it comes to getting his mail these days. He is able to slip through crowded passages in the post office crowd that are barred to the man with a bay window.

Judging from the color of the water that drained from our oiled Main street this past week no mosquitoes will breed in the water that receives the overflow.

Another straw that indicates that Europe is about ready for a continental federation with reduced armament is found in the agreement which the allies are planning for trade relations after the war. They are finding that union is a good thing for them in the matter of self protection in war and that it will be a good thing for the same purpose in peace. If the war results in a reduced armament and the closing up of the gun shops, who shall say the slaughter has been in vain?

When a man dashes into a burning building to rescue another and perishes, or drowns trying to save a comrade from a watery grave, we give him a place on the roll of heroes. A like place goes to the man, who when the bombardment is over, dashes with his company for the trenches of the enemy. It seems hardly possible that such a man who dares his life and emerges safely, can again have the same narrow mental horizon that he had before the charge. The ways of peace are apt to be selfish. It is the same as to say "I am all right, I am enjoying myself; why should I risk what I have for the benefit of other people?"

Courage and bravery are not traits to be blindly worshiped at the expense of all else, but still they have had a prominent part in the evolution of civilization.

These are the days when the thrifty householder picks out the worst spots in the street near his residence and calls the road man's attention to the fact that some of the gravel which is to be taken from Main street may be placed where it will do the most good.

The advertisement on this page from the Associated Railways shows that the carriers have faith in the sense of justice of the American people and also that they believe their cause to be just. The railroads are in a peculiar position. Their income is limited through the action of the Commerce commission which establishes rates for them. It would seem only fair that their expenses should be limited also. As public utilities the commission gives them a right to make certain charges for the privilege of a monopoly of freight transportation. The commission should also fix their wage schedule for them. Their income and their expenses are alike of interest to the public since they have no competition to maintain a living standard.

The new law that makes national soldiers out of state militia, provides for salaried officers. An Oregon law provides that salaried state officers can not hold two salaried state offices. This law affects Candidates Piasecki and Staffinof the Dallas company. In event of Staffinof's resignation Swope of Independence is suggested for the vacancy. Swope is a good man.

The strike of the longshoremen which has tied up the shipping on the western coast looks like a piece of inexcusable blundering. In many of the ports men have had insufficient work for the past two years. Now when there is a chance to make a little money and pay up the indebtedness they have accumulated in the idle months, a strike is declared. This is especially true with the lumber trade. The strike affects not only the longshoremen but the lumber mill employees and the merchants who have carried their accounts and fed the families of the workers through the periods of idleness. Imagine the feelings of these men, who with relief in sight, have to sit down and await the pleasure of the longshoremen and vessel owners.

A Monmouth church member who does not wish her name used brings to us this week a comment on a recent editorial in the Herald to the effect that the experiences of the minister and the normal instructor were similar in that their congregations changed frequently. She says: "Why not retain a minister for awhile? We have had a number of fine men here but did not realize their value until some few made it so disagreeable that we lost them for good."

It doesn't cost any more to produce gasoline now than it did

a year ago yet the price has been increased over 50 percent. The biggest fortune on earth was amassed at the lower rate. While the attention of the general public is turned to Europe and Mexico, the Standard Oil people are doing some grand work with the nation's pocket book.

We feel inclined this week to write a poem on the cherry pie but fear that the poor, weak words of the King's English, within handy reach, would not do justice to the subject.

Just about the time we get warmed up to seek a ring side seat at the Mexican scrap there is another postponement.

Aside from the value to the country the militia reserves will possess, the military drill will be of benefit to the young men who are organized into the reserve companies.

Possibly one reason there are so few celebrations in this neck of the woods this year is that everybody with automobiles is anxious to be out on the road each holiday and would rather celebrate with a neighbor town than stay at home.

The talent of Rev. Elkins for drawing and water color work has been made to fit in with his ministerial work very nicely. It is his custom to produce some

picture which serves to illustrate the thoughts of his discourse and his illustrated sermons bid fair to be very popular.

Well the Fourth of July passed without a call from the handsomest man in Monmouth with a renewal of his subscription to the Herald, although the handsomest woman did call and is squared up until 1917. As for

the H. M. we have extended his days of grace to July 15th. If he doesn't appear before that date he will be dethroned from his proud pedestal and the honor passed on to some one else.

And now before the benediction is pronounced let the congregation arise as one man and give three rousing cheers for the soldier boys down on the border.

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Ceiling and Side Wall Lumber

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Federal Inquiry or Railroad Strike?

Faced by demands from the conductors, engineers, firemen and brakemen that would impose on the country an additional burden in transportation costs of \$100,000,000 a year, the railroads propose that this wage problem be settled by reference to an impartial Federal tribunal.

With these employes, whose efficient service is acknowledged, the railroads have no differences that could not be considered fairly and decided justly by such a public body.

Railroads Urge Public Inquiry and Arbitration

The formal proposal of the railroads to the employes for the settlement of the controversy is as follows:

- "Our conferences have demonstrated that we cannot harmonize our differences of opinion and that eventually the matters in controversy must be passed upon by other and disinterested agencies. Therefore, we propose that your proposals and the proposition of the railways be disposed of by one or the other of the following methods:
1. Preferably by submission to the Interstate Commerce Commission, the only tribunal which, by reason of its accumulated information bearing on railway conditions and its control of the revenue of the railways, is in a position to consider and protect the rights and equities of all the interests affected, and to provide additional revenue necessary to meet the added cost of operation in case your proposals are found by the Commission to be just and reasonable; or, in the event the Interstate Commerce Commission cannot, under existing laws, act in the premises, promptly dispose of the questions involved; or
 2. By arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Federal law" (The Newlands Act).

Leaders Refuse Offer and Take Strike Vote

Leaders of the train service brotherhoods, at the joint conference held in New York, June 1-15, refused the offer of the railroads to submit the issue to arbitration or Federal review, and the employes are now voting on the question whether authority shall be given these leaders to declare a nation-wide strike.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is proposed by the railroads as the public body to which this issue ought to be referred for these reasons:

No other body with such an intimate knowledge of railroad conditions has such an unquestioned position in the public confidence.

The rates the railroads may charge the public for transportation are now largely fixed by this Government board.

Out of every dollar received by the railroads from the public nearly one-half is paid directly to the employes as wages; and the money to pay increased wages can come from no other source than the rates paid by the public.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, with its control over rates, is in a position to make a complete investigation and render such decision as would protect the interests of the railroad employes, the owners of the railroads, and the public.

A Question For the Public to Decide

The railroads feel that they have no right to grant a wage preferment of \$100,000,000 a year to these employes, now highly paid and constituting only one-fifth of all the employes, without a clear mandate from a public tribunal that shall determine the merits of the case after a review of all the facts.

The single issue before the country is whether this controversy is to be settled by an impartial Government inquiry or by industrial warfare.

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