

# The Herald

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## Monmouth Meditations

Again we remark that a crossing of the railroad at the depot is badly needed to accommodate traffic. Now would be a good time to work for it.

This is odd weather and an odd season of the year to have a cold but many of our citizens are sneezing in our bright October sunshine.

The thanks of the contractors of our street paving are due to the weatherman for he has surely been good to them so far. With fine weather the work is progressing nicely.

With wheat flour close to 4c per pound it seems like rubbing it in for the Germans to sink large cargoes of wheat on their way across the ocean. Let us hope the fishes will appreciate and find some way to make food out of the grain.

The Texas steer that could toss a coyote or wolf or pass any kind of a barrier, acknowledged itself beaten when fenced in with barbed wire. That's the way Monmouth's Main street is fenced in at present and the barrier is effective.

Drop in and see the Herald in its new quarters. We have nothing to complain of the friendly manner with which the Monmouth public has greeted the Herald and its management and hope this will be continued in the new quarters.

Not to get all the good things at once and raise a mountain of expense but now would be a good time to plan details for the obtaining for Monmouth of a sewer service. We are a city of homes and good sanitation is what makes a residence town attractive.

Always taking out of the meal barrel soon reaches the bottom which reminds us that the Herald manager has been under considerable expense during the past week and the delinquent subscriber who calls to settle for the coming year receives a double welcome these days. Put your money in circulation and watch Monmouth grow.

Any one who approaches Main street these days might think that a championship ball game was in progress. 1 B, 2 B, etc., read the signs which might be taken to mean 1st base, 2nd base, etc., except that no one

ever heard of 5th base and 5 B is one of the signs. These legends, however, refer to the distance to the streets where a turn may be made, 1 block, 2 blocks, etc.

A certain peaved gentleman who very much disapproves of the improvements now being carried on in the city, called in one day during the past week and ruthlessly chopped away his own connection with the Herald subscription family tree. Sorry to part with you, brother, but, honestly, we wouldn't willingly acquire your state of mind for anything on this footstool.

Miss Almeda Fuller did some effective campaigning when she spent time and manifested interest in the industrial work of the boys and girls and helped to display their work at the two fairs. This was good practical work and shows that Miss Fuller is not afraid of a little exertion and also that she has an interest in other fields of education than that of the three R's.

One of the most pathetic things we know of is the interest of the brewers in the nursing mothers of Oregon. On the face of their heroic attempt to relieve the difficulties of the nursing mothers of the state, the efforts of the charitable people of the world to relieve distress in Belgium and Poland seem tame and cold. In the face of such disinterested sacrifice who can doubt for the welfare and security of the coming generation. With the brewers ready to sacrifice time and labor in behalf of the mothers of Oregon we may well look upon the future with a very contented frame of mind.

Complaint is made that the attendance and interest in the base ball championship games is not as great as in past years. The gate receipts are only about thirty thousand dollars as the price of watching eighteen athletes pound a horsehide covered ball around the lot which must be a big disappointment to the said athletes who only get about a thousand dollars apiece for each day's exertion. But championship games like everything else, grow old and lose their novelty, although the outlook is that some faint interest in this particular diversion will be manifested for several years to come.

One of the amendments to be voted on this year would limit legislative appropriations to a six percent increase over that of the preceding year. Because the legislature of four years ago appropriated for many things that carried over two terms the last legislature was not called on to appropriate the normal amount required to keep up the state institutions. Says the Secretary of State: "If this six percent law is put in effect it will reduce the present appropriations for state institutions and there will be no prospect of any new undertaking. It will cripple the state and paralyze its development."

The Boy Scout movement has had a wonderful growth considering the short time which has elapsed since the idea was first put to practical use. Whether

it is an idea that will last is a question. If it does last it must serve some useful purpose and must hold the interest of the boys as well as benefit them. The principles it inculcates are of value to the boy and often such, however well intentioned his parents may be, he can not receive at home. Anything that will rub the freshness from the average boy and teach him respect for his elders as well as for the established institutions of the things that are, is of benefit to the growing generation.

A pretty safe course to follow on constitutional amendments and referendums which deal with topics with which the average voter is not familiar, is to vote no. The legislature is the place to thresh out matters of legislation. Legislators are especially hired for this purpose and devote more or less time and thought to it. The average man can not hope to be posted on all the details of measures which private interests push into a place on the ballot. A popular vote on matters of legislation can only be useful as a last resort and on questions which for a long time have been agitated, are of grave importance and on which the legislator hesitates to act for fear he is not voicing the majority judgment of his constituents. The only question on which Monmouth people can not vote no this fall is that of the establishment of the Pendleton Normal. This is a question in which a precedent has already been set. Monmouth had profited by the popular vote of the state and can not oppose any other community which reasonably seeks the same end.

People who oppose road improvements are accustomed to say the cow path was good enough for their fathers and will be good enough for their children. But they do not take into consideration the fact that times are changing. They say we are paving and good roads are crazy. But the road question is a matter of development to meet changing conditions. The railroad put a stop on road improvements that lasted for a quarter of a century. In the early history of the government numerous highways were projected across the country. The settlement of the states on in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys was a matter of concern and highways were planned and started to aid settlers to get at the uncultivated land. The application of steam to freight and passenger traffic developed settlement along new channels. For seventy-five years the railroad was supreme but now it is meeting a formidable competitor in the way of the gas driven motor. Especially on short hauls the motor car is bound to cut into the railroad business. And to the motor truck and automobile is to be attributed the agitation for good roads which is growing stronger every year in this country. Some day the highways of a section will be in a sense rivals of the railroads, reaching into the sections where the railroad does not exist. Motor trucks and trailers will take the place of freight cars on the short haul. This is one of the ends

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of the present movement for good roads. The people in their building will make many mistakes but the matter is so important that public attention will be focussed on it and efficient road making will be developed that will successfully accomplish good and suitable roads.