

The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

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Monmouth Meditations

Rumors of shorter gowns next season are still in circulation, but seeing is believing.

With the present demand in Europe, China may have to wait her turn for a much-needed loan.

At the present price of flour it'll soon become popular to sandwich the bread between the ham.

Slowly but surely the pictures of football warriors are ousting the baseball cuts from the newspapers.

These have surely been some pleasant days the weather man has mingled with the falling leaves.

With the beauties of war spreading into fresh territory American relief funds are liable to hear a Macedonian cry.

However, the narrow black strip on the western front acquired by the Allies doesn't assure a Berlin dinner next Christmas.

The China pheasant season is over and those unfortunates who did not get a taste this year will have to wait a year for another opportunity.

They all seem to have it in for father these days. While the brewers are working night and day to advance the welfare of the nursing mothers of Oregon they look with cold indifference on father and apparently begrudge him his Hostetter's biters. Off hand, we should say that a man who can acquire a shine on Peruna or Hostetter's deserves something for his persistence and ingenuity.

Mr. U'Ren's day dreams make very interesting reading and like the alluring lines of Henry George awaken sufficient interest so that the reader is anxious to see them tried out somewhere else by somebody else. But when he considers his own stake he is apt to think the risks too great to try the thing out on himself. Now there is Mexico. Mr. U'Ren might go down there and fence off a state or two wherein he could operate conditions so that each worker could get at least \$1,000 a year.

With flour climbing skyward, with leather fast becoming a luxury and sugar becoming a little more expensive every day, there appears no limit to the

avarice of the people in position to work the screws. There isn't a country in Europe that would stand the state of affairs that exist in this country at this time for a minute. The sections which are enjoying war prosperity may take the high price of food products as a phase of the game they are playing but people not benefited by war orders are fast getting into a condition where they would approve of almost any desperate remedy.

There are thousands of homes in the United States where the Youth's Companion is an institution. In many of them it descends from son to children and grandchildren. It forms a sort of fraternal society and gives people from distant states a common topic of conversation in recalling the favorite authors who have entertained them. It is about this season of the year when the premium list arrives, an institution that is older than Montgomery Ward's catalogue. And now when you come across a boy lying flat on his stomach with the premium list ahead of him, absorbing anew the familiar Weeden steam engine, or the magic lantern, or the roller skates, or the list of books that can be obtained for so many new names and so many cents additional, it takes one back to the days of similar experiences. The Youth's Companion never grows old. It seems to have found the perennial fountain of youth and long may it prosper.

If you keep your ears open you will hear at this stage of the game the tariff spoken of once in a while. From 1896 to 1914 the tariff as a political topic had quite an extended rest. But perhaps the warmest tariff discussion this country has known was between 1884 and 1896. It made and unmade two presidents. Harrison was elected on the doctrine of protection and was defeated because of the McKinley bill. Cleveland was elected because of the McKinley bill and defeated because of the Wilson bill. In those days free trade advocates used to point to England as a model to pattern after. England and Germany were contrasted. England had free trade and Germany followed the protection principle. If anything is needed to vindicate the protection idea it has been the commercial history of those two countries since that date. For Germany climbed upward in the commercial scale and England descended. If the war has demonstrated anything it is the commercial importance of Germany at the beginning of hostilities.

It is hard to rise over preconceived ideas. Perhaps a Russian Jew is as good as any Aryan or a colored man as capable as any Caucasian, but it takes a pile of effort for a stiff necked generation to see it. If there is anything a colored man likes to do it is to institute a comparison wherein his race is compared to the dominant white. Thus we have the "Black Patti," the "Negro Burns," the "Colored Demosthenes," etc. Likewise, we wonder if Israel Zangwill did not extract considerable race pride when in his story of the

"Melting Pot" he created a situation where an aristocratic Russian girl felt compelled to humiliate herself before a talented young Russian Jew. Probably the idea was to suggest race equality, but from our point of view it certainly looked like race consciousness.

The ruminator recalls having heard Booker T. Washington in sunny Southern California two years ago in a certain large church of the mission type of architecture. Of course the listeners came in multitudes and as they filled the seats and crowded into the aisles, Washington insisted that they be seated in chairs around him on the platform and on the broad steps of the stairway that led thereto. There was deference in his every attitude, and yet triumph. Here he was in a white man's palace, surrounded by white folks of the most intelligent class, eager to listen to a man of another race, born a slave. Eloquent, intelligent and entertaining yet class consciousness stuck out all over him. Any one could see it was not a man talking to his peers. The habits and thoughts of generations are not wiped out in a few short years.

Among the other things which the European war is boosting in price is silver. Silver which in 1893 was held at a ratio of sixteen to one and valued at a dollar an ounce dropped when the government ceased to coin it to about half that sum and for over ten years held at a price averaging 57 cents an ounce and in 1915 reached its lowest price, 46 cents an ounce, being then at a ratio with gold of 30 to 1. Then its price began to rise until now it is valued at 75 cents an ounce and in a short time is expected to reach again a price of a dollar an ounce. The appreciation of silver has come from the same place its depreciation started—in Europe. Previous to the war gold was the common coin of European trade but with the turn of the balance of trade it began to flow to this country. The large loans floated in this country have served to check the flow of gold this way but each loan serves only as a temporary dam in the bed of a stream. Such gold as is left in Europe is not in circulation and to obtain money the warring nations have been forced to largely increase their coinage of silver. For the first time in history the Bank of England has issued paper notes of a less denomination than 5 pounds. In order to pay the soldiers England coined thirty millions in silver last year and will coin as much this year. France has increased its coinage in silver ten times, Russia is calling for more silver money and on top of this comes a call from China for 250 millions with which to re-organize its monetary system. Therefore, at present silver prices are booming. It can be demonstrated that the production of gold is not even and that its value constantly fluctuates although its use for money serves as a balance wheel. While the amount of perspiration produced by a day's labor is the same and the work necessary to produce a crop the same, the metal with which it is recompensed, con-

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stantly varies, which does not seem creditable to the intelligence of a people who invent the arrangement and who are as egotistical as we are.

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Preaching Service, - - - 11.00 a. m.
C. U. E. Meeting, - - - 7.00 p. m.
Prayer Service, - - - 8.00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday, 8.00 p. m.