

The Herald

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Editor & Publisher

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Monmouth Meditations

Well, the fall and winter rains have begun and citizens of western Oregon are settling down to enjoy that comfortable home-like feeling.

Having rallied for the Republicans, the Democrats, the Socialists and the Prohibitionists, we can, after another week, rally for an attack on the high cost of living.

Scarcity of cars affects us in a great many ways but when it holds up our paving work it becomes a community affront and is rubbing it in.

Being an alderman in Monmouth these days has some of the combined characteristics of an afternoon tea party and a Fourth of July celebration.

One soldier in a thousand people each year is what the government expects to recruit each year, which surely is a modest aim and not one to give us as a nation a reputation for a thirst for blood.

Our friend, D. C. Walker is a good Democrat but when he dons his rubber coat or makes a still hunt for his umbrella he is fain to admit that as election day draws nigh we are having a streak of Republican weather.

Reports from the east are to the effect that the potato crop which at first appeared to be very much short has, with the digging of the late crop, turned out an average yield, which makes interesting reading to the man who has to buy.

A week from today it will all be over and the cracker barrel statesman who now is as busy as a boy killing snakes, constructing prophecies out of signs and omens, will then be just as industrious in explaining how it happened.

The late Geo. W. Peck, author of Peck's Bad Boy, publisher of Peck's Sun, governor of Wisconsin four years, and mayor of Milwaukee, left an estate valued at \$4,000 which leads to the conclusion that a great deal of Peck's work was not of the kind that can be cashed in potatoes and flour.

The brewers are evidently men of wit and humor for they appear to have originated several little jokes to go with their "square deal to home industry" initiative. Just who the joke will be on will be very evident to the dear public if it allows the measure to become a law.

An enthusiastic partisan in Dallas is reported to have wagered \$10 that Texas will go to Hughes this fall. Which does not prove anything. Any old time that Texas shows a gleam of that particular brand of sanity the Herald will announce the results with a row of roosters across its front page.

We confess to have been disappointed in the movie play, "Civilization." It reminded us of those subscription books of which the "Royal

Path of Life" was a sample which formerly were sold in the rural districts at good stiff prices in the days when the book agent flourished. While the pictures had the finish of high class photography and the moral involved was very beautiful, yet a couple of thousand feet of film taken in the trenches and hospitals of France would have been very much more effective to portray the horrors of war.

One of the privileges incidental to the President's reception in Normal hall recently was the fact that it allowed many of our citizens to get a glimpse of the interior of the dormitory. Among the rubbernecks was ye ruminator who is convinced that the girls who are domiciled there have very pleasant quarters. It is stated as true by persons who should know, that the Monmouth dormitory is the best of any maintained by our state educational institutions. Neatness and order must be the aim of the school ma'am and the practice at the dormitory fulfills all the traditions. The rooms are conveniently arranged, have never lost their appearance of newness and the girls who live in them are to be congratulated.

There is genuine humor in the advertisement that appeared this week in Portland papers, a circular letter signed by leading brewers of the state in which they announced that it was not their intention to establish distributing depots in case the brewer's amendment carried. Now it stands to reason they would not have felt impelled to make this statement had the amendment not allowed them the privilege and the idea of the brewers that their simple word of honor would be sufficient and the people will vote them a privilege which they promise not to take advantage of has in it something decidedly funny. About the time documents of that kind are accepted in a court of law we expect to see the lion and the lamb sleeping under the same bed quilts.

According to a straw vote taken in Morlan's store last Friday and Saturday, the battle might as well be declared over and the expense of holding an election dispensed with. Out of 120 votes cast Mr. Wilson received 74 and Mr. Hughes 46. The election was conducted on ballots sent out by the organization which is seeking the abolishing of the Sunday Closing law. The enemies of the Sunday Closing law and the friends of President Wilson were identical for that measure was also opposed by 74 votes. 40 voted to retain the law. Other candidates voted on were: For Supreme Court Justice—Bright, Pro., 10 votes; Burnett, Rep., 74; Hofner, Soc., 4; Moore, Rep., 51; Oliver, Dem., 50. For Secretary of State—Cannon, Soc., 5; Olcott, Dem., Rep., Prog., 102. For Dairy and Food Commissioner—McKinnon, Soc., 7; Mickle, Rep., Dem., Prog., 82; Rempel, Prog., 9.

A measure that should attract the attention of the voter next week with a negative vote is the six per cent law. This measure provides that no legislature shall increase the appropriations of the preceding legislature more than six per cent. It is a measure that while designed in the interest of economy will promote extravagance. Try it on yourself. Suppose you wanted to build a house or barn or buy a piano or automobile and the only way you could do it was by spending \$60 more each year. Because of various under takings some years the legislative total is high. Other years the total is lower. With the six percent restriction the tendency would be to maintain the higher level and to put Oregon in a financial strait-jacket. It would impede her progress and retard her development. It is not a party question. Citizens who have regard for the welfare of the state and her institutions should vote NO on this proposition.

For many years the belligerent nations of Europe have been pre-

paring for war, but now the subject that seems to be uppermost across the seas is a preparation for peace. Just as for years the war preparations of the Germans enlisted the concern and suspicion of the Allies so now the financial strength of the United States is acquiring a similar state of suspicion and jealousy in the same countries. Because of their necessities we have prospered; they become worked up at the thoughts of it and now they plan reprisals in a commercial sense that will restore to themselves the financial prestige they have been forced to give up. For particulars read the reports of the Allied conference at Paris. The control of certain raw materials is relied on as one weapon and the black list is another. It has been intimated that we are too proud to fight in a physical sense, but it remains to be seen whether we will have the courage to fight in a commercial sense. Commercial success is not the only thing to seek in a nation's welfare, but it is an important one and grave issues wait upon the conduct of our foreign affairs during the next few years.

It is at election time that Oregon voters realize that they are a part of the legislature and are called on to make laws as well as elect officers. As a general rule the members of the legislative body should be allowed the privilege of making our laws. It is their duty and is what they are given position and salary for doing. Extraordinary occasions appear when it is necessary for the people to arise and exercise their legislative functions. But it would appear wise to use the initiative power sparingly. There does not seem to be a single one of the initiated proposals for which the voter can not vote NO except for the Pendleton Normal. The safest thing is to give the negative vote for while a good measure may be lost it is better that than that a bad one should get on the statute books. If a measure has merit the legislature will take it up and there is no reason why the people should deal blindly with measures of this kind. One of the measures that is thus included is the anti-liquor importation law. But our present law is working well; it is allowing people to have liquor who feel they must have it, but it is making liquor harder to get hold of and is not putting it where it is poked under the noses of boys every time they turn around.

But there are the measures that were initiated by the legislature as amendments to the constitution which should have consideration. The single item veto amendment is designed as a help in legislating by which it will not be necessary to veto a whole bill in order to defeat a single item. This is an effective weapon to combat log rolling and should be passed.

Another item is the ship exemption tax amendment designed to exempt from taxation shipping registered in the state over fifty tons burden. The measure is designed to increase and promote shipping and while it violates one of the fundamental rules of taxation is a subject that has two sides to it and for the sake of the development of the shipping and commerce of the state should be carried.

A third amendment is designed to remove restrictions in the constitution relative to negro and mulatto suffrage and removes dead wood from the constitution inasmuch as the provision is nullified by the federal constitution.

ASHLAND PRESIDENT FAVORS PENDLETON

NEED OF EASTERN OREGON SCHOOL FULLY SHOWN BY B. F. MULKEY, FORMER HEAD OF ASHLAND SCHOOL.

Portland, Ore.—The Honorable B. F. Mulkey, ex-President of the Southern Oregon Normal School at Ashland, says, concerning the establishment of an additional Normal School at Pendleton: "I shall support the measure heartily for the reason that the present Normal School, though one of the best in the country, cannot be adequate to

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meet the needs of so large a state as Oregon. There is no institution that touches the masses of the people so closely as does the Normal School and the benefit derived from the taxes paid by the people of the state for the maintenance of such schools returns directly to the man and woman who paid the taxes and is conferred directly upon them and their children. The expense of maintaining a good Normal School in Eastern Oregon to a taxpayer on an assessed valuation of \$4000.00 would each year be under the cost of a good Havana cigar. I sincerely hope that the coming election will grant to the people of Eastern Oregon the relief they seek in a Normal School.