

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

That week of sunshine was a little chilly but it had all the earmarks of the real thing.

It's a whole lot easier for some men to criticize whiskers than it is for them to raise a beard.

The husbandman finds little difference in the ground that is too dry to plow or has a frozen crust that is equally discouraging.

Among those who do not find much difficulty in reconciling themselves to the election day results are G. T. Boothby, W. H. Steinberge and the Weston Leader.

This is the season of the year when the dairy cow, the pride of the family and a prop of domestic economy, settles down in earnest to a winter of usefulness.

Now let state statisticians figure up the amount of money Oregon has sent to California during the past year for alcoholic liquor, and appropriate the same annually as an extra fund for good roads.

A new burden has been packed on the shoulders of our public servants. They will now have to solve the puzzle of how to forward the public welfare and still dodge the meshes of the six percent law.

Not having any particular use or necessity for the cold wave we have just passed it on over the mountains and are allowing our neighbors on the other side of the backbone to get a few samples of what is coming to them.

An effort is consistently made to make the ocean a winter as well as a summer resort. Those people who are afraid of a little cold, may at this season of the year take to the ocean side cottage where they will find plenty of fog and rain but more moderate thermometer record.

Among the important auxiliaries of the modern educator is the phonograph and the moving picture. Their ability to reproduce music and oratory, to transport scenes and preserve nature are unique and of great advantage to the child working to understand the possibilities of life.

Having kept us on the anxious seat for nearly a week the Portland papers now seem tame and uninteresting. It is hard to conjure up an appetite for submarine outrages and the latest defalcation when we have been given such an alluring line of dope as concerned pluralities and electoral votes.

The feeling is not local but prevails up and down the valley that before other normals are established the Monmouth normal should be strengthened and improved. To this end the recommendation of the board of regents that \$85,000 be spent on the Monmouth school next year will be particularly timely.

While liquor men will tell you that many of their way of thinking voted for the dry law in the belief that it

would make prohibition odious, still that is a rather fantastic statement. The people who voted in the law that will make the import of any kind of beverage intoxicants illegal, were people who had seen the effect of a modified prohibition and felt that they wanted more of it.

Pendleton made a game fight for the Eastern state normal and did all that brains and money could do to influence the voter to her way of thinking. But economic conditions were against the project. Her experience will not encourage others to try for the school location by popular vote right away. The normal regents are best fitted to handle this matter and it is to be hoped that the matter will be left to them in the future.

Here is the kind of obituary a Georgia editor gave one man: "Poor Jim Jones slung his earthly garments on a limb and swam the river yesterday. He did not stand back because the water was cold but plunged right in and struck out for the other shore and met the angels smilingly. Jim was a poor man but had his subscription paid to his home paper and got there in good shape. Peace to his memory."

An encouraging thing from across the water is that the peace talk continues to grow in volume. The Germans are pressing this end of the war game hardest and it is to be noted that the notion of a world union to enforce peace finds considerable sympathy with them at present. The records of the Hague tribunal show that for years the Germans have been the one obstacle to ideas of future peace and their change of front now looks hopeful to say the least.

A certain hop man was heard to express the statement that he was going to retire from that particular line of agriculture and it is not at all unlikely that others will follow in his footsteps. The bane of the hop grower is the manipulated market, it being a commodity with so few outlets that it is easily handled by operators who are in a position to work the levers. The bottom land that grows the hops is the richest in the valley and put to other uses will yield proportionate returns.

It speaks well for the people of Oregon that the money argument of the Brewer's amendment had so little influence with them. The shape of a dollar held up before a man's eye looks pretty large and pretty often ethical abstractions and questions of morality and social welfare are secondary considerations. The liquor business has been made pretty attractive to the tax payer in a great many places and receives on that account a consideration it never could hold on its own account.

Here's to the partisan. Long may he flourish,—the man who rejoices and exults in victory and is downcast in defeat,—who knows what he is for and why he is for it. As for the band wagon man, the man whom the prophet describes as being neither hot nor cold, who waits to see where the crowd is and then joins it, who would cheer just as loud over the grave of his grandmother as over that of a political antagonist; he is anathema and leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

Among the progressive laws enacted during the past four years is that maintaining a Federal Trade Commission. The workings of this commission have been attached with great public interest because of its unusual character. By this means unfair competition is dealt with. The company which has to deal with opposition that has one price in one section of the country and a different price in another finds here a proper recourse. The tactics of monopoly, the working of dummy competitors, unfair labeling of goods, the publicity of facts concerning supply and demand are all matters the commission has un-

der supervision and is working for. It has not worked very seriously on the high price of paper as well as food but has investigated both and now that the election is over may be expected to act. The idea has in it a kernel of much promise and here's hoping it may work out as well as it promises.

John J. Ingall's poem on Opportunity is admired by many and its statement that opportunity comes but once is denied by many others. At any rate opportunity loomed large before Chas. E. Hughes one day during the recent campaign and if he had seen it and taken advantage of it he might now have been the president elect. This was when he was met at Klamath junction by a delegation of California Progressives asking that he use his influence to give Hiram Johnson a square deal. A big meeting had been arranged at San Francisco and Johnson was not invited. Here was Hughes' opportunity and Roosevelt or Wilson would have seized it eagerly and made a grand stand play that would have echoed from one end of the country to the other. Each would have said "Why certainly he must be invited or I myself will not attend. Johnson, governor of the state, who was vice presidential nominee of the Progressives four years ago, the Progressives who are now our allies, he must be there, or I will not be there." Such a statement would have warmed up the California Progressives toward Hughes and would easily have given him the vote of the state. It would have had its influence in Washington and Oregon. But Hughes took the judicial view of it. He said, instead; "Let California settle its own troubles." Afterward when by force of his personality Johnson had wrenched the nomination for U. S. senator from the Republicans, Hughes sent his congratulations. Johnson might have turned around with the memorable words of Samuel Johnson to Chesterfield: "Is not a patron, my Lord, one who looks with unconcern upon a man, struggling for his life in the water, but when he reaches firm ground, encumbers him with his help?" But that was not Johnson's sort. He believed that the issues were bigger than men. He knew that his own election was safe and went up and down the state talking for Hughes. On such small things rest the destinies of men and nations.

Portugal's Decline.

Portugal has not always been the small affair that it is today. The little country once meant a great deal more than it does at present. To Portugal belongs the honor of having been the leader in fifteenth century exploration and discovery. Her great prince, known as "Henry the Navigator," may well be called the father of deep sea navigation. It was owing to his zeal that the voyages began which were to end in the circumnavigation of Africa and the finding of the way to India. Until well into the sixteenth century Portugal was rich in colonial possessions and was not without great weight in the diplomacy of Europe, but by the close of the century her decline began.

Siam.

The kingdom of Siam covers an area of about 200,000 square miles, and the last census gave a total population of 8,149,487. The highest temperature of about 106 degrees F. in the shade at Bangkok is usually reached in April and May and the lowest of about 52 degrees in December and January, the latter two months being the most suitable for tourists and commercial travelers to visit northern Siam. The spoken and written language is Siamese, but for commercial purposes the English language is in general use.

Didn't Awe Him.

The members of a Greek letter fraternity from a southern university were being shown through the library of congress. They were apparently stricken dumb with admiration of the beauties of the building. But the atmosphere of awe was dissipated when one of the party, a red headed youth, exclaimed fervently:

"Gee, fellows, wouldn't this make a dandy frat house?"—St. Louis Republic.

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