

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

Now, if only every day were Sunday we would have our street paved in short order.

The only fault the school boy has to find with vacations is that there are not more of them.

Since women have taken to politics a great many things are practical that never used to be possible.

It is the easiest thing in the world to make a mistake and the hardest thing in the world to acknowledge it.

Another reason for Thanksgiving is that some people have at last got it through their heads that the election is over.

At last we have the dust laid and the farmer finds the back forty in fine shape for plowing—when the weather permits.

Speaking of good roads, now is when a considerable section of the Oregon coast country realizes that it doesn't have any.

Having enjoyed your Thanksgiving why not give the editor cause for the same by renewing your subscription for the coming year.

Regardless of how high the turkey roosted there were plenty to climb after him and the places he has haunted all Fall now know him no more.

By the time we have thoroughly forgotten that there ever was such a thing the sun comes out long enough to shake hands with old acquaintances.

Some of the Pittsburg millionaires are reputed to have money to burn, but here in Polk county we are satisfied if we have plenty of dry wood for the same purpose.

Monmouth business men are surely in favor of improvements or they would not have put up so cheerfully with inconvenience as they have within the past six weeks.

The Northwestern foot ball player would not feel at home if he did not wade between goals in mud up to his ankles. The mud serves as a cushion and helps to ease the jolt of a tumble.

The development of printing has very much lessened the scope of oratory. An orator's audience is limited but a book has a boundless field and will tell its story any number of times.

The terrible thing about contagion is its certainty. It doesn't send out a solicitor with a string of talk whom you can turn down with the plea that times are too hard or that you are not interested.

As for the wind, the latest and most up-to-date reports indicate and all signs warrant the conclusion, as human experience agrees, that it still has the old time habit of blowing when and how it lists.

There is reason to suspect that Monmouth, its streets, the last dance, the election, and a few other things were discussed yesterday at various reunion family dinners in Western and Northern Oregon.

For a few years the six percent law will make Oregon economical in spite of itself, although when the expenses get up to a working figure it will be hard to make cuts for fear that it will take time to get back again.

California raises pomegranates, olives, cabbages, umbrellas and a few other commodities and promises in the near future to increase her range of production with a number of acres of choice political boomlets.

The trouble with certain humane people is that they do not realize that the welfare of the multitude of people who are outside our penitentiaries is much more important than the welfare of the few who are within the walls.

A nine mill school tax may seem high but relief will be found when it is compared with other districts in the state. Bandon, for instance, has 20 mills, the same this year as last, and the lowest its economically inclined citizens hoped to get was 16 mills.

As the time for the annual city election draws on there seems to be a remarkable scarcity of candidates for the political lightning. There is a general feeling that with the work in progress as it is at present it would be well to let the present officers finish it. There are many of the details of the work in hand that are familiar to them but with which new men must familiarize themselves which makes it best that, all things being equal, the old officers should be retained.

Still, the peace talk continues to grow. A most encouraging symptom! At the session of the League to Enforce Peace, held in New York last week, telegrams were received from high officials in Germany, France and England, expressing sympathy with the object of the league. A combination to enforce peace on the world offers a ground on which all can unite, and appears about the best prospect yet offered to troubled Europe. If it is secured and a world peace is assured the bloodshed will not have been in vain.

The future of the Northwest at present is intimately associated with lumber and lumber prospects look good for several years to come. The crest of the war prosperity of the east has been past. Ocean freights from New York to Europe which were three cents per bushel three years ago and twenty cents now were nearly sixty cents in June. Factory statistics show that the high month in employment was September. On the other hand the lumber industry has not shared in the abnormal demand. The coming of peace is bound to increase the demand for lumber and the long period of slow sales will have created a market that should be good for some time to come.

The government is making a concerted effort to find the cause of the high cost of living and is sending its inspectors into the storage houses and investigating every possible depository of food supplies in the hope of locating some cause for the various shortages. They ran upon a couple million of eggs in storage in Chicago the other day. While it does not appear that this is more than the normal amount in storage at this time of the year, the Chicago housewives have signified their intention to buy no more eggs while the price remains over fifty cents a dozen. The storage eggs will have to be released in the near future as the law forbids eggs stored longer than a certain period from coming on the market.

The death of Jack London last

week removed a leading character from the world of literary men. His contributions were valuable because he gave the world a new view point. Literature has its foundation in story telling and the dealing with human experience. Its development naturally has taken a bent toward culture, and just as naturally its themes find their most popular avenues among cultured people. The rise of the heroes of literature is often from humble surroundings, but very seldom from the sensual and the brutal. Such characters of this last class as appear are most often described from the view point of the spectator and contain a great proportion of imagination. It was reserved for London to glorify brute force, to clothe the primitive instincts of man with romance and attend their development through the various stages of characteristic evolution. To the masculine mind, especially, there is a certain relief to turn from the vapidness of the average society novel to the virile characters of London. There is a certain element in men that is purely masculine, the instinct that takes an interest in a prize fight or a horse race or that is satisfied with the hunt or the chase. To such men, who happen to be literary, London appeals most of all.

In searching for the high cost of living there is one agency that can not be blamed and that is the freight rate. Freight rates are fixed by the railroad commission and can not be changed. Had railroads been allowed the same latitude as ocean carriers, or as the sugar or oil men we would have had something to complain about. But if it is possible to keep rates down by law why could they not be kept up by the same means? And could not other commodities be regulated the same way? A socialist could point out a whole assortment of lessons in the government fixed freight rate.

But the results of a regulated freight rate are not all on one side of the ledger. Thomas A. Edison says that the railroads of the United States would all be electrified now had it not been for legislation that has crippled their finances. The country is losing in other ways for the restriction on their income is halting the construction of lines into new territory, but the electrification of the roads will do a great deal to advance the future of the Northwest. The age of electricity will bring the Northwest to an important place. The cheapest electricity is from waterpower and over half of the water power in the U. S. is to be developed on the Columbia and its tributaries.

For years the United States was exploited by the railroads, which in their relation to one another and the public, emulated the robber barons of old. The rule was to take all that the traffic would bear. The railroads in turn were exploited by men who happened to be at the head of them. Now the pendulum has swung the other way and any indignity is deemed suitable to be laid on a railroad. The worst part of it is that the welfare of the railroads is intimately associated with the country it serves. The interests of the two are similar and how to secure fair play to both is a matter on which we may well ponder.

Items of Interest

There are 510 children of school age in Independence. Two years ago the census showed over 600 children in the city.

Gerhard Rempel has sold his 100 acre farm at Rickreal for cash and trade amounting to \$10,000. He took a Salem residence at \$2,000, of T. A. Roberts who gets the farm.

The 13 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Baker of Independence, died last week. He had ailed for some time and an attack by measles was followed by fatal complications.

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