

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

Only ten days more to Christmas.

A man's headache seems a lot worse when he had no fun acquiring it.

Cheer Up! The bullion value of the cents in your pockets must have increased considerably, with copper up to 35 cents a pound.

It isn't that the American people object to being extravagant in buying their food—that they're kicking on is being compelled to be.

The roads across the coast range in winter might seem bad to a man who has never attempted to navigate through some of our back streets and extemporized alleys.

Government ownership begins to sound first rate to some of the railway capitalists who have a liking for ready cash in exchange for risk and responsibility.

The women appear to have pricked a few bubbles out of the inflated high cost of living. Just another illustration of "what a woman will she generally accomplishes."

Again we are reminded that we Americans take to politics as we do to a game of pedro. No other reason can account for our getting stewed up over a few political offices, the possession of which any one will acknowledge is a detriment to his business and a menace to his peace and wellbeing.

Shoe leather is getting so high in price that it is too valuable to make shoes out of. It is said the shark's hide is looked on as a possible substitute, in which case a new industry may be developed and the shark succeed the whale as an attraction for the deep sea rover.

This is the season of gales on the North Pacific when the lot of the boatman is one of extremes of exertion or idleness. In the one case he is struggling to make headway against wind and tide and in the other he is bar bound in some small port, waiting for a chance to get to sea again.

The problem of how to construct a peace that is satisfactory to everyone seems to be as hard to solve as ever across the water. From the quality of the new cabinets they are constructing among the Allies the opinion may be deducted that the quickest and best way to peace is to spill some more blood and burn up more gunpowder.

There are said to be some accomplished musicians among the Italians who are doing the street work for the railroad company. A young member of the gang thrust his head into the Herald doorway one day last week and asked "You sella de sole?" and for one brief moment we surmised the gang might dabble in theology as well as music. But on second thought we directed him to the shoeman next door.

While the Christmas spirit is on you might resolve to give to the community a more unselfish service, aiming to forward the common good instead of petty private grafts. You might also give to your neighbors a wider tolerance and a greater charity of judgment. To yourself you might give a choice package of self restraint and a little more geniality. A few presents of this kind would make Christmas a notable day.

A great deal of the history of Oregon could be told from the reading of accurate biographies published during the last two weeks in the Willamette valley. December, thus far, has been fruitful for the grim reaper. The toll has been especially large among the pioneers. The fact that the month followed a period of cold weather unseasonable in this section, probably accounts for this. When to a machine, already tried to the limit to perform its duties, is added a fresh strain, is when the smash comes. The human body is, after all, a machine. There are many interesting things in the recollections of these pioneers and much of it, probably, is lost with their passing.

There are a few things about our street paving that the people of the city should keep in mind. In the first place the city council is not responsible for it. The improvement was initiated by property holders, following the legal method of procedure. Presented the council can not do else than accept the petition and direct the work. The contract was advantageously placed. Authorities say the price bid for the work is a cheap one. They have seen to it that the work has been well done. It has been delayed some but this is largely the fault of those who were opposed since, realizing the opposition, it has been deemed wise to proceed slowly and carefully to see that all precautions were taken. So far the work has been creditable to the city and now we are interested to see that the remainder of the work is likewise effectively performed.

F. B. Tichenor, the newly elected joint representative of Coos and Curry counties, is a type of the man who might be called an advance agent of development. He has it in his head that Port Orford is destined to become a naval port of importance and has set himself to work to make this come to pass. Although one of the oldest towns in Oregon it has never had more than one or two hundred inhabitants. While it is fifty miles away from a railroad this fact has not daunted Tichenor. Within the past year he has had both Oregon senators down there as well as Governor Withycombe. Now the Port Orford man has gone to Washington to place his ideas before the authorities at the fountain head. Port Orford is located on a roadstead, or wide bay, sheltered from the north but open to the south. With a breakwater Tichenor claims Port Orford would have the only port of refuge for a ship in a storm, available at all phases of the tide, on the coast between Puget Sound and San Francisco. People are disposed to poke fun at Tichenor's ideas but he is of the type of man through whom substantial things are accomplished.

Cotton, which seemed doomed to depressed prices at the beginning of the war, when charitable people were urged to buy a bale of cotton and hold it to help out the planter, has since experienced a radical change. Ten cents per pound has been considered a good price for this staple but for the past few months, due to shortage of crop, the price has ranged from 20 to 30 cents per pound. In favored sections where the boll weevil did not rampage and the crop was good the planter is revelling in prosperity. The usual thing has been for the colored cotton grower to live up the price of his crop before he received it. Now the price is sufficient to give him a generous bonus

at the end of the season and the darkies are buying automobiles and their female relatives red and yellow silks with which to adorn themselves when they ride therein. The colored ladies are also said to have displayed a passion for furniture and are buying brass bedsteads and birdseye maple dressers. One colored lady didn't have room for her dresser inside the cabin so she placed it on the porch and said she would have liked to place the bed outside where it could be exhibited to advantage, except that she didn't like to sleep under the stars.

As the date of the recent election fades on the horizon the call for the election of president by popular vote becomes a mere echo, growing less and less frequent. It is announced that Mr. Bryan has placed it among the paramount planks of his platform, which is a handicap it may find hard to overcome. There are one or two things about the popular election project that seem, however, to make it worthy of discussion, if nothing else. In the first place it would help to neutralize sectionalism. The place of residence of a man would be secondary to his vote getting ability. In the second place it would improve the quality of our presidents. The effect of the plan of an election by states has been to make certain states pivotal, and too, frequently, the test of a candidate has been his supposed ability to carry certain "doubtful" states. Canada is often pointed out as a place where popular government works better than it does under our constitution. The reason is the Canadians have always the services of their best men at the head of affairs. The leader of a dominant party is invited to form a cabinet and direct affairs. Here we customarily choose leaders on the score of their ability to carry New York, New Jersey or Indiana. These states have been "doubtful" for the past forty years and for this reason have supplied a majority of our presidents and vice presidents during that interval. Of course the "doubtful" areas may shift to other quarters but the principle is the same. It seems to us that a positive benefit would accrue from the popular election of presidents in that it would destroy this dominance of peculiarly constituted areas, widen the eligible fields from which candidates are chosen and give the nation the benefits of the services of its ablest sons.

WHAT A \$10 BILL WILL DO

Mr. Brown kept boarders. Around his table sat Mr. Brown, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Andrews, the village milliner; Mr. Black, the baker; Mr. Jordan, a flour and lumber merchant.

Mr. Brown took out of his pocket-book a \$10 note and handed it to Mrs. Brown, saying:

"Here, my dear, is \$10 toward the \$20 I promised you."

Mrs. Brown handed it to Mrs. Andrews, the milliner, saying:

"That pays for my bonnet."

Mrs. Andrews said to Mr. Jordan, as she handed him the note:

"That will pay for your work on my counter."

Mr. Jordan handed it to Mr. Hadley, requesting his lumber bill, while Mr. Hadley gave it back to Mr. Brown saying:

"That pays \$10 on my board."

Mr. Brown passed it to his wife with the remark that that paid her the \$20 he had promised her. She, in turn, paid it to Mr. Black to settle her bread and pastry account, who handed it to Mr. Hadley, wishing credit for that amount on his flour bill, he again turning it to Mr. Brown, with the remark that it settled for that month's board. Whereupon Mr. Brown put it back into his pocketbook, exclaiming "that he never thought a \$10 bill would go so far."

Thus a \$10 greenback was made to pay \$90 indebtedness inside of five minutes.

The launch Independence, between that city and East Independence, is again in commission for the winter months.

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