

The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 1917.



Monmouth Meditations

Have you learned to write it,
1917?

Had you noticed that the days
were getting longer?

Let the word go abroad that to
buy cheaply you must buy in Mon-
mouth.

To the Monmouth housewife just
at present, dry wood in the wood-
shed looms up close to money in
the bank.

Nothing helps out the fraternal
feeling like a union feed. When
you have broken bread with a man
he is no longer a stranger but a
friend.

It is only when some one speaks
of enforcing it that we realize the
provision of the constitution that
every man, between the ages of 18
and 45, is a soldier.

The usual legislature displays the
greatest consideration on the work
of spending money but the session
that begins this week will in addi-
tion have to dig up a few plans for
raising money.

There were enough Christmas
books to last into the second week
all right but in a week or two more
the supply will be exhausted and
then the young idea will turn into
the normal channels once more.

After all there is nothing like
health and the man who is able to
negotiate three square meals a day
and do a man's work is more to be
envied than he who is too feeble to
clip his coupons.

The Norm theater has a list of
good attractions booked for the
near future. The moving picture
makes it possible to bring high
class attractions to you and exhibit
at a very moderate price.

If you are undecided in choice as
to something for a New Year's reso-
lution, you might take some you
adopted last year. Very likely they
have not been used enough to dam-
age them any and will be just as
good as new.

By the end of this week we are
promised Main street will be thrown
open to use again and then those
of us who have forgotten how a
wagon or an automobile looks will
have a chance to get used to the
sight of them again.

Any missing automobile parties
might be referred to Monmouth.
Doubtless when the back street has
been dried out several autos will be
discovered that Bill Jones has not
been able to locate in his rescue
service.

Some men don't need a great deal
of encouragement to stock up with
liquid refreshments, preparatory to
a dry spell. The dry spell ahead,
however, is a little the driest of
anything Oregonians have yet ex-
perienced.

The sheriff of Polk county is using
the plan of a registered letter to
summon jurors but the county is
not yet ready to countenance the
transportation of convicts from the
county jail to the penitentiary by
parcel post.

We like to get all the news and
can only do it through co-operation
with our subscribers. If you go
forth into the world yourself, or
have friends come to abide with you
and are ashamed of none of these
things, please let the editor know.

Those people who sat up to see
the new year when it made its ap-
pearance report that it looked very
much like the young 1916 who put
in an appearance a year ago. And
in addition to that it looked very
similar to twelve o'clock on any
other night.

All one had to do during the past
two weeks to realize that the Nor-
mal was not in session, was to arise
before daylight. Everybody has
been taking advantage of the chance
to catch up with lost sleep and there
are few lights visible along Main
street at seven in the morning.

It was some Alabama editor re-
cently who expressed the opinion
that Browning and Whitman were
dull and uninteresting and that
Irvin Cobb and Samuel Blythe in-
spired one to tears rather than to
mirth. All of which reminds us
that it takes courage to be candid.

In the matter of Rural Credits and
Farm Loans the commission reports
that the number who have applied
for loans is only seventeen times as
many as those who have received
loans. A relief to the needy agri-
culturist that can accommodate
only one eighteenth of those who
apply for assistance, surely has not
filled a yawning need sufficiently to
shout over.

When United States senators were
to be elected there used to be some
glory in being a legislator. Possibly
other emoluments besides glory.
But now when the only job is that
of fitting the developing and ex-
panding needs of a growing state
into a financial straight jacket, it is
small wonder a legislator is not an
object of envy. Oregon could nor-
mally find room for ten times its
population.

The New Year's number of the
Oregonian is calculated to make
people who live in the state proud
of Oregon. It is not as spectacular
as California but it is more practi-
cal. Oregon offers to the newcomer
more than any other state in the
Union. It has more undeveloped
land that is better worth the labor
of the settler than any other state
in the west. Although an old state
Oregon has been neglected by
capital. Development reached the
west coast in the south and north
and has bent with the coast finding
a meeting ground in Oregon. Rail-
roads are projected in Eastern Ore-
gon that will bring thousands of
people into the state. The Ore-
gonian has the development of the
state well pictured out and makes
the best sort of missionary litera-
ture to send back to the home com-
munity.

According to the blue book Mad-
ras, Oregon, had 365 population in
1910. Culver was not large enough
to be noticed by the census taker.
These towns have had considerable
front page space devoted to them
recently because of their county
seat fight. Madras was victor in a
recent election but Culver took to
the courts, until Monday, lead by
U'Ren the lawyer, Madras people
repaired to Culver and bodily took
a major portion of the county
records therefrom. One injunction
had been quashed and the Madras
people wanted to act before another
injunction could be obtained. Of
Edison we are told that two im-
portant inventions were made of no
use to him because of legal en-
tanglements. One such suit has
been in the courts since 1876 and is
not yet settled. Lack of faith in

legal procedure accounts for the
Jefferson county raid and also for
the condition in Arizona where two
governors are seeking supremacy.
We allow lawyers to make out laws
and then when the test comes, be-
cause we have no faith in them,
take the function of laws into our
own hands.

Peace continues to be the one ab-
sorbing topic across the sea and
although the answer of the Allies to
the central powers was not confir-
matory to a hope of an early agree-
ment, nevertheless the door leading
to such an agreement is by no
means closed. Reading the answer
from the combined opponents of
Germany one must be convinced
that many of their contentions are
based upon the eternal principles of
justice. But at the same time the
idea will not dawn that those same
principles of human justice are be-
ing used as a lever to secure an end
that is not just. A second wrong
does not right a first wrong. It is
true the course of Germany has
been one subversive to international
morality. Not only have they cov-
eted what was their neighbors,
but have deliberately set about to
take it from them. True they did
not plan to steal in the night, as
burglars do, or as a great many
nations have done. They simply
made up their minds as to what
they wanted and then went out to
take it as a big boy takes away the
possessions of a little boy. In a
measure they have succeeded. They
wanted an open sea port and they
took it in Antwerp. They wanted
room for development and they
have found it in a pathway to Asia.
The relations of Germany and
Turkey have been close in recent
years but they are now closer. It
is German soldiers and guns that
have kept the passages of the Dar-
danelles from being taken. The
German emperor logically will be-
come dictator of Turkey. Exactly
as in such a measure the German
activities have been unjust their
enemies would be strong had they
been just. If they had gone into
the fight simply to repel the Ger-
mans, to drive them out of Belgium
and the Balkans and demand repar-
ation, they would have been en-
titled to respect and sympathy. But
France has been promised Alsace-
Lorraine, Italy has some Austrian
territory to regain, Japan was given
a city in China, Russia wants Con-
stantinople and the Dardanelles and
England has Germany's African
colonies and wants most of all to
humble Germany, an economical
rival. Thus it will be seen it is not
entirely an exalted altruistic spirit
for the betterment of the world that
holds the Allies together. They may
talk of outrages and treaties broken
and various other things but what
they are fighting for, is the loaves
and fishes. Therefore President
Wilson's query is particularly per-
tinent. What are you fighting for?
The more times it is asked the
better. The human mind is a very
simple organism. It is hard for it
to think on both sides of a question.
But if the question is asked fre-
quently enough the embattled pow-
ers may think themselves into a
saner mood.

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