

The Herald

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Editor & Publisher

Entered as second-class matter September 5, 1905,
at the post office at Monmouth, Oregon, under the
Act of March 3, 1879.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY

Subscription Rates

One year	-	-	\$1.50
Six months	-	-	75 cts
Three months	-	-	50 cts

Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2, 1917.



Monmouth Meditations

Economy is a hard road to travel but it leads to health, wealth and prosperity.

A movement is apt to be started any day to make the dove of peace, instead of the bald eagle, our national emblem.

We are assured that although nutty the squirrel does not complain about the high cost of living in a tree.

It often happens that people earnestly desire peace without being willing to own up to it. Pride is a hard taskmaster.

There is nothing so bad but that it might be worse. With the present price of shoe leather just think of the plight of the man who stands 7 feet, 11 inches in height and wears No. 14 shoes.

If Lloyd George was not so thoroughly engrossed in other matters he might make a few observations about the peace without conquest that prevails between the U. S. and Mexico.

Potatoes in Polk county are selling for 2 cents per pound at present and some producers are holding on in the hope of getting 4 cents. The trouble with potatoes is that they are both perishable and seasonal and many a man who has loosened his grasp on one bird for the prospect of catching two has had to satisfy himself with nothing at all.

It will have to be handed to Mr. Bryan that he is consistent in his devotion to peace. He has come out in opposition to the president's latest move in the enforced peace idea. We have always suspected that there was just enough stubbornness in Mr. Bryan's makeup to make him tend to be consistent rather than right.

Cass Riggs, a farmer living near Rickreall, has a well that supplies him with drinking water and natural gas at the same time. The same well furnished the water to fill the kettle and the heat to boil it. Which is a novel combination, thoughts of which are not calculated to make the wood any dryer with which some urban housewives are trying to raise steam these days.

It seldom pays to put off a disagreeable duty. The time to have dealt with the railroad employees was last fall when the strike was threatened. The matter of dealing justly with both sides now becomes harder and harder to accomplish and nothing will erase the injury to national self respect arising from the manner in which that settlement was obtained.

While the county courts of Marion and Polk are trying to get up a full fledged disagreement between the two counties over the bridge question, Eola and West Salem are laying plans to chop themselves off of Polk and join in with Marion. Marion county might not make as

accommodating a parent as they imagine she might.

The agitation to do away with the publication of the delinquent tax list appears to be a matter that affects Portland alone where the publication has led to abuse of privileges and graft. The idea of publishing delinquents is a good one for it spurs up the delinquent and gives the man who wants to take advantage of the tax sale a chance to know what is going on.

Our good friend the editor of the Independence Enterprise makes some trite observations this week as to the value of drinking more water. Water, you betcha. Too many people, like the Pharisees of old, make clean the outside of the anatomy and never think of sluicing out the interior. For health, vigor and continued happiness, drink more city water. It is cheap and wholesome. (adv).

Polk county wants a concrete bridge and Marion county wants a steel bridge across the Willamette at Salem and as yet it does not appear how the controversy will be settled whether by pitched battle or by arbitration. In the meantime there is some obstruction to the stream of trade that goes from Polk to Marion and the suspicion obtrudes that this may be a part of the Polk county campaign.

Shakespeare has always been esteemed for the quality of his diction which is one thing that movie productions gloss lightly over. But Shakespearean productions have also been noted for sumptuous setting and this sort of thing lends itself very nicely to reproduction by the camera. This is the sort of thing that makes the movie reproductions popular with cultured people, the pleasure of seeing the physical interpretation of the lines, the reading of which has given entertainment.

McCall, the former Independence barber who murdered a fellow barber in Portland, is to have insanity entered as a plea in his defense. Unless it is to provide exercise for deserving legal talent it is hard to see the point of view that would avoid a direct plea of guilty. There may be more salve in it for a man's dignity to know that he is locked up as a maniac rather than as a murderer. But if he is really insane he would not mind and if not insane it would be more trying to his dignity to be held in duress with a lot of "nuts" than to be held as a plain criminal.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Polk County Itemizer, uses the phrase "where they were at" and terms it the vernacular of the prize ring. We believe a slang dictionary will bear out the assertion that this inelegant expression had its origin in congress. A certain congressman from Georgia, an elderly gentleman named Allen, went to sleep one time in the middle of a long speech and when he awakened said in resuming, "Where am I at?" His fellow member, the vitriolic Tom Watson, in denunciation called attention to the fact and gave the phrase its start in popular usage. While there might not be a great deal of difference between Congress and the prize ring, it is well to give credit where credit is due.

A familiar friend that greets the Northerner who, at this season of the year, repairs to Southern California, is the blackbird. This bird, which always avoids dry countries and makes its breeding places in the weeds which grow beside inland lakes and rivers, accompanies the irrigator in his conquest of the desert. He follows the irrigating ditch and sways as jauntily from the branches of the eucalyptus and pepper as from the willow and maple of other sections. His numbers increase and the instinct to consort in flocks is in evidence. He is especially plentiful in the cities where the works of irrigation are most manifest. All that is necessary to

attract him is to set the sprayer at work on the lawn and numbers of the blackbird appear. He wades in the wet grass, soaking his toes on the moist earth and with his strident clack cocks his saucy head sideways or makes a dash into the falling mist.

The sugar beet has been grown in Southern California for some years past and the large factory at Oxnard is one of the big manufacturing institutions of the state. Since the war began and high prices have prevailed throughout the year the development in that state in the sugar industry has been marked and is spreading up into Oregon. It is an industry that is peculiarly adapted to irrigation, but beets are also well adapted to land watered by rains. It is a form of agriculture that requires intensive methods and the number of people a given acreage will support is very much increased over the number supported by ordinary farm methods. It requires cheap as well as specially trained labor however and this is one of the conditions that have to be met by growers who embark in the beet business.

The Chicago and Milwaukee road having found the electrification of its lines across the divide in Montana profitable, now proposes an extension of the electric power through the Cascades. Not only is the power itself fifty percent cheaper than coal power which rival railroads are using, but an additional economy is found in the means of applying. No long coal trains are needed to carry supplies to convenient places nor bunkers for storage. Rival railroads are seeing the great advantage which the cheaper and more convenient power gives the Milwaukee road and all of them will follow that example. They must, in order to compete for freight. This will mean the establishment of large power plants. Anything that leads to the development of electrical power, develops the Northwest's strongest asset. The age of electricity, which apparently is near at hand, means a very large increase in importance of the section that is tributary to the Columbia.

President Wilson's ideas on enforced peace appear to have met with condemnation at both extremes of the line. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan have both taken pains to disagree, the one because the notion is too peaceful and the other because it is too warlike. We believe that thinking people will take the middle ground however. The idea of no force at all is too idealistic for this matter of fact age and all must appreciate that while it is necessary to maintain arms for police duty it is not necessary to resort to arms to right what groups may consider wrongs, nor exact vengeance.

Neither need we disapprove of entangling alliances because Washington and his times disapproved of them. The same argument could be brought against temperance, free slaves, and votes for women and various other things. The situation of a young nation freed because of favorable European conditions and our present government with its prestige and resources, are radically different. We have an interest in conditions abroad just as individuals we have an interest in the temperate habits of our neighbors.

Neither is it germane to bring up comparisons between our late civil war and the present European war. Had the North and the South been separate countries fighting to acquire parts of one another's territory, comparisons might be made and attempts by outsiders to bring peace at that time would have been justified. We believe the president is on the right track and hope he will keep at it.

Prof. Gentle's neighbors and friends are much pleased to know he has recovered from his recent severe illness to resume work in school and trust he will continue to enjoy good health.

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