

The Herald

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Editor & Publisher

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 1917.



Monmouth Meditations

At this point in the performance enter R. U. E., the Weather Wise Old Resident. He looks around mysteriously, nods his head emphatically and says, "I told you so."

That was quite a nice little blanket of snow that California sent up to us this week. But there is comfort in the thought that California will not send us any more original packages.

Well, we do move. According to a new law a man or woman with children or any other voter, will not be prevented from voting in Oregon at a school election because he does not hold taxable property.

Score another for the new commerce commission. Last week when confronted with proof that the price of print paper was extortionate and out of proportion to costs, the makers promised to lower prices rather than stand special legislation.

The complexion of the vote for and against the bonds for good roads shows that the people of the state are interested in the road problem. The least agreeable feature of the measure is that it will cost \$100,000 to submit it to a special vote of the people.

At least the students, who as Eugene Field would say "have gone to Providence with designs upon the dog," will not be able to blame the same Providence for framing things up to make them more attractive than normal. After spending this week in the rural districts they will not need to be dis-illusioned as to actual conditions of their work.

Now that the park proposition has been temporarily abandoned why not set 1917 aside as a "slick up and stay slicked" year? To our way of thinking, when the present improvements are completed it does not matter a great deal if no more is done until next year. But let us turn our attention to improving the appearance of the city. Let us pick up the scattered paper and tin cans and rubbish and make it an offence to scatter such things. Let us keep the weeds trimmed along the road side and on the vacant lots and make the rural cows subject to regulation.

We note with pain that some of his Democratic brethren do not look with favor on the prospective appointment of our old friend, F. B. Tichenor of Port Orford as U. S. marshal and hint that being so close to the California line, and friendly to Californians, he will wink at violations by liquor importations. Forget it brethren. Mr. Tichenor, although he has many sterling qualities, has three that stick out like the knobs on a potato. These are his passion for chess, his ability as a poet, and his hatred of the demon Rum. The bone dry law will find no firmer friend in the state than Mr. Tichenor.

The news item that Chas. F. Aked of peace ship fame is to become pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational

church of Riverside, Cal., is of a little more than ordinary interest to the writer of these random remarks for he happens to hold a membership in that same Pilgrim church. It is announced that Rev. Horace Porter, whom Aked is to succeed, will run for mayor of Riverside. Mr. Porter was assistant pastor to Lyman Abbott in the Plymouth church in Brooklyn and at that time was crushed and nearly killed in an accident on the approach to Brooklyn bridge. The accident left him a cripple. Mr. Porter has a strong bent for politics and we surmise that if he secures the mayorship it will not be the end of his late-started political career.

The old saying that "murder will out" is occasionally successfully disputed but that a bent for journalism will display itself if given any kind of a chance, no one will dispute. This thought is awakened by the receipt this week of a copy of the Monmouth "High Way," a modest publication gotten out by the high school scholars. The High Way, which contains a number of good things, is edited by Francis Arant and managed by George Walker. Type for its body is set on a machine—not a linotype but a typewriter, on which a stencil is cut and the printing is done by a rotary mimeograph. School hits and school news compose the body of the paper, all, we should judge, pertinent and interesting. The High Way also has an official "pote," Ralph Haynie, who jerks out jingles with ease and abandon. As the genial Omar says, "Come on in, boys, the water's wet."

The death of General Frederick Funston makes a death that will be felt in the U. S. army. Funston, who stood five feet five and rarely weighed more than 120 pounds, was a man who did not know what physical fear was. He was the son of a Kansas congressman, one of two Republicans from that state who survived the populist landslide of 1892. The son tried newspaper work and as a mark of his literary ability has left a very interesting book of personal memoirs. He was first a soldier in the Cuban revolution, but gained real recognition in the Spanish war by the capture of Aguinaldo. Services in the Philippines made him a Brigadier General. But he had never had West Point experience and although his merits were clear neither Roosevelt or Taft would give him promotion as Major General which his merit entitled him. President Wilson, however, gave him the honor because when real work came, it was recognized that Funston was the man best able to perform the service.

Many people may wonder at the sudden change in the president's attitude; for one week he was demanding peace without victory and the next week demanding war. The answer may be found in the text of the German note which was aggravating, irritating and insulting; more like one from a nation to one greatly inferior, than as one first class nation to another. Many of the phrases of the note were capable of a double meaning which must have been aggravating to one of the president's sensitiveness. An example of the tone of the note may be found in the permission for our commerce with England. We are to be allowed one boat a week with Falmouth as the destination. The boat to arrive Wednesday and depart Sunday, and to carry the signs of neutrality that will make it recognizable as such by the submarines. This is to have stripes of red and white along its side, each stripe two yards wide, to have a large flag painted on its bow; to have red and white flags on each masthead and to be lighted at night so these signs may be plainly recognizable. A reading of the note would make one suspect that the Germans really wished to provoke hostilities and would have been disappointed if it had not done so.

The tractor and the motor truck are due for a great increase in pop-

ular use this year. Numerous tractors have made their appearance in the east and their use is spreading to the west. The gasoline tank has already begun to rank in importance with the hay mow and feed bin and occasionally some wag rises to assert that horses and mules be cultivated for jerked beef, sausage and leather. The gasoline driven vehicle is affecting the railroads. The financial "sickness" of the kings of transportation is not alone due to restrictive legislation. Automobiles have cut into the passenger business and motor trucks are competing for the freight business. In this section some day business houses will freight their own stuff from Portland and farmers will haul their own produce to the centers of traffic. That is why the road issue becomes important and why a well laid out system of all the year around roads will be of large importance to every section it serves. That is why this section of Polk county must keep its eye on the road makers and see that we are represented in the system about to be established. That is one reason why the bond measure for the whole state will be favored the guarantee being ascertained that each section will be improved. Bonding is favored for it will cause the whole work to be done at once. Piecemeal roadmaking never did accomplish a great deal. Here in this section, not subject to the damage of hard freezing, hard surface roads should be permanent and once made would last.

Any one who looked down the column of appropriations as passed by the legislature just adjourned, would be justified in saying no wonder the people of the state complain of high taxes. At that the legislature made a record for economy and pared the estimated down to the last scratch. Neither would any other similar assemblage have been able to improve on their record. It takes authority vested in fewer persons to do that. One man, with an eye to efficiency, could go into the state service and cut out a lot of expense that yields no adequate return to the tax payer and at the same time give more where more is needed. The same trouble, only in a far more aggravated way, prevails in the national government. Postmaster Burleson has made a record for efficiency and were he given the chance at the whole government could cut down expenses by many thousands of dollars. Senator Hughes of New Jersey in a recent speech called attention to an ancient hansom cab which is enabled to exist from year to year in Washington because the driver literally carries two aged clerks from their homes to the pension office and back again each day. Oregon is not the only state which is saddled with useless expense in its government. The wave for reform which swept across the country a few years ago created much new expense; and old, which it superceded, still sticks to the pay roll. We are about due for another wave, this time in the way of efficiency. At the same time, as our government becomes more complicated and has a wider scope in usefulness, it is bound to become more expensive. We can not return to the old simple ways of our fathers, but we can see that we, in our public service, get the value of our dollars.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed executor of the estate of Franklin S. Powell, deceased, by the county court of the state of Oregon for Polk County and has qualified as such executor.

All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby notified to present the same duly verified, together with proper vouchers therefor, to the undersigned executor at his residence, or at the First National Bank in Monmouth, in said County and State, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated and first published January 19, 1917.

IRA C. POWELL,
Executor of the estate of
Franklin S. Powell deceased
B. F. Swope, Attorney.

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