

The Herald

RICHARD B. SWENSON
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MONMOUTH, OREGON

FRIDAY, MAR. 2, 1917.



Monmouth Meditations

Now would be a good time to make plans for a cleaner and more beautiful Monmouth.

As a sure sign that Spring is about to put in an appearance, the horse-radish man has started on his rounds.

Since the prospect of business arose nearer home you haven't heard of Col. Roosevelt planning to go to the Fiji islands for excitement.

The illiterates who are closed out of the United States in the new immigration bill can still go to Canada, Australia, South Africa or South America.

While eastern Oregon with its wheat crop had its inning during the past season, western Oregon, with potatoes and onions, is taking its turn at filling the strong boxes at the banks.

Kaiser Wilhelm is apparently bringing about a union of the world to enforce peace, but his is a strange way to go about it. It is hardly likely that his service in behalf of peace will bring him any Nobel prizes.

One man, speculating on what the snow fall was of benefit to said he would give it up. He couldn't think of any useful purpose that it served. Well, for a time at least, it covered from sight some of our unsightly rubbish, tin cans, etc.

It is with considerable relief we note the fact that our esteemed friend, the editor of the Independence Monitor, has hauled in his flag and declared for peace. Since our break with Germany occurred he has been waving the grand old banner and demanding gore, but now, with reflection and the calming influence of time, he is more inclined to be peaceful and we rejoice to see it.

Any one who will read over Von Bethmann-Hollweg's recent address might draw the inference that Germany is strong for the "freedom of the seas." We know that God is on both sides in the European war and that all are equally anxious to advance the cause of humanity and democracy and a few other things according to the announcements made from time to time and now that we are assured that all are for the freedom of the seas we need not worry a great deal as to the outcome.

We hear a great deal now about our lack of preparedness and how helpless we must be when attacked by armed and prepared enemies. It seems to us we are in a fairly good state of preparedness. A great deal of the arms and equipment of fighting Europe is being manufactured here. Vast plants for this purpose have been erected. Our shipyards are busy, our woolen mills humming, our motor car works in action at top speed. In a very short time we could clothe, feed, equip and arm an army. The

truth is we never were as well prepared to go into the war business as we are right now.

Apparently the measure to bond Oregon for good roads will not pass at the special election without a good, stiff fight. Its opponents say that the route of the improved highways was laid out to catch votes; that it is longer than the money allowed will cover. Also that the special election is hurried in order that certain companies may command the bidding before their patents on paving composition expire. In behalf of an early election it may be said that waiting for the regular election would make us put up with poor roads for two more years. Also that the work can be better and more economically done all at once than a bit at a time. And there you have it.

Some time when we get far enough away from it to see the thing in perspective the sporadic outbursts of patriotism to which we have been treated during the past few years will seem positively funny. We appear to take patriotism as some people do religion, as something to be put on or taken off as they would a garment. In certain sections of the country the masses of people are backsliders the greater portion of the time, except on stated occasions when under the influence of concerted attention they become as filled with piety as previously they were filled with the lack of it. Three times during the past three years we have had revivals of patriotism. Under the pressure of delicate foreign situations we have endeavored to raise ourselves to a fervor of patriotic emotion. It is all very well for persons who like to "feel" their thoughts, but calm, clear headed thinking is the safety of our country.

We suggest that at the next meeting of the Commercial club resolutions be adopted thanking Polk county's three representatives in the state capital for their good work in the recent session in behalf of Monmouth. Not only did they put through a special law for this city but their influence was great and they worked hard for the appropriation which the Normal is to receive. The Normal is the big institution of the county and its interests occupied almost as much of the attention of the county legislators as the rest of the county combined. In the face of financial retrenchment they upheld the needs of the Normal and stuck to the guns until success became an accomplished fact. Representative Fuller was a hard worker and proved himself a useful man and Representative Staffrin never wavered in his support and interest in our cause. Senator Hawley, as an old member, has a wide influence and used it all in behalf of Monmouth and the Normal. Well done, gentlemen, say we. In addition, Senator Hawley has the Herald's especial thanks for the calendars of both houses which he mailed to us each day.

Although writing and public speaking are two distinct talents, Ida M. Tarbell of Standard Oil history fame, is equally proficient in both. Neither is her specialty the tearing down of existing conditions nor the exposure of flagrant wrongs. She is adept at either one of these, but, as her lecture demonstrated Monday night, she is especially strong at recommending remedial agencies that build up and strengthen one's faith in humanity. Possibly many, like the writer, went to hear Miss Tarbell expecting to hear invective and denunciation such as LaFollette is accustomed to use, and was happily disappointed. Industrial Idealism was mental exhilaration to people accustomed at this time to thinking of current events as shrouded in the sordid shadow of a world at war. Nor was it, as the title suggests, something to be dreamed of but scarcely realized. It was an optimistic picture of industrial conditions and practices as actually existing, not as the freak of benevolent minds, but as something that

pays, proving the truth of that line of Lowell, "For 'tis prosperous to be just." The memory of that address Monday night will remain in many a recollection of a latter day prophet upholding the doctrine that it is worth while to live and strive.

A matter that should escape the attention of no one is a national law recently passed by which the Federal government will financially aid vocational schools in the different states. This is the next step in this particular form of industrial evolution. Just as freight transportation changed from river boats and canals to steam roads and now promises to change to motor trucks, vocational training has changed. The old apprentice system by which a beginner was bound out as an apprentice to learn a trade, has passed out of vogue. At the time when guilds flourished, craftsmanship was at its height of standard in skill. The trades were tight corporations into which it was difficult to secure a footing, but which, once secured, meant a guarantee of acquired skill. Time has changed this to a great extent. The apprentice and the journeyman still exist but they are a small exception and by far from the general rule. Frequently the master workman is not situated to take apprentices and then it becomes a matter of expense to the latter to learn a trade. People will pay to acquire a mental education but balk at paying for a physical education, especially where it is acquired in a commercial workshop. The result has been that apprenticeship has declined and for lack of skilled teaching people have "picked up" knowledge and started work in a trade. One of the funniest stories Mark Twain ever wrote dealt with his experience with a watch which he submitted to various self-taught watch tinkers who spoke to him in the language of former advocations. He made up his mind that any one who was a failure in any trade, felt competent to turn watch maker. The decay of the apprentice system has resulted in the prevalence of careless and slipshod work in the trades, and this is especially true in America. Therefore the matter of vocational training in schools comes up with especial interest. It is the next step in industrial evolution.

Our First Cocoa.

The first newspaper notice that announced the sale of cocoa and chocolate in America read:

"Amos Trask, at his house, a little below the Bell tavern, in Danvers, makes and sells chocolate which he will warrant to be good and takes cocoa to grind. Those who may please to favor him with their custom may depend upon being well served and at a very cheap rate."

This notice appeared in the Essex Gazette of Massachusetts on the 18th of June, 1771, five years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Despite Mr. Trask's assurance that his rate was cheap, chocolate was very expensive and beyond the purse of any but the wealthy folk.

Even Loss.

At one time Kid Brown, a famous dance hall proprietor and early day character of Alaska, was approached by a gambler and requested to lend him \$10. Without saying a word the Kid punched the cash register, pulled out \$5 and handed it to the gambler.

"What?" said the latter. "Didn't I ask you for a ten spot?"

The kid shifted his chew of tobacco over to the other side of his mouth, kicked his slippers in the corner and drawled in his characteristic fashion:

"We both lose five."—Everybody's.

Names of the Days.

The names of most of the days of the week have their origin in Saxon words and Scandinavian mythology. They are as follows: Monday, the day of the moon; Tuesday, the day devoted to Tiw, the god of war; Wednesday, the day of Odin or Wodin, king of the gods; Thursday, the day of Thor, god of thunder; Friday, the day devoted to Frigg, wife of Wodin; Saturday, the day of Saturn; Sunday, the day of the worship of the sun.

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