

The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

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Monmouth
Meditations

Our threatened railroad strike has been happily settled, the railroad heads, through "patriotic" motives, having accepted the workings of the Adamson law a few hours in advance of the Supreme Court decision, which would have compelled them to. The people of the country will get no credit for "patriotism" in doing their share to help on the good work, that of footing the bill. For it is announced that as a compensatory measure the railroads are to be allowed to raise passenger and freight rates.

These are bargain days for the sportsmen for the state game warden announces that on May 21st the high cost of living will get in its work on the game license bureau and after that date it will cost \$1.50 instead of \$1.00 for the privilege of dropping a hook in the waters of the state after fish and an equal amount to aim a gun at any kind of game. Up to May 21st the old rate prevails and therefore the appeal to the bargain hunter. Practically, the above regulations means that many men in the state must pay \$1.50 for the privilege of catching a half dozen trout and in wonder, we ask—why? Why should Oregon, with its vast areas of unfenced land, charge its residents \$1.50 or \$3.00 for a single day's sport in the wild?

Editors must have detected a change in the tone of the missionary letters which come to them from the combined liquor headquarters, seeking to combat the heresy of prohibition. Formerly, stress was laid on personal liberty, and the liquor men were strong for the right of any citizen to do what he pleased with himself from blowing off his head to quaffing prussic acid. Now they are inclined to acknowledge the right of the majority to legislate for the common good but think that personal property should not be confiscated. The large plants which have been used to distill whisky and brew beer they say will become junk when their business is legislated away from them. They say the people in voting out whisky should pay for the business machinery which is made useless. Which indicates that the handwriting on the wall is becoming plain even to the liquor men. In Portland recently a large brewery has been converted into a

milk condensery and it is said to have been transformed with very little trouble. The vats and ice machinery have been found to be nicely adapted to the handling of milk.

The state highway bond issue is bound to be discussed in a greater degree from now on until the people in the remote corners get to understand the provisions of the measure. Only obstinate people will be inclined to quibble over the financial part of the problem for it has been demonstrated that the issue will not result in increased taxes. A tax already in existence will be diverted to it and the rest will be obtained from auto licenses which will themselves save the money by escaping wear and tear on tires and bearings through the improved roads. This is on the same principle as a man who has a tract of land but no horse to work it. If he waits until, with his own work, he earns money to buy the horse he loses the use of the land for that time. If he borrows money on the land to buy the horse, he has the use of the horse and the land too and accomplishes his aim with less strain on himself.

Opposition to the bond issue is apt to come from lack of faith in the men who are to apply it. It is claimed that the routes laid out are impractical, laid where they will catch the most votes and longer in distance than the amount raised will cover. If the people of the state can be convinced that the money thus raised will be spent economically and effectively, it will do a great deal to disarm opposition to the project.

Developments in the big war game across the ocean are coming thick and fast these days and it is unsafe to predict today what the morrow may bring forth. Startling and surprising incidents are every day occur-

ences and betoken a restiveness indicative of a feeling that any sort of condition would be more tolerable than the one at present endured. It may be said of the Germans that they have done a great deal to rob war of its old romantic flavor. As they have conducted it, war is demonstrated a terrible thing. It hardly seems possible that when this upheaval is over there will be any one on whom may be attached the glamour that has always attached to the names of Napoleon, Caesar or Alexander. It will be hard to gild any pedestal and mount upon it the man who directed the sinking of the Lusitania and as for the famous drives they have been successful because of the cannon and rifles and these are most discouraging things to grow sentimental over. The idea of war will be a great deal more distasteful than it was when this trouble started. Another thing for which Europe may thank the Germans is that this war is shaking and reducing its social strata. They are growing potatoes in the deer parks and golf links of old England and have called to the head of affairs a commoner, asking him to undo the mischief done to the nation by his titled predecessors. It is shaking Russia to its foundations and while it may be some time before we know the true significance of events over there it is evident that the upheaval has been great, for the Romanoffs, who have ruled since the days of Peter the Great, have been forced down and out and a new authority has arisen in their place. Germany, that entrenched domain of centralized authority, is feeling the impulse also and must feel it more strongly before the end comes. Well, it will be if this upheaval remains within bounds, for when forces are liberated that have been as firmly confined as popular rights have been in Europe, the reaction is no gentle affair.

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