

The Herald

RICHARD B. SWENSON
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MONMOUTH, OREGON

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1917.



Monmouth
Meditations

In other words, the country school patrons want more of Supervisor Moore.

When you have the moles and gophers attended to there are a few worms and bugs to begin war on.

Many an ambitious bean has seen the bright hopes of youth smitten by that inevitable late frost.

Many a man is carried out feet first because he plunged head first into something that did not concern him.

It takes a lot of personal sacrifice to become a member of the army or navy but it only takes a dollar to join the Red Cross.

It looks as if the kiting process in the cost of living has reached the crest of its highest average and everything that goes up must come down.

As for Teddy it can not be said of him that he is the sort of man who when smitten on one cheek meekly turns the other for a second slap.

The Normal graduate who has a contract for next year signed, sealed and delivered is the one who thinks June is going to be a pretty fine month.

It was a notable feast that Monmouth churchgoers enjoyed last week at the Evangelical conferences. Speaking and singing which featured it were of high grade.

The most serious fight against the road bonds has been made by people who would have favored it if they themselves could have directed the work. Not being able to rule, they would ruin.

What between road bonds, Liberty loan, selective conscripting, and other activities of war and peace, if the conscientious editor printed everything sent to him there would be no space left for anything else.

A letter, two cents shy of the proper postage is being held in the post office. It is addressed to "Aesop", Monmouth, Oregon. The communication is from Powder river and doubtless is from some gentleman who has heard of the genial man of fables for the first time and thinks Monmouth a good enough place to address him in order to extend congratulations. The weight of the letter however, suggests manuscript and it is possible that all which prevents the addition of several charming fables to the original collection is the two cents necessary to get the letter

out of the post office.

There is one way in which the blockade of Germany works in her favor; it prevents money from going out of that country. Since she must buy everything at home the money all stays at home and Germany now is exemplifying the wisdom of that trite old saw "Trade at Home". It is a sort of endless chain. The government buys of its citizens, the citizens put their money in the bank, the government borrows or confiscates it and buys again, and so it goes, the wealth, the money being indestructible and all that is lost is the actual metal used in war.

If the proposed raise in the rates of postage goes into effect it will affect every publication with a national circulation. The proposal is that the reading matter is to have first rate and the advertising matter the parcel post zone rate. This would make the postage on some of the single copies of the Saturday Evening Post ten cents instead of one cent as is now the case. Should this rate be long continued it will require a radical readjustment of the scheme of putting out this and similar publications. It would be considerably cheaper to put out a publication at close range than to give it a national circulation. This might then make it possible for the west to have periodicals of its own as these would have big advantage in the cost of circulation. On the other hand it might be possible to ship the plates to distributing centers and have the publishing done sectionally. This would not be difficult as such a publication as the Saturday Evening Post has dozens of presses printing duplicates of the same form. It must be so to turn out a million copies a week. It would require some readjusting of the organization of the publication, but such is among the possibilities of the result of the new revenue law.

The adage that every tub must stand on its own bottom is especially true in the stress of war time. When each nerve and muscle is being strained in the mighty struggle merit counts and must be recognized. We have seen abroad how the assumed classifications of society have broken down and in many ways society has had to adopt ideas that are distinctly socialistic. Governments have regulated prices and have taken over private enterprises and operated them for the general good. Selective conscription is decidedly socialistic. It selects soldiers from the period when man is physically at his best. An athlete, a ball player, a prize fighter who is thirty has reached old age. His height of physical maturity was passed some time before. We recognize that in our union the right of the individual must bow to the benefit of the whole and that no one has a right to share in the protection of our national organization unless he is willing to sacrifice for it if the occasion demands. In the same way as we take our physically best and push them forward to the battle line, we should take our financially strongest and conscript them for the financial part of the battle.

We should set aside a general day for wealth conscription. Just as we exempt the immature under twenty one and the has beens who have passed thirty, so should there be financial exemptions. Only in this case it would be simpler as experience has told us

that there is no age limit to financial possessions. A thousand dollars will draw just as steady interest for an old man as it will for a young man. The physical examination should be financial. Instead of measuring a man's blood pressure they should measure his account in the bank. Instead of counting his pulse beats they should count his stocks and bonds. Instead of examining his teeth they should examine his record of excess profits. Instead of testing his heart and lungs they should test his securities.

This, with the same broad exemptions that prevails in the physical conscription, would be the scientific way to raise the money to pay war expenses and we look to see the authorities act as soon as the suggestion is made to them.

John D.'s Tax

When John D. pays his income tax
He'll heep gold eagles into stacks
And call his teamster off the road
To shovel on a wagon load
And dump it in a heap before
The insolent collector's door.
"Count it, my jolly blade" says he,
"If you dispute my probity."
When John D. pays his income tax
Your Uncle Sam must take his axe
And hew big timbers by the score
To prop his treasury floor:
Likewise he need have iron bands
To warrant that the place withstands
The mighty pressure, don't you see
And bulging of the treasury-ee.
When John D. pays his income tax
Columbia will take some whacks
At luxury and may recruit
Her wardrobe with a Summer suit:
And Uncle Sam can give his boys
Neglected gastronomic joys;
And buy himself, Oh happy chance,
Another pair of striped pants.
When John D. pays his income tax
The earth will shine like polished
wax,
And gentle zephyrs breathe a tune
Of Winter merging into June;
While fleecy clouds reflect a haze
Of benediction on our days:
Such is the scene that only lacks
John D. to pay his income tax.

Speaking of war prices, D. C. Walker brought in this week to the Herald office a diary kept by his father in Wastenaw county, Michigan. Under date of 1862 the old gentleman makes the following record in part: "Sold 17 lbs. butter \$2.20; 2 doz. eggs 20 cts; 3 lbs. crackers and 2 coffee beans 60 cts; received for one day's work in harvesting \$1.25; paid for 1 lb. candles 20 cts; for 2bu. oats 60 cts; for 6 lbs. codfish 38 cts; for beef shank 13 cts; for 52 lbs. wool \$22; bushel potatoes in June, 50 cts; for oats in April, 50 cts per bu.; in May, 40 cts. per bu.; in August, 30 cts. per bu.; sausage 10 cts. lb; paid for a horse \$75; for a cow \$25." Which shows some variation from present prices. By the way, Mr. Walke, is a direct descendant of one of the passengers in the Mayflower which landed at Plymouth in 1619.

In connection with the road bond discussion it is noted that the state highway commission at its last meeting instructed its engineer to collect data relative to the cost of paving plants with a view of being independent of paving contractors. It is also noted that the commission has practically decided to lay a section of cement concrete on the road near Sheridan.

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