

The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1917.



Monmouth Meditations

Porterhouse steak is high but it is cheap compared with Congressional pork.

The Root which we sent over to Russia appears to have been the feeder for the ginger plant.

Cherries are reported not so large a crop as common but the flavor is up to the usual proportions.

Our Main street paving appears to have a surface excellently adapted to the cracking of jokes.

A glance at the morning headlines warrants the suspicion that the Russians and beginning to rush.

The honor of being queen of July might this year with propriety be placed with the Royal Ann.

The war is easing up the work of detectives, for any occurrence, mysterious or dreadful, can be laid to the Germans.

There is hardly a ripple visible on the surface of the political pot but we look for the same to make up for lost time when this epoch marking war is over.

It must have penetrated into the understanding of Austria-Hungary by this time that it has small glory to hope for by engaging in war.

The indications are that about all Congress will get around to do to the high cost of living problem will be to lay flowers on its grave.

It is now the fashion in South Carolina to tell of the good old days when decanters were used to hold something else than cucumber pickles and catsup.

There must be something wrong with this section of the Willamette valley for it doesn't seem to have its proper share of the Eastern potato bug.

In the matter of the war the aeroplane and the submarine now have the center of the stage and one of them is directly over it and the other directly under it.

More water is an urgent need for Monmouth and cheaper water is also eminently desirable. To get the combination is the puzzler with which the city fathers are now contending.

Chicago is threatened with woe and calamity. A whisky dealer says 2,000 saloons will go out of existence there when the supply of whisky is cut off. Parched deserts will seem damp compared

to the Windy City.

Not everybody was able to afford the trip to Portland and the expenses incident to the N. E. A. To these there is still the Dallas chautauqua with a fine program which can be attended at a moderate cost.

While this country has responded liberally to the calls for financing the war, for the Liberty Bonds and the Red Cross, have taken the conscription in good part as a necessary and proper move and are willing to accept taxation to raise money for the great struggle, it is shameful to think how our people have suffered extortion at the hands of speculators without any real action by the government to prevent it.

A teacher who makes a business of selling ideas has to go to market to get a fresh supply once in a while—so reasons Prof. E. S. Evenden. He has taught six years in Monmouth and he thinks a year of instruction is now due. Which is one reason why he has obtained a year's leave and will attend Columbia university during the coming year. The expense of the vacation will be made a little easier for him because of a research scholarship recently granted to him by the New York institution. His stalwart figure will be missed in Monmouth by many people who hope he will actually return when his doctor's degree is secured.

Over half a billion bushels more corn than in 1916 is the record which the government crop estimators find for 1917. Thirty eight million more bushels of wheat than last year, thirty three million more bushels of barley than in 1916, are some of the figures that give hope that the farmers themselves will do what the government has proved itself unable to do—to lower the cost of living. These figures also should put a crimp in the talk about starvation which has been the foundation rock upon which the food speculator has thrived. Oats will exceed last years crop by two hundred million bushels. Irish potatoes will show an increase of one fourth over the previous year. Rye, rice and sweet potatoes all show substantial increases. All of which looks well for the prospects for cheaper living.

It doesn't take long to get the soldier point of view, the place from which war looks like the conducting of a business, just as it does to the leaders in Germany. The United States is by no means immune from catching the fever. Samuel Blythe passed through China and Japan and immediately sat down to size them up from the standpoint of "man power". He figured, that in the long run, China was strong and Japan weak because of relative population, exactly as a German statesman would have figured it. A writer in a recent Collier's goes to considerable pains to prove that soldiering is a desirable occupation; that for a young man it rivals in value similar years spent in college. This writer educated himself in the army by self imposed study tasks during leisure time. He claimed that soldiers were healthier than their fellows in the business world and asserted that statistics proved it, although he did not quote any figures nor the authority. As for the debasing influence of a soldier life, he said it was nonsense; that the average dissipation of the commercial youth was greater than

the dissipation of the soldier. He asserted that old soldiers lived longer than their fellow men in commercial life, but rested the statement on his bare assertion. He said that soldiering in war never was a deadly occupation. That statistics showed that mortality was as great in civil life; that while modern warfare was more deadly in actual contact than warfare of other generations that it was more healthful to the wounded, who were saved by modern care and the average of mortality in battle in comparison to numbers engaged was no greater than in any period of warfare. These bits of evidence are interesting as showing the process by which a nation may evolve from peaceful thought to warlike action.

Eureka, California is being probed by federal officers to see what has become of various articles that were aboard the cruiser Milwaukee when she was wrecked on the beach near that city. It has been demonstrated that "souvenirs" of the wreck such as silverware, furniture, clothing and miscellaneous articles are in possession of citizens of the city, with no other explanation for possession other than that they are remembrances of the wreck to be saved for the edification of posterity. Perhaps the most startling find of all was a navy revolver in the hands of the Chief of Police of the city, who explains that it had been left in his keeping by an officer of the Milwaukee, an officer whom he can not recall by name nor even describe. It is always considered by dwellers along exposed ocean spots that wrecks are a part of their perquisites along with the crabs and rock oysters. It is said that in certain localities the children are accustomed to petition in their prayers that God will send them a nice wreck in plenty of time for the winter's need. The harvest is apt to be anything from clothing, beer or flour to a mariner's compass or live stock. Many a sack of flour has been fished out of the ocean with only a thin crust around the outside spoiled by the salt water.

Perhaps the most remunerative wreck of any that has occurred in Coos county in recent years was the Santa Clara, wrecked just inside the entrance to Coos Bay in the fall of 1915. Although the wreck was in a lonely spot, a small city of tents sprang up on the nearest shore as if by magic. For a time there was a question as to whether the wreck was a wreck or not. The owners ran a hawser from the boat to a tree on the shore, thus mooring the boat to the beach instead of to a wharf. But it had been a lean year in Coos county and the pirates as they came to be called, felt that they needed that cargo. So, some time at night when no one was looking, the rope was cut. It was a rich cargo containing everything that would supply the needs of a thriving community. There were even one or two automobiles on board. Cases of shoes, large shipments of flour and groceries and about a hundred bags of parcel post, all were dug out and distributed. When a man had hauled his spoils to the beach, he had actually to sit on it to prevent some one else from stealing it from him. One man actually tried to get the courts to make a man restore to him certain sails which he himself had taken from the wreck. Not having the usual hoisting machinery they put in explosives and blew up the decks to enable them to get at the stuff. This is among the customs of the coast and

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there is some justification for the practice for such is the red tape on insurance and the cost of salvaging that it is often found

the cheapest way out to let the stuff go, and the coast people save what would otherwise be lost.