

# The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

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## Monmouth Meditations

The sensible camper who spends his vacation with his family in the hop fields, is beginning to go by, bag and baggage.

Since the stuff they are to contain has gone romping up in the scale of prices, the lowly grain sack is also increasing in value this year. New grain sacks sell at 15 cents.

Cookies of vetch and bread of alfalfa are advocated but no one has as yet had the hardihood to suggest making angel food out of saw dust.

They are kicking against walks in Independence despite the fact that any one knows that concrete walks are not made for the purpose of kicking against but walking upon.

It appears positively that a few fines will have to be imposed upon speeders before automobilists on Main street will realize that thoroughfare is subject to the 12 mile limit.

We extend greetings to Ernest E. Southard, the new owner of the Polk County Observer, and trust his proprietorship will be long and profitable.

It sometimes pays to be a free spender. A certain ball player when drafted, asked for exemption to support his mother. But it was shown that he was a tight wad, had salted down a large part of his salary, and his plea went unheeded.

Official reports state that in 1916, 104,212,809 gallons of gasoline were made from natural gas in this country. Of course none of this was obtained from the vast amount annually allowed to go to waste in the vicinity of the national capitol.

Not every wife is anxious for her husband to escape the draft. "See that my husband passes your board" wrote a Wisconsin lady to the exemption board. "He'll probably claim exemption on account of his wife, but he is no good and does not support me. In the army they will make a man or a corpse of him."

Although it is dry on the upper surface there is not a great deal of separating space until the water bearing strata below is reached, which is one of the things that make agriculture possible in the summer time in this grand valley of Oregon.

Herbert Hoover whose name now is on all tongues, was at one time a resident of Newberg. F. L. Hobson, who has been conducting paving work in Mon-

mouth, was a printer in the office of the Newberg paper at that time and knew Hoover well.

There is a tendency among the newspapers to demand compensation for advertising the next issue of Liberty Bonds, figuring that they are as much entitled to compensation for what they have to sell as the lumber men or the woolen men or the iron and steel men or any other dealers in commodities of which the government is in need.

The versatile Ford can wade mud, swim stream, climb mountains, jump ditches, haul gang plows, run a silo outfit and transport the whole family to the beach or mountains, but it has its limitations—it can not pass another auto and make the turn at "Deadman's Curve" on the Salem road at thirty five miles an hour and remain right side up when the feat is accomplished.

An acquaintance of our younger days is with the American soldiers in France. Writing back to his parents from Liverpool, he says the voyage across the Atlantic was a speedy one but monotonous. When they had passed a given point on the route the soldiers all donned life preservers in case they, as he naively puts it "had to get out and walk".

The Oregon Voter speaks about state officers who are playing politics in handling the war situation and says "Governor Withcombe, in Oregon, towers above other Pacific Coast executives in his handling of military and industrial problems of war time." Oregon has certainly made a good showing in every call of the nation whether for men or money and the I. W. W. has had less of a foothold here than in any state. A great deal of the credit for this is due to Governor Withcombe. He is ardently patriotic and has never lost an opportunity to push the state forward in this regard.

According to Carl Ackerman in his latest contribution to the Saturday Evening Post, pigs and the resultant fats are about the scarcest of all food products in Germany and he cautions the public of this country to conserve their supply of pigs and fats that we do not fall into the same plight. Out of a spirit of curiosity, we inquire, why not fatten human beings instead of pigs with corn? If we must have fat, why not get it direct instead of taking it after the pig has absorbed and assimilated it? Corn, that original American product, which is capable of dozens of uses from the making of starch and syrup to rubber and whiskey is pre-eminently a fattening food. Every patriotic American should urge the world to consume corn and can the Kaiser.

The Commonwealth Review, issued by the University of Oregon, contains in its latest number, a lengthy and interesting article on Teachers' Institutes by E. H. Hedrick, of the Monmouth high school. Prof. Hedrick finds that the first teachers' institute of which any record remains, was held in Hartford, Conn., in 1839. Henry Barnhart was the originator of the idea and he assembled 26 young men teachers and formed a class which he taught for six weeks with the lecture and observation methods.

The name "Institute" was first applied by Supt. J. S. Denman in New York to a summer school which he held for two

weeks in 1843. "From that time on they began to spread rapidly through the northern states, due to the same causes that brought the normal schools into being in this country—an insistence on the part of educators for better trained teachers."

Many people rejoiced in the act of President Wilson when in a communication to the exemption board he gave a few needed words of advice. While he did not change the rules of exemption he asked that they be freely interpreted. The spirit of the military is no different here than it is in Germany or in any other country, and the tendency is to arrogance and a disrespect for civilians and civil institutions. Many incidents are coming to the surface indicating the tendency of the military to ride rough shod over the rights of people in civil life and up to the time the president's warning was issued the tendency of the examiner was to become stricter and stricter until the claimant for exemption might well be compared to a prisoner accused of crime under compulsion to prove his innocence in order to retain his freedom. It is a good thing for us that we still have a civil power able to call the military to account.

The farmers of Washington, Oregon and Idaho in a recent meeting in Spokane, went on record as favoring \$2.50 per bu. as the price of wheat for next year. No one really believes that wheat is actually worth \$2.00 per bushel. But it is the most convenient of all staples and there is a shortage. Therefore a high price is guaranteed to induce the planting of many more acres that the supply will be very much increased. But the wheat growers get together, resolute to the effect that wheat is worth more; that the store keepers are getting more than the farmers are and ask for a minimum of \$2.50. It is the old story of human greed, the more distasteful that it is exhibited at a time when the call is for unselfishness and sacrifice. If they had been offered a \$2.50 minimum they would doubtless have stood out for \$3. What a world this would be if each person was able to make any price he wished for his product. Trade unions give a hint of the result.

### THE PLAINSMAN.

I'M out again in the great spaces,  
Far from men and the little places;  
I'm out again where the heart faces  
The lone plains and the skies.  
I'm out with the wind no hand can saddle,  
Out and away from wants that addle,  
Out where the striding sun can straddle  
The world.

AND, oh, I'm full of scornful pities  
For dweller in streets and narrow  
cities,  
For the trade songs and trade ditties  
they chant!  
And I wish I could smite out of creation  
The lie they call their civilization—  
A lie that is but soul dissipation,  
Soul deceit and cant.

I'M out again in the great spaces,  
Far from men and the little places;  
I'm out again where the heart faces  
The lone night and the stars.  
And I wish I knew how to untether  
All pent lives to the wide world weather  
And say, "Come, come, let us ride to-  
gether away."

FOR one hour's sense of the infinite  
prairie  
Is better than all the years men bury  
In crowded walls, sad, mad or merry  
Or vain,  
And one star's light has more of heaven,  
Has more in it of the great God leaven,  
Than the seventy myriad lights and seven  
Cities beget for gain.  
—Cale Young Rice.

### THE OLD QUAKER BONNET.

OH, the quaint old Quaker bonnet,  
And the dear old heads that don it—  
How placid and serene the face within—  
What a neatness and completeness,  
A calm and restful sweetness,  
As set apart from all the taint of sin!

OH, the tender Quaker voices!  
How they cheer us and rejoice us  
With appealing music all their own,  
With a tone of gentle sadness  
Chime a note of subdued gladness,  
Triumphant o'er the sorrows they have  
known!

OH, the dear old saintly faces,  
Mirroring the Christian graces,  
In a radiance of beauty how complete!  
Let us these old faces cherish,  
And the memories they nourish,  
Ever, ever as a benediction sweet.  
—Charles Dennis.

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