

The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

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Monmouth Meditations

In brief, there is one commodity of which we do not care to increase the quantity of our exports, and that is—gold.

A brief experience with that woodland natural I. W. W., poison oak, convinces us that it is a good thing to let alone.

We note with some pleasure that Senator McNary is among the few of the upper house who believe in levying a large tax on excessive incomes.

As for Russia, disaster appears to follow disaster until we fall into the mental attitude of the old lady whose motto was "Cheer up, the worst is yet to come".

For a matter that was settled two months ago, the route from McMinnville to Dallas on the state highway is still in a very unsettled condition.

Reports on prune outlook depend upon who is doing the out-looking. Some growers say the prospects are much better than last year.

Now that everything is soaked up again, Oregonians are beginning to experience that comfortable home-like feeling and all are rapidly forgetting that there ever was any dust.

The annual report of the Independence and Monmouth railroad showing a deficit of \$800 indicates there is not such a fat picking in the railroad business as soap box orators are accustomed to point out.

Affairs in Russia are too heart rending at present to be made the subject of jokes but there appears to be a fine chance for a wheeze in the circumstance of General Korniloff being succeeded by General Klembovsky.

For the deer at this season of the year it is a case of one calamity after another. No sooner had the rains freed the forest of fires and made them more livable than the hunting season was declared on again and once more the deer is called upon to take to the tall timber.

"Affording exquisite pleasure; delightful, most sweet and grateful to the senses, especially to the taste". We quote the above with due deference as giving some sort of adequate description of the gastronomic qualities of a brand of home grown cantaloupes which E. R. Ostrom has disposed of within the past week through local groceries.

Some of the smaller wheat growers of eastern Oregon are

reported, even in this off year, to be netting from two to five thousand dollars upon their wheat. Which causes a Willamette valley farmer to remark that living in that section is worth more than that.

The city of Salem having bought one second hand paving plant and found it no good, now seriously considers buying another second hand paving plant. Possibly the experience gained in buying the first may prove valuable in buying the second, but there surely are some brave men on the Salem council.

It is believed that the young men of Oregon are too interested in these piping times of international warfare, in putting in their time at ordinary labor at at extraordinary wages to find much inducement to fit themselves for the teaching profession this fall.

The Giants and the White Sox are to contend for the world series Championship this year. While the theory of the game gives the smaller teams a right to contend for this flag and its incidental pots of money, it usually happens that the teams which get the honors are the ones representing towns where the largest attendance is possible.

While fear is expressed in some quarters that there may not be many young men as common at the Normal this winter, Miss Hoham announces that the orchestra will be as usual. Miss Hoham may be depended upon to have her usual orchestra if she has to break in the janitor to play the tuba and the faculty to fill in at vacant places with violin and ukulele.

The treason and traitor hysteria that at present possesses the country is getting beyond bounds and reminds one much of conditions in the bay colonies at about the time of the Salem witchcraft. Everybody appears to be suspected and a condition may result that will be a cause of marvel and wonderment a few years hence.

Dudley Field Malone evidently has been in politics long enough to learn a thing or two about the game. Being slated for dismissal from his job as New York collector in a few weeks he hastens to resign before he is fired and then takes a shot at the hand that would have undone him. If Mr. Montag or Mr. Burke of Oregon had had the same foresight they might at present be nursing a better satisfied feeling toward themselves.

We observe with disapproval that our old friend F. B. Tichenor of Curry did not grasp ambitions actual fruits in securing the appointment as marshal for western Oregon. He would have made a creditable officer and would at the same time have loaned a literary grace to a rather prosaic job. We doubt not that Mr. Tichenor's experience with bootleggers, moonshiners and counterfeiters would have resulted in the enrichment of Oregon literature.

The meanest thing a man can do is to go back on a friend. And the meanest thing a nation can do is to have its representatives take advantage of the privileges of friendship to work an injury to a friendly country. It is not enough to lay the blame on the Swedish minister to Argentine, for messages forwarded for the

German minister, because these messages would not have reached their destination in Berlin had they not been forwarded from the Swedish capital. This is something the government of Sweden will find pretty hard to explain.

Now that rains have put an end to the fire danger, it is reported that the actual losses from the fires will not be great. Most of the ground burned over consisted of clearings. The indications are that the great majority of the fires supposed to be incendiary were set, not by I. W. W. nor yet by German sympathizers, but by resident farmers who were anxious to speed the clearing up of their lands and considered this ahead of the danger which their course threatened to the green timber.

A publicity bureau which is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and which sends out occasional contributions to liven the mental energies and quicken the think tanks of newspaper editors on the subject of temperance, hands in an important contribution this week. The Cincinnati gents have viewed with alarm a statement attributed to W. J. Bryan that indulgence in liquids containing even a small percent of alcohol impares the nerves of the drinker and bring to bear a battery of facts upon W. J. B. in particular and prohibition fanatics in general. They assert that Lincoln was the only teetotaler president; that even Rutherford B. Hayes was a tippler; George Washington, Andrew Jackson and Grover Cleveland were whiskey drinkers and Thos. Jefferson who wrote that little document, fairly bristling with nerve, that begins "When in the course of human events", was a wine bibbler. Continuing, the gentlemen from the metropolis of Ohio say that the best place to inculcate temperance is in the home while the child is at the mother's knee, and that local option is the best way to deal with the drink evil.

But if three fingers of whiskey inspired the father of his country to lead his valiant contingents to an uphill victory, and a mixture of rock and rye braced up the hot tempered commander from Tennessee to slaughter the red coats on southern battlefields, why inculcate temperance into the rising generation at the mother's knee? And if association with the wine bottle inspired the fervid brain of the original democrat to the production of that classic document which excited the janitor to the extent that he cracked the bell, ringing an announcement of it, why provide for local option or any other obstacle to the drink habit? Let us have more of it! Let our president be authorized to take a daily bath in champagne and our senators be provided with private bartenders as well as stenographers; let a pipe line be constructed to Kentucky to supply Congress with a proper grade of whiskey and all be well! Small need to bother with statistics about crime and degeneracy and savings and thrift. If liquor leads to pre-eminence in statesmanship let us throw down the bars and all seek to be statesmen!

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