

The Herald

RICHARD B. SWENSON
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MONMOUTH, OREGON

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Monmouth Meditations

There seems no way to fight a war without close and personal and painful contact with the enemy.

The Monmouth high school appears to have an unusual amount of musical and literary talent this year.

The time is rapidly approaching when Americans will appear in European battles in some other capacity than as onlookers.

Our paving settlement has reached the interesting angle where it is up to the property owner, either to fish or cut bait.

The common rat is a rival of the submarine in the destruction of food stuffs. This destructive and dangerous pest annually destroys in the United States food to the value of \$200,000,000.

Two hundred eighty three dollars to the Y. M. C. A. fund from the high school students and faculty, numbering ninety eight all told, appears to us to be quite an achievement. Giving of that kind develops character in the giver.

Amid the rumble and carnage of war the keen ear may detect the echoes of distant hammers as in secluded spots along the by-ways the politicians are repairing old fences or building new ones. Not all of the hammering is done in driving nails either.

It might seem something of a task to find something for which to be thankful. As a rule people are inclined to look too far away for their blessings, across distant seas and in foreign lands when that which they seek is in their own door yards. Health, courage and friends are common things for which we cannot be over grateful.

Berlin, it is stated, had a heatless

October: she also has a meatless day frequently, a wheatless day ditto, a treatless time generally. But she no longer has a beatless army.

New Draft Regulations

Let every man who is registered under the selective service law, and that includes all between the ages of 21 and 30 years, inclusive, pay careful heed to the changes that have been ordered by the government in the means of selecting the men for military service.

These changes affect every man subject to the draft, without exception.

The new plan goes into effect on December 15. On Dec. 1, preparations for putting it into effect all over the United States.

At that time all exemptions or discharges from military service under the draft will automatically be canceled.

Exemptions will hereafter be based on an improved system whereby the Government will have exact knowledge of every registered man and his affairs.

The basic principle of the new system is that those men are to be taken first who have no persons dependent on them.

Under this classification come single men, married men whose wives support them, married men who have habitually failed to support their families, or whose families are independent of them for support.

Men in this class will be subject to call first. They will be listed under what will be known as Class 1.

The married men and those with persons other than wives or children immediately dependent on them for support, as well as those whose work is necessary to industries essential to the war, including agriculture, will be listed in other classes. There will be five classes in all.

The effect of classification in classes below Class 1 will be to grant a temporary discharge from the draft, for men in these classes will not be called until the class or classes above theirs have been exhausted.

But before this system can be put into effect, information must be gathered on which to make the classification of each man.

To obtain this information, and to compile it afterward, the Government has prepared books called Questionnaires.

The Questionnaires contain questions covering every phase of a man's occupation, his income, that of persons he claims to be dependent on him, his family relations, his business, his health.

Each registered man must answer one of these Questionnaires in full.

A Questionnaire will be mailed by the local board to each registered man directed to the address on his registration card or as that notice may be changed by notice of change of address filed therewith, within the next two or three weeks.

He will have seven days in which to make the required answer and return the questionnaire to the board.

Failure to answer will automatically cancel his rights to exemption and will put him in Class I.

In order fully to protect the rights of every registered man and to help him make out his questionnaire, lawyers will be at the headquarters of the board to advise and assist him without charge.

You will get your questionnaire soon. Watch for it.

Speeding Up Traffic

The "Battle of the Marne" will be fought over again this winter by the railroads of America.

Pitted against the unified skill and experience of the nation's carriers is an avalanche of traffic such as all history never saw before.

Despite the extraordinary achievements and efforts of the Railroad's War Board in cutting car shortage from 148,000 in April to about 30,000 on September 1, the increasing pressure of fall crops and government needs, has forced the figure now to 70,900.

Added to these facts there is every indication that as America proceeds with the war the strain will grow greater. Traffic of the country is increasing at the rate of fifteen per cent a month. Crops are unusually heavy, factories all over the country are clamoring for fuel and demanding twice as many cars for their output as normal conditions would mean. The strike of coal miners in the east now throws upon the roads the burden of hauling to the cities in one month all the coal which they should have been given two months to haul.

The roads at the present time are getting out of each locomotive and car approximately fifty per cent more use than they did two years ago but there is an obvious limit to human possibilities. The carrier can get no reinforcements in the way of new equipment, for practically the entire output of American locomotive and car shops is needed by the government for use abroad.

The draft has increased the difficulties which many railroads are experiencing in getting an adequate supply of labor, particularly unskilled labor for maintenance of track and roadway.

Heavier car loading, quicker release and more intelligent use of the box car equipment are the only weapons the railroads have available now to wage the great war, and victory can only be achieved if shippers load and unload promptly, load cars full, and assist loyally in every way to make one car do the work of two.

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