

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

Winter appears to bring no let up in the succession of heavy blows which the national contestants are dealing one another in the European arena. In the previous years of the war, the coming of winter and snow has signalled a cessation of hostilities as the contestants sheltered themselves from the elements and prepared for the coming of spring and summer. Nothing of the sort now. The Germans appear to be animated to the strength of desperation. Their actions speak plainer than words: "If we are going to succeed, we must strike and strike effectively now". Just as Napoleon struck at Wellington's troops at Waterloo, seeking to overcome them before Blucher arrived, now the Germans are seeking to overcome the Allies before the arrival of the Yankees. Hard and steady fighting has been the rule in France and Italy and more and still more may be expected in the near future. The forces of the Allies have held their enemies steadily so far and have even gained on them on the western border. There appears no reason why they should not continue to hold their own. This being the case, why are not the prospects for peace by spring, good? Despite incidental deflections of aim that may have arisen, this is a war for gain. Additional territory, additional commerce, prestige, wealth, these are the ideals that actuate the central powers. This being the case, when the bolt has been shot and the target missed and this is so apparent that all can see it, why not the result be

peace. Up to now the Germans have had a fighting chance. When they realize the chance is lost, the fact that their aims are mercenary will act to stop them from spending more money on a lost cause.

When the reality of war taxes begins to pinch there are those who can secure consolation in comparison. The civil war cost three billions, a mere trifle when the cost of the European war is considered but it took a great deal of persistence and all sorts of schemes to raise that sum. One of the schemes resorted to was a tax on slaughtered animals. W. H. Steinburg brings in this week a receipt dated Nov. 2nd, 1864. Steinberg, Sr. was at that time backing a local butcher at Crete, Illinois, and for the month of September a tax of \$3.20 was charged them for slaughtered animals. According to the reading of the receipt, if not paid within ten days ten per cent was added and if payment was evaded a penalty of \$10 upon each head was exacted; all of which goes to show that it did not pay, at that time as well as now, to oppose the government.

Not all the dead in this war are killed in battle nor die in the military hospitals. No one who thinks is free from the mental strain which war talk and activities involve, and without a doubt, old people, or people physically weak find the load too much for them and succumb sooner than they would otherwise have done.

Logically, as a democracy, when we get ready to declare war upon Austria the demand should be initiated by the people, with a thorough discussion of a step of such grave importance, or as an alternative Congress should originate and carry out the matter. Instead, the decision, which is a practical declaration, comes from the president, and so careful is he lest the people find out what he is about to do, that the matter is kept from the press until the last moment while the press agencies of foreign countries were served in advance. Without a doubt this step is a military decision, duly considered and passed upon, even to the secrecy, which would have value as a military precaution, but it certainly does play hob with logic.

In these swiftly changing times it is a good thing occasion-

ally to go back and read some of the stuff that has survived and seasoned for a few months. Here are a few remarks Elbert Hubbard made a short time before he met his death on the Lusitania:

"If any one asks, Who lifted the lid off hell? let the truthful answer be: William Hohenzollern.

'Bill Kaiser' has a withered hand and a running ear. Also, he has a shrunken soul, and a mind that reeks with egomania.

He is a mastoid degenerate of a noble grandmother. In degree he has her power, but not her love. He has her persistence, but not her prescience.

He is swollen, like a drowned puppy, with a pride that stinks.

"He never wrote a letter nor a message wherein he did not speak of God as if the Creator were waiting to see him in the lobby. 'God is with us'—'God is destroying our enemies'—'I am praying our God to be with you'—'I am accountable only to my conscience and to God.' This belief that the maker of the universe takes a special interest in him marks the man as a meglomaniac, and the idea that the nations were 'laying for him' is the true symptom of paranoia.

"In Germany all the progress of the last 43 years lies in a jumbled, tumbled mass of fears and tears in the dust and dirt of the gladiatorial arena. All the wealth gained in that 43 years is already lost, dissolved in a mulch of festering human flesh.

"Caligula, that royal pagan pervert, was kind compared with the kaiser. Nero, the fiddling fiend, with his carelessness in the use of fire, never burned property in all his pestilential career worth one-half that destroyed when the kaiser's troops applied the torch to storied Louvain.

"What has been done may be done again. The 'Thirty Years' War' reduced Germany to cannibalism. The old and crippled were knocked on the head and eaten.

"Our hearts are with Germany—the Germany of invention, science, music, education, skill—but not with the war lord. The emperor does not represent the true Germany. He symbolizes the lust of power, the thirst for blood. The crazy kaiser will not win. The wisdom of the world backs the allies, and Saint Helena waits. It must be so."

And here is an extract from the Zeitung of Frankfort, Germany of nearly two years ago:

"With the fall of England, however, Russia and France will automatically collapse like the organs of a body whose heart has been bored through. Then also America will remain isolated and must for her part accept any conditions which we impose, because in the peace treaties with our European foes we can, among other things, also demand the handing over of all large battle-ships and submarines, whereby our fleet would become seven times the American navy. Then America would be simultaneously compelled to surrender, and as a matter of course would be compelled not only to give up all the interned German liners, but also to pay all war expenditures of the Germanic powers and their allies."

It appears that sugar factories do not always stay built when located and constructed. The factory at Grant's Pass is being taken to pieces and will be shipped to a city in Washington. The factory located through the local enterprise of Grant's Pass has never been near the center of sugar production.

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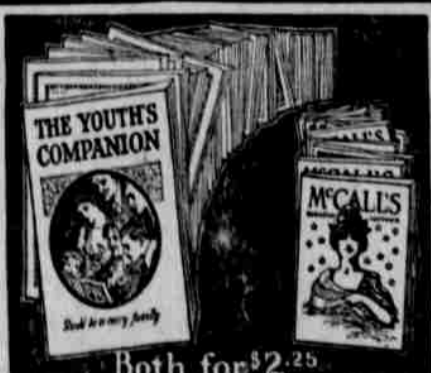
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