

# The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 1917



## Monmouth Meditations

Oregon's soldiers have arrived safely on European soil—such are the stirring words that form an announcement of the week. They are now closer to the goal which the long work of preparation has fitted them to achieve. They are subject to the commands of superiors who are human, who have the same jealousies, prejudices and weaknesses which are common to mankind. There will be mistakes and blunders. These things are common to all wars. They always have happened and doubtless always will. But there will also be the opportunities to perform such feats as have given heroes name and fame and we can not doubt that when the medals are passed around the Polk county boys will be there to get a proper share.

Next week is the time of New Years' Resolutions and if you find it difficult to decide on something appropriate to the occasion, doubtless there are some you adopted last year, that were not used enough to show wear to any appreciable extent, that with a little brushing up, will do as well as ever.

The Community Christmas Tree is apt to make itself into an institution. Located on the height of land its colored lights were conspicuous during the week they were lighted from all parts of the city.

National prohibition, that is the signboard which stands at the corner of the road where Congress turned last week. Both houses agreed to adopt a prohibition amendment, the same being contingent on the adoption by states within seven years. The limitation may be the undoing of the amendment, as there is no limit in the constitution. According to the constitution, when an amendment is placed before the states, it is always a live question until it is adopted. A state which votes against it may reconsider and vote for it, and when the proper number of states have ratified, the amendment is in force. The adoption of the amendment may depend on the duration of the war. If the war lasts two years, the amendment may be adopted within that time for the war spirit awakens the public conscience and puts the people in an heroic mood. On the other hand, if the war ends speedily, the amendment is apt to be lost in the relaxation that will follow the coming of peace.

Our friend, Wm. Hohenzollern, appears to be considerably more inclined to peace than he was four years ago. He appears to be working the peace racket for all there is in it. Yet there are some people who believe that if he could get peace with the rest of Europe, he

would come right over here and start new torrents of blood and misery. May be, but we incline to the opinion that this thing, once stopped, it will take considerable prodding to get our Teutonic neighbors into the ring again. The national conceit has been lowered considerably in the last few bloody years.

Strikes and rumors of strikes is the tune to which the new year is ushered in. The union idea is a fine thing in theory but one whose benefits for the general public are not always conspicuous, when put into practice. Unionism, which arose in a desire to protect separated individuals from wrongs which they have suffered as a body, too often result in the constituting of the union into a veritable Frankenstein whose motto is "The world for ourselves and the public be damned".

Old timers in Independence have learned that the basement is a poor place to store a trunk, or wood and the new comer soon learns.

Postmasters, it is announced, will not have a raise in salary while the war lasts. Still we do not look for any stampede of resignations in this branch of Uncle Sam's service.

Well, Monmouth will at least greet the new year with a clean Main street.

J. R. N. Bell, well known to many Monmouth people, who has distinction as having held the office of state chaplain of Oregon Free Mason sronger than any member of that fraternity in any state in the Union has heldt office, and with ho is also noted as the only living ex-Confederate private, received a write up in last week's Telegram that re-states a number of interesting facts in connection with his life. Mr. Bell is authority for the statement that while colonels and captains and sergeants and majors in the Confederate service are comparatively common, the private is never met with and here is where he claims distinction.

Mr. Bell, who is of German Lutheran origin was born in Virginia in 1846. He was attending a Lutheran school at Wytheville, Va., when the war broke out, and there enlisted in 1865, when a veteran of 19. He re-entered school and studied for the ministry, moving to Arkansas in 1870. In 1871 he began to preach in the M. E. Church, South. While in Arkansas he joined the Free Masons.

Oregon seemed to promise something for him and in 1874 he came to this state. He earned his first money in Oregon digging a ditch. He cut cordwood and worked in the harvest fields. In the fall he attended a camp meeting at Rickreall and was given his first church at Ashland.

Shortly after he switched over to the Presbyterians, went to Roseburg and purchased the Roseburg Review. He started the Compendium which was the fore runner of the Oregon Teacher. While preaching and running a newspaper and a magazine he found time hanging heavy on his hands so he branched out at Independence, bought the West Side and also bought the Monmouth Democrat which ran for a while in a journalistic "free-for-all" and then consolidated it with the "West Side".

He deserted newspaper publishing for a state job; but not preaching. He still continued to fill pulpits when he opportunity offered. His job was clerk of the state railroad commission, appointed by Governor Penoyer. Following this he preached for several years at Baker City, later returned to Corvallis he preached until he retired from active work.

Several years ago he made a tour of the world with a number of fellow Masons, and visited the holy land. He claims to have married a thousand couples during his career in the ministry.

Weavers laid off by carpet factories because the war has caused a sharp decline in the purchase of floor coverings are demanded by woolen and cotton duck factories because war orders have so increased their businesses. Factories making gears and other articles for pleasure automobiles are laying off help, while makers of trucks and service cars are calling for more help.

Other industries suffering losses in commercial business which result in freeing a large part of their working forces for war purposes are manufacturers of fine gloves, fancy sweaters brooms and brushes, typewriters and high grade wood-work.

Just what is community cooperation anyhow? Who does it benefit? How does it help the individual?

Let us see. Any community whose residents band together and through the strength of their combined effort accomplish things from which all are benefited is practicing community co-operation. If this community spirit—this working of each for the good of all—is continued harmoniously the result in the long run is bound to be good for all.

Villages, towns and communities are rated as "live" or "dead" according to the rate of development they show. One man or one family can not make a community progressive. It takes a majority. You can not take the attitude of indifference if you wish to see your home town classed as a live town. The harder you and all your neighbors fight for progress the surer you are to reap the good yhat progressive team-work brings. A good, wide-awake town is a sure sign of public-spirited, wide-awake citizens living in it and about it.

The spirit of "let well enough alone" never accomplished anything. The spirit of "lets make things better" is a sovereign remedy against retrogression.

One way of bettering your home town is open always and to all. This is it: Keep your trade as nearly as may be in your own town. As we have pointed out before, a good portion of every dollar spent in your local stores helps in the support and development of your own neighborhood. Increased local business makes possible more public conveniences, more educational, religious and social advantages, and, as a national consequence, increases individual opportunity and wealth.

No postmaster's pay will be increased during the war, according to an order by the postmaster general.

The retail price of milk in England has been advanced from 14 to 16 cts. a quart. The sale and use of cream has been prohibited, except for invalids, infants, and for butter making.

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Monmouth

Oregon



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