

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

At Pleasant Valley in New York state last week it was 20 below while in Death Valley, Calif., it was 92 sizzling in the shade.

As yet no one has arisen to suggest that the extreme cold weather which the east has been catching this winter was caused by the recent draft.

A woman snow shoveler in New York city quit before she would allow herself to be photographed. Perhaps her shovel wasn't on straight.

There are too many people who only see that which is directly in front of their noses.

George Bernard Shaw, in a recent discussion of the Irish question, described himself as a privileged lunatic. Possibly we had better let it rest at that.

President Wilson is sending his cast off clothing to the Belgians but it is surmised that a number of poor deserving politicians have an eye on the pair of shoes he will discard in 1920.

It was inevitable! The proposal now comes that the government keep control of the railroads, and the larger the sums of money the government puts into the operation and development of railroad property the stronger will the cry become.

Recently the Dallas Observer has changed to a weekly from a semi-weekly while the Benton County Courier has changed from a weekly to a semi-weekly, thus maintaining the balance in our list of exchanges.

When the government took hold of the railroads it was announced that one of the first things to be done would be the raising of wages of certain employees. Not a few employees of the postal department, notably, railway mail clerks and rural route carriers, are doubtless wishing that while the government is in the wage raising business, it will not overlook them.

Prof. M. S. Pittman arises to announce that he has not announced his candidacy for the U. S. senatorship at the hands of the people of Oregon. Just the same he has a wide circle of friends scattered through the length and breadth of the state who will give the idea a boost every time it comes within reach. The rural school never had many active friends at court and if it could manage to get Mr. Pittman to the front would have a real champion. People who know Mr. Pittman, know that he has capacity for excellent public service.

Consider the councilman! His neighbors delight to do him honor and throw any old thing at him that comes handy. He is the bell weather who leads the flock into the sunlight pasture in the early morning while the lark sings and the mule lits up its hoarse voice in lamentation. He is a peach whom his neighbors all mistake for a lemon. His shoulders are broad and he is a handy man to blame. When there is a break in the sidewalk, or the roof of the woodshed leaks, or the baby has the croup or the bread fails to raise, blame it to the councilman; he is used to it and that is what he draws a fancy salary for.

If reports are to be believed, the war is proving a good friend to Portland. The big ship yards are working in three shifts, the streets of the city are crowded with people and prosperity is there in full force. What aggravates local visitors most is the alleged fact that the cost of living is lower there than it is at home. People from all of the valley towns are flocking to the ship building towns. North Bend and Marshfield are booming and Astoria, we are told, doubles in population every few days. The lumber business is strong wherever production is carried on, prosperity reigns. These things argue well for business in Western Oregon for some time to come.

People who believe that peace is possible in the near future will receive much encouragement from the address which President Wilson delivered to the House and Senate Tuesday. The one thing that has stood in the way of prospects for peace was the announced determination to achieve it only after the Kaiser had been dethroned. In the list of fourteen conditions which the president named as essential to peace, the enforced alteration of the German form of government was conspicuously absent. On the contrary his language was exceptionally conciliatory to the Germans, one of the conditions being the unhampered privilege of trade to all the parties entering into the peace compact which of course would include the central powers as well as their enemies. More than this they cannot ask. The fourteen conditions which the president names are eminently fair, and if the Germans are willing as they have indicated to make the best of a bad mess, they now have the opportunity. If they do not act they will prove to the rest of the world that there is truth in the assertion that they are out for additional territory, if not for world domination.

During the year of the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, in 1893, the United States government planted in Lake Michigan spawn of the steelhead salmon (*Salmo gairdneri*) and the Chinook, or King salmon (*Ancarkunchus tshawytscha*) or quinnat. Then they were forgotten.

Some eight years ago Charles Leapp, while seining for herring off the lighthouse at Evanston, Ill., saw a fish jump out of the water. He saw that it was not a whitefish, nor a lake trout, and he felt sure it was a salmon but was not absolutely certain, so he related the occurrence to a friend who had fished on the Columbia River, who told him he had seen salmon in the lake. Later fishermen off the shore caught salmon in their gill nets (set for herring, perch and whitefish). Today it has become quite an industry with Mr. Leapp and others.

The salmon is a great fighter, and plays havoc with nets set for other fish, so that heavier twine must be

used in those designed to hold him. They begin to run in the spring as soon as the ice breaks up and continue for about six weeks, or until the water gets warm, when they disappear entirely until the next spring. It seems that while the southwest wind blows there is good fishing, as the water keeps cold. When running, they swim near the surface and are always caught in the upper meshes of the net.

On the east shore of the lake, in the cold waters that empty into it, they are said to crowd so densely that farmers spear them with pitch forks. And the "Pentwater" is especially plentiful with them. They are becoming each year more abundant, and are now caught weighing from one and a half to ten and a half pounds. The steelheads are the most common off Evanston; the Chinook salmon is quite rare, and only a few are caught during the season. It is held that these species of salmon must get to the ocean, but it is a problem to know how they can do so from Lake Michigan, and it is possible that in their life history the lake may serve them instead of the ocean, cold water streams furnishing the spawning grounds—for it is observed they are not found in the warm streams.

The meat of these fish is pink while in the Pacific waters it is red, at this season of the year, (spring). Later in the year it changes to pink and white and sometimes the flesh of a given fish will be red, pink and white. The Lake Michigan salmon are of a beautiful steel gray color, and much resemble the gamey bluefish of the Atlantic.

It is too early in the record of the salmon fishing in Lake Michigan to know much about this fish, but it will before long attract the serious attention of ichthyologists. There is no record as yet of a fish having been caught with hook and line, but there is no reason why they should not in time be added to the list of game fish of the Great Lakes.—Oregon Sportsman.

London's Crystal Palace.

Crystal palace was originally built in Hyde park for the great exhibition of 1851, being afterward removed to its present site and re-erected. At the first state opening of the palace by Queen Victoria it was urged that the usual artillery salute should not be fired, the reason given being that the concussion would shiver the glass roof and the company assembled below, including her majesty, would be cut into mincemeat. Dire were the predictions of the scaremongers when the design for the palace was made public. The first gale, they said, would inevitably wreck it, while the heat engendered by the sun pouring its rays upon the domed glass roof would be so terrific that no human being could withstand it. Consequently if they escaped an avalanche of glass they would be roasted to death inside the case.

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