

The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 1918



Monmouth Meditations

It looks as though Independence had beaten Monmouth to the condenser reality.

Last spring when the educative commission came in a car to Monmouth to teach people how to grow garden stuff and raise chickens, they prophesied that because of the high price of feed, people would sell their hens and that eggs would be a dollar a dozen this winter. As prophets they appear to have missed the mark.

Snow storms and zero weather, trains blockaded, no mail for two or three days, travelers taking to the fields to avoid the drifted roads, going six miles to travel two, people getting lost along familiar pathways, suddenly transformed into strange places, shoveling through drifts man high;—after all what are a few drops of rain?

Paper is coming down. Of course print paper is twice as high even now as it was a few years ago, but it is dropping a quarter of a cent a pound at a time, and for each drop the printer rejoices. The buccaniers who have had control of paper making are now facing a double accounting. In the first place there is the excess profits tax which renders little encouragement to gouging when the booty will have to be handed over in taxes and the second is the prospect of legislation ahead. The paper trust constituted a compact little band of pirates all right but it appears headed for an accounting of the deeds done in the body.

We have not yet got to the point when it is safe to treat Lincoln as the semi-mythical heroes of old and make idealized representations of him. When Barnard made his much discussed statue of Lincoln he is alleged to have discarded all photographs and current reproductions, the death mask, etc., and to have gone out into the hills of Kentucky and selected a man for his model; a man who in the sculptor's eyes typified Lincoln as he thought he should have been to fit the niche he has fitted into in the nation's thought. If he had sought "The Man with the Hoe" or "A Man of Sorrows" or "The Prodigal" or "Human Woe, Personified" the statue might have made a hit. But as Lincoln! His relatives and friends who knew him say it does not resemble him at all and will have none of it. Barnard tried to Walt Whitmanize Lincoln and appears to have overdone it a little. Considerable stir has been created because a certain committee selected Barnard's statue to present to England. Now an effort is being made to have the choice recalled and St. Gauden's Lincoln park, Chicago, statue substituted.

But few of the questionnaires in Polk county have failed of a return. When any one in this section fails to perform his duty it usually comes from lack of information and understanding rather than from lack of inclination.

It seems like criticising a work of art to find fault with our winter weather but people say it is too warm and coaxes vegetation beyond the condition which should characterize it in the regular course of things.

Reports from Germany are that the President's message with its fourteen conditions has been freely printed in German papers without censoring or altering in any manner, which is in sharp contrast to the method of handling, over there, accorded to some of the President's previous efforts. The reason for this of course is the decidedly different tone toward the rulers of Germany in the last document. The latter now realize that there is a prospect for peace and they place the terms freely before their people as an educational measure. It need not surprise anyone if a reciprocating definite step toward a world peace is taken by the leaders of the central powers in the near future.

It is rare that a speaker gets into as close mental contact with his audience as did the lecturer, Dr. Russell Conwell with the audience which greeted him in the Normal Chapel last Saturday night. His manifest age, his description of the hardships of the week, buffeting eastern storms in order to make his speaking date, in which he went for six nights without sleeping in a bed, gave him the sympathy of the audience which as he warmed to his subject turned to wrapped attention. At times he seemed like a magician weaving a spell with words and the interest was so close that the listeners hesitated to give perfunctory applause for fear it would interrupt the connection of the fabric. Several times the speaker thought to conclude and once announced the end, but without any spoken words the desire of the audience to hear more was so intensely evident, that he forgot his weariness and continued. His story of Lincoln was a classic and to hear it was a privilege long to be treasured in the memory. Like a link between widely separated years, his dramatic recital carried the listeners back half a century to the scenes of those stirring times.

That grand old annual, the Polk County Fair, is once more completely officered and headed toward the time when the "frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder in the shock."

In the course of a remarkable article in the North American Review, Col. Geo. Harvey urges the taking advantage of Theodore Roosevelt's strong energy and the prestige of his great name in the war in which we are engaged. In the war where the best energies of all, irrespective of party or personal prejudices, are urged to cooperate, the reputation of Roosevelt, who made the Panama canal a reality instead of a dream and who was awarded the Nobel prize for his work in securing peace between Japan and Russia, could be put to effective use. Col. Harvey suggests that he be asked to head a commission to Japan to secure better cooperation of that country in the great war; or that he be sent on a similar mission to South America, to Brazil, to Argentine and Chile. The suggestions coming from so independent a thinker as Col. Harvey are worthy of thoro consideration.

Items of Interest

Dr. V. S. Staats of Dallas was elected president of the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Medical society at the annual meeting held in Salem last week. Dr. O. D. Butler of Independence was elected one of the counsellors of the society.

The Independence Creamery Company has been incorporated with a capital of stock \$75,000. The principal stockholders are K. C. Eldridge, Jr. and B. F. Rockwell. It is quite likely that this means a condenser for Independence.

General Gibson W. R. C. of Independence installed officers January 5th as follows: President, Bessie Grover; S. V. P., Marie Graves; J. V. P., Lavina Nicholson; Secy., Eliza Ewing; Treas., Loma Ewing; Cond., Lydia Howard; Guard, Rebecca Dick; Chaplain, Mary Bingaman.

Mrs. D. Coleman, who was born in Yamhill county 64 years ago, died in Idaho, January 1st. Her maiden name was Martha A. Sargent and her father owned land which afterwards became a part of the Grand Ronde reservation.

The total amount of alcohol permits issued in Polk County for the year 1917, are as follows, to-wit: Druggists, 201.5 gallons; Physicians, 6.5 gallons; Hospitals, 15 gallons; this amount was used by 7 drug stores, 11 physicians and 2 hospitals. In addition to the alcohol used, permit was issued for 10 gallons of wine for sacramental purposes.

Mrs. Emily E. Bascue, wife of Chas. Bascue, a G. A. R. man of Independence died last week Monday. She is survived also by two sons, one in Missouri and the other in Idaho.

A suit for divorce has been filed in the circuit court, David E. Fletcher against Myrtle P. Fletcher, both people being from Independence.

Wm. Carter of Independence died Jan. 7th. He leaves a wife and several children.

Francis Brown has deserted Independence for Portland expecting to find work in the ship yards.

Adolf Wolf died in Silverton Jan. 5th. He was formerly a merchant and hop grower of Independence.

Earl Brunk of Eola has signed up to teach at Glide, near Roseburg, during the coming year.

H. L. Fitchard sold his machine shop equipment recently to an Albany party, leaving Independence with but one machine shop.

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