

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

"Not all these deprivations are hardships" so the small boy soliloquizes when he hears that castor oil is too expensive to be used for medicinal purposes.

Thirteen is an especially unlucky number when it is found on the thermometer, south of zero.

Not all the bunkers are on the war ships. Some of them occupy swivel chairs in Washington.

In referring to Secy. McAdoo's official titles you might abbreviate it to secretary of war, etc., with special emphasis on the etc.

If Washington investigators get a little spare time they might devote a portion of it to the packers' trust and to Senator Jimmy Wadsworth of New York.

Senator Chamberlain says the death of hundreds and thousands in the training camps is due to inefficiency and Secretary Baker admits frankly that the department has made mistakes but aims to improve. This is like the story of the boy with the bull dog which grabbed hold of the old man's leg. "Bear it, father, bear it," says the boy, "it will be the making of the pup." Profiting by his mistakes may make an efficient official of Mr. Baker in time but it is rather tough on the rest of the country.

In the meantime a number of overworked railroad lobbyists are getting a vacation.

Reading of the accomplishments of the bolshevik in Russia does not furnish much of an inspiration for putting the I. W. W. in power in this country.

By way of welcoming B. F. Swope back to Polk county, busy bodies immediately begin to scheme to induce him to run for office. And he would make a good official at that. Industrious, conscientious, patient, reliable, Polk county could give him no better welcome back into our midst.

If President Wilson's statement of aims in the war with its fourteen conditions has not brought direct results it surely has helped to that end in Austria and Germany. Reports that filter through indicate that in both nations there is unrest and something of a decided nature is apt to come out at any time.

Liberty bread is a diet the stomach sufferer used to receive as a penalty for high living. Possibly the national stomach, having fed richly and luxuriously since the days of McKinley, will now be positively benefited by a little rigorous disciplining.

A most notable effect of the war

is the leveling of the barriers of society. The shams and pretense of class are never more openly exposed than when placed face to face with sacrifice and hardships. When it comes to living on rations and handling a bayonet, a stout peasant requires more consideration than a king. The war has leveled class distinctions in many ways. Parks have been plowed up for wheat fields and the gentry have undertaken physical service for the common good. All of the governments of the warring nations have been shifted with more or less successful effort to make the actuating powers responsive to the wishes of the majority. If the war continues it is not unlikely that the government of the United States too will be made more responsive to popular sentiment. It is not unlikely that the powers and privileges of the president which with each succeeding administration grew more pronounced and complete, and which are vastly greater than what was formerly the case, or than the constitution ever intended, will be curbed. This may not take the form of the English government which is always responsive to the majority wish, but a change of some sort or another is bound to come.

A New Song

A new patriotic song composed by S. J. Eddy of Mason, Mich.
The Flag of Our Country.
Tune: "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean."

Oh, the flag of our Country and Nation,

Floating over our people so true,
The American emblem of freedom,

Our flag of the red, white and blue.
The banner that gives us protection,

Always borne by our boys brave and true
Defending the homes of our Nation,

Our flag of the red, white and blue.

Chorus:
Our flag of the red, white and blue,
Our flag of the red, white and blue,

The American emblem of freedom,
Our flag of the red, white and blue.

The red for the blood of our soldiers,

The white for their spirits so true,

The blue for the heart of our Nation
Makes our flag of the red, white and blue.

With the Stars for all States of our Union,

And the Stripes for the Colonies true,

Representing a united Nation,
Our flag of the red, white and blue.

The flag of the very best Nation,
The flag of the bravest and true,

The flag of the greatest creation,
Our flag of the red, white and blue.

The banner that gave us our freedom,
Peace and Liberty, lasting and true;

Upholding the rights of our Nation,
Our flag of the red, white and blue.

The railroads have only themselves to thank for the loss of private ownership; this is the conclusion of Bradford Merrill, after careful study of the records, which he makes public in the article, "Railroads Themselves Prove—" in the February number of Hearst's Magazine. Public ownership has become necessary because the public has been systematically and for many years deceived and cheated out of its just dues. High finance sometimes seems too complicated to be readily understood, but Mr. Merrill brings out with a clearness which cannot be withstood the sensational story of the rise of the New York Central lines to power, and the means which were taken to get every possible concession from the state, while seeing that the public never got the

benefit of their success. The story reads like a novel of Big Business, or, with a change of details, like the depredations of the robber barons of the middle ages who held the highways and exacted toll from every one who passed. How money was borrowed from the state and never repayed, how railroads which never existed off of paper were capitalized at large figures, how surplus profits were turned into this over-capitalization, and how, after all this, the railroads have put up a cry of a need for increase in rates which would put a burden of \$400,000,000 on the nation's cost of living, is a startling revelation which the public has been sorely needing and which clearly explains the reason why the railroads have forfeited their right to the unquestioning trust of the public to whom they acknowledge no obligations. This question of government ownership is one of the most important in our present domestic affairs, and it is one which no one after reading Mr. Merrill's article in Hearst's for February, can fail to understand.

Rural Life Week

February 17th to 23rd has been designated by the Rural Department of the Oregon Normal School as "Rural Life week". There are 180 students now in attendance at the Normal School who are preparing for rural work next year and are doing their practice teaching in Mountain View, Oak Point and Elkins rural centers. "Rural Life Week" will affect these Normal students and those three communities.

The course of study is being vitalized in all of the work that is taken by material that is strictly rural. The problems in arithmetic are brought from home and bear upon whatever principles are being taught in the schools. Reading, as much as possible is based upon subject matter that deals with the interests of the county. Agriculture is not merely the reading of a text book, but the study of some particular agricultural problems. Special emphasis just now is being given to dairy census and a milk test for each district with accompanying arithmetic to prove or disprove results. The music and art are related to the farm. The games which will be taught between now and "Rural Life Week" are to be games that have sprung from the soil representing the various nationalities which relate to farming. The study of hygiene will relate particularly to rural life with application to the farm home. This work is to culminate in a two-day rural life program in each of the rural centers.

This two-day program will consist of a forty-minute session by the children and will terminate in a forty-minute session by the adults.

The Extension Division of the Agricultural College is co-operating with the Normal School to make this "Rural Life Week" a success, and through its industrial club workers, the county agent, the home demonstration agent, and others, the various problems that are uppermost in the minds of the people will be treated.

Miss Marvin, the State Librarian, a representative of the State Department of Education, and the County Superintendents of Benton and Polk Counties will co-operate to make the week a success.

If a soldier were built like a profiteer, he would lay down, say, ten per cent of his life for his country. A request for more than that would come under the head of "confiscation."

It takes all sorts of people to make a world; including of course, the woman who pays one dollar to the Red Cross and eighteen dollars for a knitting bag.

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Monmouth

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To prove that it pays to keep a highly bred laying strain of chickens, I have received orders this last week for 6 cockerels and 17 hens from Eastern Oregon and Washington. Besides 3 cockerels in Monmouth, 100 day old Leghorn chicks, future delivery, and a 50 egg incubator lot of Leghorn eggs. My fowls have been laying all winter, marketing a case and better a week thru January. Some people are complaining about their chickens not laying. If this is a fact take my advice and sell them off while the market is exceptionally high. Then this spring secure some hatching eggs from highly producing layers of the breed you like best and get a new start of A. No. 1 fowls. Do away with those old crossed up breeds that your grandmother gave you, that only lay a few eggs in the spring of the year under the most favorable conditions.

Some people scoffed at me for paying \$1.50 a setting for hatching eggs from Corvallis College three years ago, but my investment was O. K. for I secured the right kind of stock. I reared 115 nice pullets on a city lot the year I sold out my grocery business. Those pullets began laying in the fall and in eleven months they brought me in \$368.00 as a side issue to my various lines of farming. Last spring I sold from two pens of Leghorns consisting of ten hens each and two pens of Barred Rock consisting of 12 hens each, \$178.00 worth of hatching eggs and hen hatched day old chicks. Could have sold more of them had I been able to spare them. This in addition to the chicks hatched for my own use and the eggs from the general flock that were marketed at the stores. There was a general complaint last spring about the eggs from the heavier breeds not hatching well. From the best of authority it was due principally to the cold, backward spring. I guarantee all the eggs to hatch good that are secured from my pens, if they do not I will make them up to you by replacement. A great many poor hatches are the result of poor care of the sitting hens. If you will place them by themselves give them good warm, roomy nests, litter to scratch in, plenty of clean fresh water, good dusting box of ashes with plenty of louse powder sifted in same and not allow the laying hens to trample over them you will get a great deal larger percentage of chicks.

For all around utility fowls there is no doubt that the Barred Rocks are the best breed. For eggs alone I would secure the white Leghorn as they are great layers, eat less food and are fine foragers. I can furnish you hatching eggs from winter layers of both these breeds, the price is within the reach of every one. \$1 for setting of 15.

A. H. CRAVEN

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