

The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 1918



Monmouth Meditations

February is a good month in which to plan out that war garden.

Some one arises to suggest that after the war there will be a revival of piracy, through submarines which have been privately acquired and which will prey for profit on the commerce of the seas.

Song has the faculty of offering vent for pent up emotions and it is equally potent to arouse the sluggish spirit to action. We do not sing enough, so we are told and to make up the annual deficiency we are to have a week of song. Surely any one who enjoys singing or listening to singing will do well to attend the song fest which Miss Hoham will stage in the Normal chapel on Washington's birthday. The whole of Polk county is invited. There is room for all. Here is a chance for a get together assemblage that will do us all good.

Potatoes were scarce a year ago and a big crop was put in last spring; result cheap spuds. The tendency will be to let some one else plant the tubers this spring; result a smaller acreage and higher prices next winter. Better plant a few.

Peace between Germany and Russia which we have been told and retold, was impossible has apparently been successfully negotiated. The terms have not been made public although there is reason to suspect that as far as concessions go, the Russians get all they have asked for. With Germany it is a case of get the ground hog or starve and it stands to reason that if she can get the promise of what agricultural Russia can produce she could well forego any military advantage she has wrenched from that nation. Just now, the privilege of trading with the Russians and obtaining from them in return, wheat and meat, must look good to the Germans and the military leader who would stand in the way would deserve to be classed as impossibly fanatical. The only thing that will stand in the way of a harmonious acceptance of the scheme is that a sense of fairness to their partners in the world war might lead certain factions in that scattered nation to oppose the will of the faction which has agreed to the peace.

Even in war the law of supply and demand is effective. The demand for men for ship building and for war activities, is attracting men to the cities, draining the country of surplus help down to where it will be a problem to find the labor with which to put in the crops.

A patriotic address might be made without the mention of Washington, Jefferson or Jackson, and frequently is made without such reference, but a patriotic address without the mention of Lincoln, this would be

difficult to conceive of. But this intense and unanimous popularity was not always his for in the critical years of his life, to many people and to a large section of the land he fitted well into the words of Isaiah that "he was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." It was the fashion to call him a clodhopper and his secretary of war, Mr. Stanton, is said to have referred to him as a human gorilla. Even among his friends there must have been a haunting fear that he would not measure up to their expectations. His leadership was in defiance to precedent. He made no pretensions to education and was almost wholly self educated. He came from the west and the tendency then as now was to put more trust in men of the east than men of the west. He came out of pioneer life, with practically no experience in statecraft to take the presidency at a time when that task was infinitely harder than it ever was before. Since his martyred death people have been busy in discovering his depth of soul and character. His fame has been universally acclaimed as the greatest of Americans.

Like the hordes under Attila, the Germans are massing on the western front, seeking by force of numbers, before the Allies become too strongly re-enforced by Americans, to crush their way through to Paris where they hope for peace with its accompanying indemnities. There is just this difference between the Germans and their French adversaries. The latter are defending their homes and dependents while the Germans are merely out for money and power. Here is a situation where the declaration of specified and definite aims such as were given in President Wilson's fourteen conditions is of large value. The Germans are no longer fighting for their nationality and existence as a nation, which were threatened by previous utterances of the president and allied statesmen. Now it is a mere matter of spoils as opposed to the freedom of a liberty loving nation and this fact will be of great influence in the coming conflict. There is not an arm raised in resistance to the display of brute force which the invaders typify that will not be strengthened by the remembrance of such barbarities as was the sinking of the Tuscania and the Lusitania. The poison gas, the terrorism created and deliberate destruction committed in invaded countries are all now strong incentives to each defender to do his best.

Items of Interest

The department of Agriculture in co-operation with the State Labor bureau and the Agricultural College is making a crop and labor survey of the state. These statistics are of vital importance and a determined effort is being made to get full records from all counties. Polk county is first in every thing let us have a record in this farm survey.

The teachers of the county have been asked to pass out the blanks to the pupils to take to their parents and return the properly filled blanks to the teacher. All blanks will be returned to the office of the County Agent to be turned into the Department of Agriculture. We want your assistance to not only get this information but to keep "Polk County First".

Saturday Feb. 16 has been selected as Organization day for the County Agricultural Council. The meeting will be held in Dallas at 10:00 o'clock in the Court house. All members who have been appointed will kindly take notice and be on hand. This is the most important

meeting this body will ever hold. Much of the success of the County Agent work in the county depends on getting started right. At this meeting the program for work for the year will be decided upon, so come to the meeting with the problems of your community in mind. The Council will, in all probability not be called together but once a year except in extreme emergency. Don't miss this chance to do a service to your fellow man.

Here is a poem from the trenches:
"Absolute knowledge I have none,
But my aunt's washerwoman's sister's son

Heard a policeman on his beat
Say to a laborer on the street
That he had a letter just last week,
Written in the finest Greek,
From a Chinese Coolie in Timbuctoo,

Who said the niggers in Cuba knew
Of a certain man in a Texas town
Who got it straight from a circus clown,

That a man in Klondike heard the news
From a gang of South American Jews

About somebody in Borneo
Who heard a man who claimed to know

Of a swell society female rake,
Whose mother-in-law will undertake
To prove that her seventh husband's sister's niece
Has a son who has a friend

Who knows when the war is going to end."

The Polk County Sunday School convention for next year will be held in Monmouth. At the meeting held in Falls City. The convention adopted a slightly different mode of administration through the county, dividing the county into districts as follows:

Dallas—Including Falls City, Bridgeport, Rickreall, Polk Station, Salt creek, and any others included in this circle.

Independence—Including Monmouth and Buena Vista.

Elkins—Valley View, Airlie, Fairview, Suver, Lewisville, Montgomery and Pedee.

Perrydale—Ballston, Bethel, McCoy, Smithfield, Butler and Buell.
West Salem—Oak Grove, Summit, Zena and Brush College.

The following officers were unanimously elected:

County president, Frank V. Brown, Dallas.

Dallas—Merle Holman.

Independence—M. S. Pittman, Monmouth.

Elkins—E. A. Tedrow, Monmouth Route 1.

Perrydale—Carl Morrison.

West Salem—Charles A. Park, Salem, Route 1, box 24.

Secretary-treasurer—Mrs. Merton Ellis, Dallas.

Superintendent boy's work—Rev. D. A. MacKenzie, Dallas.

Elementary superintendent—Miss Carson, Monmouth, Route 1.

Superintendent girl's work—Mrs. L. L. Hewitt, Independence.

Home department superintendent—To be appointed.

Educational department—Mrs. C. A. Park, Salem, Route 1, box 24.

Letters received the past week from Dallas boys now in France state that Company L is widely scattered, the various squads being assigned to different classes of training. Some have even been sent to the front line trenches to receive training under fire. Lieut. Waldo Finn and Sergt. Joe Helgeson were at a school of special instruction at the time the letters were written. About forty men of the company were on sick leave, but none were seriously ill, measles and mumps being the prevailing malady.—Itemizer.

Howard Morlan transacted business in Portland Friday.

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