

The Herald

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MONMOUTH, OREGON

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Monmouth Meditations

While the Valley & Siletz road was a long time in building it is now making up speed to overcome the distance during the first few laps of the race. The road will be an important feature in the development of southwestern Polk county.

If in the different lines that contribute to winning the war: raising food, making munitions, building ships, etc., everyone was working in a self-sacrificing manner, there would be little trouble of strike or hindrance. But the profits that pile up in particular angles of the work, awaken the cupidity of other workers and there we have the strike germ.

It is evident that the Germans are not students of Emerson, for compensation, except for themselves, does not appear in the vocabulary of their public acts.

You may recall the scare that Boston managed to work up during the Spanish war over the question of the whereabouts of "Cervera's fleet". It was feared the fleet was about to bombard that town. Afterward the scare became a joke and wonder was expressed how such a scare could have been effective. So some of our present war fears are doubtless worse in prospect than they will be in anticipation.

Good roads arguments, just as sermons in stones and stories in running brooks, can now be obtained by taking to nature. The nearer to nature you get the greater the argument.

There is an old saying that "murder will out". We quote the following from Mr. Mickle's latest dairy and food bulletin relative to Peruna: "Distillate .9721; alcohol by volume 23.98 per cent; extract matter consisting largely of senna 3.7 percent. Quoting from the American Medical Journal: 'Only a few years ago Peruna was sold by the carload lot; where today it is sold by the case, the reason being that in 1906, the government notified the Peruna company that it must put some medicine into its booze, or take out a liquor dealer's license. The result was that a laxative was added.'"

The German psychology in war is that it is more effective to terrorize and scare people into servility than it is to appeal to their intelligence and reason. The story is told of Frederick William, the eccentric father of Frederick the Great, that he was accustomed to walk the streets of Berlin and when he met a subject whose dress did not please him or whose person, in any way showed marks of carelessness or untidiness, the king would reprove him, often taking his walking stick by way of enforcing his remarks.

It got so that when the king went abroad, the people would desert the street; and if some unlucky one chanced to come within his range of vision, the king promptly made after him. Seeing him coming the subject would take to his heels. The king would rush on, belaboring the subject upon the back, shouting that he did not want his people to run away from him, that he wanted them to love him as was becoming to his station.

To a man up a tree it would appear that the more candidates who line up for Governor Withycombe's job the better will be his own chance to retain it. Surely the governor's record in war activities should commend him to patriotic Oregonians.

The tendency during the lengthening days is for people to grow more optimistic. The whole of the year practically, is before us, the mistakes and hardships of past years are gone and now it only remains to steer our actions this year, that we may profit by experience.

The man who is not an optimist in the spring does not reap a very big crop in the fall.

As will be noticed in our advertising columns, Monmouth now has a poet located in our midst in the person of Albert Alderman. Independence, which has been inclined to tilt its nose a little proudly because of exclusive distinction may now have to share the honors a little. We suggest that the Monitor poet and our own bard be induced to enter into a tournament where the jingles may be tossed off for suitable prizes.

Visitors in the Normal chapel are bound to be impressed with the charm the new curtain adds to the appearance of the whole. The only bright color in the room its richness and graceful draping sets off the whole in a very pleasing manner.

If the ocean submarine was only as easy to get as the garden sub, and we had plenty of traps; according to the demonstrations which Agriculturist Larson puts on occasionally, the under sea pest would soon be disposed of.

The days are getting longer and the time when this section must engage in its annual battle with the forces of nature draws closer. Each rural warrior must resolve to secure a larger portion of spoils this year than ever before.

It probably will work out all right but the proposition to set the clocks ahead an hour during the summer certainly seems silly. Country people, especially, do not have to resort to a false time in order to get up and secure advantage of the full hours of daylight. The people who will enjoy the new order most will be the children, who having been accustomed to retire at eight o'clock will now be allowed to remain up until nine.

Don't overlook the temperance lecture held tonight in the Christian church. The pull this time is for a dry union. Oregon does not often follow in the wake of Kentucky, but in the present case Kentucky is ahead having already adopted the dry amendment. Let there be no slips in this state.

No one, who has had experience with other things can go into a rural school now and not note many advantages for the rustic pupil over those of a few years ago. The things that are interesting and have pleasure in them are not now kept sedulously in the background. Formerly if a pupil took delight in a

study, it was deemed that study must be frivolous. Real study consisted in doing things that were distasteful. Learning to spell words that ordinary people never meet again in the course of a humdrum career, figuring partial payments, or extracting cube root, learning the names of the bones in the toes, or memorizing the date when Cartier discovered the St. Lawrence, were distinctly the thing.

The first of March is here and winter is just about at an end. With green grass since early fall, it will be a winter which will be frequently referred to in time to come.

While figures don't lie, they are sometimes extremely deceitful. Take the price of a product, agricultural and manufactured. It is the custom to compare the price given the original producer with that which the ultimate consumer pays, and the contrast always brings out figures which appear to give an extraordinarily large proportion at the selling end. Now it is true that distribution is conducted on an unscientific, wasteful and expensive plan. But for that matter, so is production. Both could profit with the application of better system. But comparative figures do not tell the whole truth. For instance, Moran the Land Man, recently got out a list of real estate, etc., which he annually sends East, doing missionary work for the Willamette valley. In each instance where it is possible to say it, the list says "close to town" "near good school and church" "two miles from railroad" and in all cases it is evident that these facts add to the attractiveness and value of the land listed for sale. Here is a fact the farmer never thinks of taking into consideration when he sends to the catalogue house for items which he might buy in the town that supports schools and churches and helps to increase the value of his land. The dweller in the city takes the price which he has to pay for milk or cabbages or naval oranges; obtains knowledge of the price which the original producer receives and says "thieves, burglars; to take such profits." Yet it is not all profit. It is the interest on money invested; the wages for service performed. High as the price is, it is cheap to what it would cost him if he had to do all the work connected with the particular service he complains of. If he had to raise his own bread, secure his own rice, oranges, sugar, he would find the price very much increased and considering will realize that if he exercises judgment in buying he secures the service at very much less than he could do the thing for himself. So with the farmer, if he had to get his own iron, make his own machinery, dye his own wool, weave, cut and fit his clothes, secure from the original source the products which he does not raise himself, he would find that he is now getting the service at an extremely reasonable price. Every time a farmer or dweller in a small town sends to a mail order house for something which he could buy at home, he is injuring his own property. He is helping on the accumulation of money in the large centers of the country, which is making it possible for those centers to attract and increase greatly in population and which is killing the smaller centers until it is becoming difficult to retain sufficient numbers to insure competition. All this is bound to have its effect on the valuation of the farms in the countries surrounding such communities.

Having conquered the hoarseness consequent on the exercises of Friday night and taken a number of

Events at Washington have been comparatively quiet for some time past. Just at present the tide is

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vigorous exercises in chest expansion, Monmouth people at the next community sing will be better prepared for the grand work of drowning out the stentorian notes of L. P. Gilmore. When we reach that stage of acquirement, won't we raise the roof?

Prof. Pittman, who has been dreaming about the ethics of dairying, the psychology of the wool crop, the aesthetics of clover and timothy, the quintessence of egg production, is now preparing to resume interest in the ordinary affairs of life.

It is the thrifty boy who has money to invest in thrift stamps, and the amount of his possessions in this regard might be taken as a speedometer of his own thrift.

Events at Washington have been comparatively quiet for some time past. Just at present the tide is

out. It is due to come back again shortly and two of the things that will demand attention are the inability of the railroads to distribute food where demanded, and the fact that we have been deceived in regard to the impending magnitude of the submarine menace.

Benjamin Franklin invented the maxim "Always taking out of the meal sack and never putting back, soon comes to the bottom thereof." There are men in business who find the truth of this to their sorrow. The man who dips into the meal sack of public regard, and never puts anything into it in the way of boosting for public enterprises, or giving practical evidence of public spirit, soon gets to the bottom of the sack.

F. W. Treaner, former Independence hotel man, died in Eugene Feb. 16.