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Monmouth is Located in the Best Section of the Best Valley of the Best State in the Union.

NEWS NOTES OF NORMAL

"Over the Top" is the Attraction Next Week Wednesday

Miss Ida Holmes, who is to fill Mr. Ostien's place for the coming year, spent last week-end in Monmouth.

Superintendent Guest of the North Bend Schools was at the Normal this week to select teachers for the coming year. Mr. Guest talked in chapel upon the war activities which was a part of the school work last year and tentatively outlined a program for the coming year.

Mr. Guernsey, who has been assisting the Domestic Art Department at Corvallis during the summer session, spent several days this week doing demonstrating work at the Normal. The work deserves recognition and we appreciate the visit which we hope will be productive of results.

"Over the top" is a phrase familiar to all but what going "over the top" really entails, Sergeant Guy Empey was privileged to tell us in his popular novel, "Over the Top". Thousands have read the book, thousands more have crowded the lecture halls where Sergeant Empey has told of his thrilling experiences. Other thousands are crowding the leading picture theaters of the nation to see the "Fighting Sergeant" actually "go over the top". This marvel of motion picture photography which brings to life the pulsing, breathing pages of "the most widely read book of the twentieth century," will be shown at the Normal on Wednesday, July 31 at eight o'clock. Admission 20 and 30 cents.

Miss Ida Mae Smith, who is to be one of the critics for the coming year, is in Monmouth this week, the house guest of Miss Emily DeVore.

Assistant State Superintendent Carleton spent Wednesday inspecting the work of the Normal.

Miss Laura Taylor was the house guest last week-end of Mr. and Mrs. Pittman in Eugene.

NEW SOLDIERS OFF TO WAR

Fifty Two Selected Men Leave Dallas Monday for Camp

The last company of selected men which left Dallas Monday took about all the available young men in Polk county. There were fifty two of them and in the number were the following from Monmouth: John Webber, Glen Work, E. H. Hedrick, W. H. Burton and E. Hagenbush. Another Monmouth young man, Oscar Zook has received notice to report August 5. He was first rejected because of his short stature but since the minimum height has been lowered to five feet and as Oscar towers two inches above the minimum he goes with the next call. James Gentle, who was to have gone with the company Mon-

day, received a short furlough for farm work, the wheat harvest being now on. P. D. Quisenberry, who was registered in another county, left Tuesday for McMinnville, from which town he joins the colors.

Goes to Supreme Court

Notice has been received by the city's attorney in the matter that the celebrated paving case recently won by the city of Monmouth has been appealed to the supreme court. Sixty days are allowed for the filing of an appeal in a case of this sort and as the appeal was filed on the sixtieth day it is evident that the policy of deferring things as long as possible is strongly in favor with the opposition. Delay in getting through the courts will favor this as from the prospects indicated by the calendar it will be at least a year before this particular appeal is reached.

CHESEBRO MADE A COUNCILMAN

Council Fills Vacancy. Finds that Leather Belts Come High.

The fact that the scarcity of leather is reflected in its price was brought out at the meeting of the city council last Tuesday night. Recently a belt in one of the pump houses worked from place and through friction burned up. A new belt to replace it cost \$68.

This was an item in the Monmouth Hardware bill which totaled \$105.16 the balance being for fixtures for the new well house. Other bills were: J. F. Moreland, \$15, marshal salary; \$60, water supt. salary; \$15, overtime for July; and R. B. Swenson, \$10.42, collecting water rents; \$7.55 recorder fees.

The resignation of O. A. Wolverton as councilman was formally ordered placed on file. His credentials as mayor were also presented and ordered filed. The matter of choosing an alderman to succeed Mr. Wolverton was then taken up and Geo. W. Chesebro was unanimously chosen to fill the vacancy.

The city officials of Monmouth have been invited to take part in the big doings which are to commemorate the opening of the new bridge over the Willamette at Salem, said doings to take place July 30. They are under the auspices of the Salem Red Cross Chapter and the whole of the surrounding country has been invited to participate.

S. H. Hinkle now has four sons in the service of Uncle Sam, two of his younger sons having joined the navy at Bremerton last week. The two older boys, Grover and James, enlisted at the time of the Mexican scare two years ago and are both now in the thick of it in France. Grover is a corporal and James a mechanician. Of the two younger boys just enlisted, Ora is 20 and Robert 18.

Coroner Chapman recently held an inquest on a body found floating in the Willamette. It proved to be the remains of an insane patient, Albert Roemer who escaped a short time previously from the state hospital in Salem.

HARD AFTER SPRUCE TIMBER

Great War Work Now in Progress in Woods to West of us

That the spruce work in Oregon is one of the great industries of Oregon, is a fact not widely known and in this connection many people will read with interest the following from the Oregon Voter:

It's a strenuous race that's in progress along the Oregon and Washington coast. Spruce forests are the goal. Building new railroad is the task. These new lines will tap the spruce tracts this fall and over them will come the giant logs from whose white flesh will be stripped the tough, clear stock for aeroplane beams to win the war. Speed is the essential. It's the most vital race that ever was run in Oregon. The welfare of the world is at stake where soldiers labor on the grade with pick and shovel.

The railroad part of the spruce program is by itself the most ambitious transportation project ever attempted in one year in the Pacific Northwest, this empire which transportation enterprise has made celebrated for initiative and daring. It is true that there have been more miles of railroad completed within several single years in the Northwest than this one year of 1918 will see completed, but never have there been so many miles of railroad conceived, located, surveyed, cleared, graded, constructed and completed all within one season—all as part of the race for spruce.

Some of these railroads will each carry as much tonnage as is carried by a transcontinental railroad. This tonnage will be the spruce logs from the forests to the water at the sawmills.

This means that the railroads will have to be built stout enough to handle the traffic. They will have to be ballasted—simple rails on ties in the winter mud won't do. Especially under weather conditions such as prevail in the mountains of the Oregon Coast.

Think what this ballasting means alone. Take the great project centering around Yaguina Bay, for instance. It stretches from the celebrated Blodgett spruce tract on the Yahats south of Alsea Bay to the equally celebrated spruce forests in the Siletz basin to the north.

To reach these two districts there are sixty miles of railroad being built this year—37 miles of main line and 23 miles of spurs within the tracts.

To ballast the 37 miles of main line will require 4,800 carloads of gravel—about 200 trainloads of 25 cars to the train. Neither gravel, nor any rock that can be used as a substitute, can be found in the Yaguina region. It is necessary to go way over the coast mountain into the Willamette valley, near Corvallis, to get the gravel, which will have to be hauled the whole length of the railroad from Corvallis to Yaguina bay, nearly one hundred miles of curving mountain line. Quite an engineering problem in itself.

This project tributary to Yaguina bay is only one of nearly a dozen project being conducted by the

Spruce Production Division with soldier labor, through contractors on the cost-plus system. Here are some facts about this one operation:

Seven miles of railroad completed north of Toledo in two months this spring to reach one tract of spruce. Logging now in operation there—about half the logs being cut up in the revamped sawmill at Toledo and about half, the bigger logs, shipped by rail to Portland, where they are sawed in a Portland mill. The flitches or cants of aeroplane spruce cut off from the clear out-sides of the logs at both mills are sent to the government's new cut up mill at Vancouver, Wash.

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BOOST THE FUND EIGHTY DOLLARS

Miss Butler's Benefit Program Is Well Patronized by Citizens

The project to send Miss Butler to France in the Canteen Service received substantial aid in the annual "stunt" program of the summer students at the Normal last Friday night. Over eighty dollars was realized as net result of the entertainment. This entertainment is usually given without charge as a contribution of the summer school students to the gaiety of the community but this year all help in the war work.

The program was nicely conceived and carried out and had a number of excellent features. "Cheer up" was the official slogan and most of the numbers on the program tended to this praiseworthy end. The neighborhood was scoured for enough 22 repeaters to equip a platoon of girls in white and they gave a very nice drill under the heading of "Are we protected?" The program was opened and closed with the bugle call and at the close the flag was duly furled for the occasion.

Mrs. Gibson served as announcer to give explanations relative to a two act sketch called "Jeanne de Arc."

A dance by the Misses Beekman and Tobin was very nicely done and was one of the features of the evening.

The "Cycle of Life" a dance representing past, present and future was nicely executed and the solos by the Misses Marjorie Holman and Ruby Tipton were enjoyed by all.

The characteristic stunt features were the readings by Beth Perry and Mrs. Hall. Both took liberties with the names of the faculty and classmates and both made some very clever hits.

E. H. Hedrick came up from Drain, Oregon Saturday to join Polk county's contingent of selected men which left Dallas Monday. For a week previous he had been at Eugene taking in a little military work by way of preparation.

Ye editor and family enjoyed the hospitality Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman on a trip to Dallas Sunday evening to hear the concert of classical music by Thaviu's celebrated band. The concert was exceedingly good and was perhaps the climax of the week's program in Dallas.

POLK COUNTY GETS WETTING

Long Drouth Broken by Brisk Shower on Monday Evening

There have at remote intervals been distant rumblings of thunder during the summer but the peal that smote the air Monday afternoon was something approaching the genuine article. It actually struck in a tree near Salem splitting the tree and making blackened beef out of two cows that had sought shelter under its protecting branches. It sounded as if the Germans were invading Polk county. A team of horses on the streets of Monmouth heard the awe-inspiring reverberation and started to run away, but soon thought better of it. The thunderclap was the herald of a real rainstorm, the first precipitation worthy of the name to visit Monmouth in something like three months.

The rain is reported to have been general through the Willamette valley and to have done a great deal of good to late potatoes and green stuff of every kind as well as pastures on the low lands. In some cases Spring grain may have been benefitted although the moisture came too late to do much good to grain.

Wheat men are apprehensive, as the harvest is just beginning but the rock ribbed reputation of August as a dry month is their hope and prospect. The rain has done universal good.

A special from Albany states the following: That electrical storms are rare occurrences in the Willamette Valley is shown by the fear Monday's storm caused in animals. Many local people have commented on the antics of dogs, particularly while the lightning was flashing and thunder roaring. During the storm the automobile of County Commissioner Irvine was standing at Bussard station, east of this city, and a frightened canine came tearing down the road and leaped onto the back seat of the auto. There it cowered until the storm was over.

Mr. and Mrs. Boatman were up from Corvallis on business Thursday. Mr. Boatman owns the house into which Mrs. W. J. Evans has recently moved.

Messrs. T. J. Edwards and J. Palmer and families autoed Sunday to Philomath, taking a circuitous route. They report some very fine fields of Fall wheat in the vicinity of Albany and also some spring grain along the route that was very poor. In some places farmers had started to cut the grain for hay and only cut around the edges leaving the center, it being too short to cut.

Marvin Richardson is in the thickest part of the battle on the Marne, unless he was unexpectedly transferred within the past month. In a letter received from him this morning he wrote that he had been "in hell for five days, constantly exposed to gun fire and with the big shells exploding around him." As a member of the hospital corps he goes out on the battle field and helps to bring in the wounded and gives "first aid."—Ind. Post.