

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

In other words, the Japanese are more than anxious to rescue the Silerians from their troubles.

The outlook for the potato crop in Polk county is looking decidedly better.

Hindenburg may be sick but as the reports come in from the French frontier the Kaiser has occasion to feel a whole lot sicker.

Two cows took shelter under a tree from the rain. Lightning struck the tree and killed the cows. This item, dated Monday, occurred, not in Missouri, but near Salem, Oregon.

The lady agriculturist now has joined the lady lumber yard artist in practical competition with the "battalion of death" in the work of winning the war.

Monmouth's paving case bids fair to drag its weary way through another year of time.

The American army in France appears to be neither "small nor contemptible."

Vegetation is growing this week in a manner to make up for lost time.

The Germans are getting acquainted with the Yankees in France and are making the discovery that they have a taking way with them.

We observe that quite a few of our exchanges copied the "union" editorial which got the Salem Capital Journal in trouble with its employees recently, possibly less as a news item than as a chance to give expression to ideas of which they approve.

For clear, forceful and beautiful English the reader should turn to that part of Tennyson's "Idyls of the King" in which he speaks of the "lily maid of Astolat", otherwise known as the "Lady of Shalott". It is a masterpiece of expression and one that can be read frequently to the pleasure and profit of the reader.

The impulsive Ban Johnson the other day announced that he would retire the American League of base ball from the field for the present year, owing to the fact that the best of ball players were to be drafted. But circumstances soon brought him to change his opinion and now it is likely the great leagues will continue for a while with aged and juvenile talent.

Rejoicing in the triumph of American valor on the battle fields of France as they uphold the best traditions of our military annals, we must still acknowledge that the work ahead promises to be long drawn out and one that will require the utmost tenacity of courage to carry through. Our boys are finding what the Germans have discovered, that it is hard to make prog-

ress in trench warfare, and that the handling of men in such vast numbers makes far more difficult and complicated the handling of supplies necessary to successful effort.

It is a most fortunate rain that falls to the pleasure of everyone. Some stand to profit by it and some to lose. It spoils the day for some and enhances it for others. There is a lot of actual life in this selection from James Whitcomb Riley.

The rain! the rain! the rain!
It gushed from the skies and streamed

Like awful tears; and the sick man thought

How pitiful it seemed!
And he turned his face away,
And stared at the wall again,
His hopes nigh dead and his heart worn out.

O the rain! the rain! the rain!

The rain! the rain! the rain!
And the broad stream brimmed the shores;

And ever the river crept over the reeds

And the roots of the sycamores:
A corpse swirled by in a drift

Where the boat had snapt its chain—

And a hoarse-voiced mother shrieked and raved.

O the rain! the rain! the rain!

The rain! the rain! the rain!—

Pouring, with never a pause,
Over the fields and the green byways—

How beautiful it was!

And the new-made man and wife
Stood at the window pane

Like two glad children kept from school.—

O the rain! the rain! the rain!

The account of activity in spruce work in another part of this paper should interest all the residents of Western Oregon for it is one of the great forms of war activity which affects them. For the most part, so far the amount of abnormal business which the war has developed has affected the Northeast. An effort has also been made to take in the South through the establishment of cantonments there. Ship building of course, has had its effect on Western business, but it has taken the help from the Oregon farmer without giving him a great deal in return. The spruce business however, interests every farmer in the Willamette valley. Spruce work is conducted in regions where agriculture is next to impossible. With its railroad work it offers an unceasing demand for hay, grain, feed of all kinds, milk, butter and other like agricultural products they must have. These lines of railroad which run from the Willamette valley to the coast have now become highly important, and are in a sense to be compared to the bridge of boats which reach from our shores to the soldiers in France, a constant stream of food going in and logs coming out passes over them. Any interruption of traffic on these lines for a week or more would result in disaster.

So much for the present. Here are a few prospects for the future. It has been announced that we are to have a share on intervention in Siberia. Just how much or in what shape, does not as yet appear, but no student of the situation can doubt but that as the days pass the need will become greater and greater, for to hold the Germans they must be beaten on the East as well as West. The small stream of traffic passing over the Pacific to Eastern Siberia is bound to become greater. Because of the geography of the thing the greater part of this through traffic must pass through the Northwest. The prospect is filled with possibilities. Carried out it will put the American flag back on the Pacific on

ocean carriers and develop the resources of the Northwest in a manner that would not happen in a much longer time in the course of peace.

Our Letter Box

To the Editor, Monmouth Herald, Monmouth, Or., Dear Sir: My attention has been called to a brief article in your issue of June 28, regarding myself. I have no fault to find with the article but since it was handed you for publication in order that it might be later used as a basis for malicious stories I think it only fair that I be given space in your columns to defend myself. My friends do not need any lengthy explanations and my enemies would not believe them, therefore I will confine myself to the following brief direct statements, each of which is absolutely true.

The first purpose for which my personal affairs were pried into and article handed you for publication was in order to give certain people the opportunity to say that I had become involved in a situation in order to evade the military draft law. Any such statement is a deliberate and slanderous falsehood. All facts set forth in my draft questionnaire go back to dates before the draft law was ever heard of, most of them to dates before this country ever entered the war. I have in my possession eleven cards or letters of rejection from different regular and special services in army, navy and merchant marine in which I have tried to enlist. Further I have permanent cause for exemption which I have never taken advantage of, being placed in the first class of the draft without appeal or protest from myself. I failed the physical examination for the draft on three counts but on pointing out that I was just on the line allowed under what is known as the minimum requirements, a modification of the full requirements, I was admitted to the quota sent to Camp Lewis, July 22. I think that answers sufficiently the first point.

The second reason for publication of information regarding my personal affairs was in order to throw as many slurs as possible upon my good name and character. In answer to everyone of the stories that have been so industriously circulated I wish to state simply that there is no one thing connected in any way whatsoever with my affairs at present or at any time in the past, that is in any slightest manner crooked, underhanded, secret, or to be concealed. A few of my friends among the townspeople and several of the students have known about my personal affairs ever since a year ago this summer, and knowing the full truth know that I am not now connected, and have not been at any time in the past, with any thing that has ever brought me shame or dishonor, merely unhappiness and regret. Not knowing that my most intimate affairs and personal sorrows would be of such intense interest to outsiders I did not make a practice of discussing them with such people.

As further proof that the stories have been circulated deliberately and maliciously I would state that many days before commencement I told one faculty member and three students that such stories would be circulated, and for what purpose. The four people will bear me out in this statement.

I ask that this be printed merely
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