

The Herald

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RICHARD B. SWENSON
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Monmouth Meditations

The retreat of the Germans toward the Aisne may be strategic but it has all the earmarks of the less deliberate kind.

As fast as one set of bugs runs its course another appears, the latest being a worm that destroys the foliage of trees.

A tomato vine that would thrive in the weather prevalent this week should be fitted out with a heavy coat and a set of furs.

Well, raising the draft age to 45 will make the war seem considerably closer to a good many of us.

Between suicides and murders as well as other unmentionable happenings Polk county is trying its level best to keep up with the procession.

About the time the crown prince has made a few more moves on the European checker board the German army will be ready for the scrap heap.

The present prices of wood is the finest thing in the world to develop the demand for Alaska coal. Alaska is said to have large deposits of anthracite coal and once the market for this coal is established, it will spell goodbye to the industry of wood fuel in the coast states.

Again Austria is ready to revolt. The great drawback to popular uprisings where the food supply is as delicately adjusted as it is in Austria is that, with the soldiers in possession of the eatables, any kind of an uprising could be starved to submission in short order.

A man who does not read the newspapers regularly will miss many things these days. Probably at no time in our history have important events taken place as rapidly as during the past six months.

A short time ago Senator Chamberlain of the Senate Military Affairs Committee announced that his committee would introduce a bill to make the selected draft include all from the ages of 18 to 45. The president wrote a letter to a Southern member of the committee saying that the draft proposal was very unwise as it would unsettle business. So the proposal was dropped. A few days ago Secretary Baker conferred with his friend Senator Chamberlain and asked him to introduce a bill making the draft include all ages between 18 and 45. Question—Why all these moves to accomplish a single aim? Here is a possible reason. With all the war activities getting into full stride the matter of handling labor has become acute. Labor is not only scarce but under the teachings of certain leaders it is becoming hard to handle. The most turbulent element of labor is under 45. Placing these men under the draft limitations will make them easier to handle and more readily regulated.

ed. Increasing the draft age to 45 will of course allow the army to accumulate some desirable timber above the age of 30 which of itself would never volunteer. It will also allow the training of young men between the ages of 18 and 21 to make them better soldiers when they are called on. It will also help the government to put its thumb on labor difficulties, a matter that is of serious importance these days.

The captain of two companies in the army are alleged to have swapped men and in referring to the trade, one captain asserted that he had been beaten in the trade inasmuch as the other captain got a mule skinner from him and all he was given in return was a clerk, a banker and a lawyer. Winning the war sets up different standards than winning a living in times of peace.

The press representatives of the state are meeting at Marshfield the latter part of this week and although the event has special attractions in this sanctum, war conditions interpose a barrier to taking advantage of the opportunity to visit Coos county.

Although the bill fixing the new draft limits has not as yet passed either house of Congress, the machinery for taking the registration is being put in readiness. It is likely that this time but two registration places each will be maintained in Monmouth, Independence and Dallas. In the first registration last year Polk county was the first to report of any in the state and if the sheriff can help it there will not be another sheriff in the state ahead of him this time. The registration of last year found a few over ten hundred men and although the new registration will include men covering an age of 18 years instead of 10 as was the case last year, it is not likely the new list will include more than fifteen hundred. Many of the younger married men have left the county to work in the shipyards and there have also been many enlistments, especially among men under 21.

Edward T. Barber edits and prints The Shoshone Journal, and is a little man with a big idea. The idea has to do with one A. C. Townley. Barber was among the first editors in the United States to camp on the trail of this Townley person, and he has accumulated a mass of evidence to prove that Townley is a German agent. He fulminates against Townley in every issue of the Journal, and his editorials are widely quoted. Southern Idaho has been a hot-bed of Townley propaganda, and some of that shrewd organizer's mistaken followers have been mightily wroth at the little Journal man. One burly farmer dropped into the office one day to beat Barber up, and had just shed his coat when he looked into a convincing argument. This argument had a hole in it, but the hole constituted its most persuasive feature. The angry farmer was promptly subdued, if not mollified. We quote from a recent Journal editorial in order to give our readers an idea of Barber's style:

"The Journal harps on the Non-partisan league until I am getting tired of it." Well, the boys at the front are also tired of their continual hardships and inconveniences. They would like to rest awhile, but their rest is up to the Kaiser. So the Kaiser is working here in America, here in Idaho—yes, right here in Shoshone—harder than he ever did. For the Kaiser sees the time not far ahead when peace must come. He wants the most favorable peace possible. He paid Dr. Rumley as editor of the New York Evening Mail, and through him he

paid Townley, and through him he paid Roy McKaig and Scholtz and all the host of league organizers and orators down to the little two-by-four fellows who buzz at our ears like German mosquitoes to work for a German peace. It is the business of the Journal to tell you of these things and to keep on telling them until the danger has been averted. The danger is greater now than ever. Do not permit your love of ease to dull your perception. When the Kaiser can get a crowd of loyal American citizens together as he is doing all over Idaho to listen approvingly to the insidious poison poured into their ears by Scholtz and McKaig and their tribe of Kaiserites, it is no time to get tired of opposing such activities. The Journal is tired of it, too, but its editor would rather be called a crank and a crazy old man than to lie down and let the Kaiser trample over this country and lay plans to stab our soldier boys in the back, while shouting "kamerad!"—Weston Leader.

Modern warfare, rather than prejudice, is responsible for a decline in the American habit of chewing tobacco, according to Y. M. C. A. secretaries at the front. The gas mask has turned the trick. As one Southern soldier put it: "With terbacca bitin' inside yer cheek, the ol' gas mask 'tween yer teeth, mustard gas all about yer and no chance ter open yer mouth—war sure is hell!"

French children are picking up English rapidly since American soldiers reached France but they are acquiring slang phrases first, according to Y. M. C. A. War Work secretaries. One day an American Major was walking through a village street, when a little girl not more than four, stepped in front of him, saluted and said in the sweetest childish voice: "Hello, kid!" Everywhere the children wave and say goodbye when they see an American. To them it means, "How do you do?" But the climax was reached when a five-year old boy that is the pet of the American troops was stopped by the General of the division. The boy listened to the kindly words of the General and said: "Good bye; go chase your self."

Building a Silo

O. A. C., Corvallis, August 8—A silo is a pasture under cover the contents of which can be used at any time of the year as a profitable feed for dairy cattle, beef cattle, horses, mules, sheep, hogs and chickens, points out E. L. Westover, dairy husbandman and L. E. Robinson, assistant professor of rural architecture at O. A. C., in Extension Bulletin No. 297 just issued.

Some of the important points in silo construction brought out are as follows:

The foundation should be well constructed and should be made of concrete possessing the greatest possible density, so as to prevent the silage juice from seeping thru into the barnyard.

The top of the foundation should be at least ten inches above the ground line.

The walls of the silo should be practically air-tight.

The inner surfaces of the walls should be smooth and perpendicular.

The inner surfaces of the walls should be free from corners, hence round silos are more efficient and economical than other types.

A good roof makes the silo more durable, adds greatly to its appearance and assists materially in keeping the silage from drying out.

The bulletin is entitled "A Silo for Every Farm" and may be had for the asking.

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