

The Herald

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Monmouth
Meditations

In the Bolsheviki one may see a picture of democracy run to whisks and beer suds.

There is a tendency in some parts to criticize the numerous vacation parties at this time of the year, as neglecting for the time the necessities of speeding up the war. We opine, however, that the vacation is a part of the program and is made up for by keener, stronger faculties and renewed zeal, in the work that follows.

With characteristic efficiency the Germans have a "retreat specialist" to attend to the details of heading the imperial army toward the Rhine and the prospects are that this gentleman will have plenty of business to occupy his attention for some time to come.

We are glad to get letters from the boys in the army for publication. This is of interest to all at present. A large part of the waking thoughts of Americans is with the boys in uniform.

Hindenburg successful, is a mighty warrior and a fearsome creature; Hindenburg in defeat, is an ordinary dud with a skull filled with ivory and a breath that smells of lager and limburger.

In the stress of the nation at present it would profit not at all to lament and worry. Better to face things with cheerful determination. That is the reason why a national hour of song like that of Tuesday is a good thing for us at present.

During the greater part of his august career, the Crown Prince seriously labored to start something in a military way that would allow him to fit into his destiny. Being now thoroughly started it devolves on some one else to stop it.

A great many optimistic expressions as to the duration of the war are now being heard. Much depends on the developments of the coming month. If the German retreat continues beyond the line they occupied in March, there is hope for peace soon. If, however, the old line has been so strongly fortified that they can hold their victorious foes at bay, the end is not yet in

sight.

Cut down the use of print paper 15 per cent. Cut out all free copies. Limit subscription expirations to three months. These are some of the orders from the government flung at the country printer these days. The scarcity of fuel in the east is limiting the output of print paper and regulation is necessary.

The selective system is vindicating itself in the way of getting together an army. Two million men between the ages of 21 and 30, just in the prime of physical power! The manner in which they have dispersed themselves on the battle line shows the character of the combination. No better army was ever assembled.

In the matter of psychology the condition appears a great deal more potent with the German than a mere theory. Thus while they have been carefully fed up on the abstract principles of democracy, and addresses by the President have been taken to them by aeroplanes and by other methods, the effect has not been of the visible variety. The psychology of figures, of a million men in arms in France, of guns and battle planes, and a successful line of convoys across the ocean, are all producing results as is reflected from the columns of the newspapers that come out of the Fathreland as well as the stories of returning travelers. We might have talked to the Central powers for a million years without producing results, but the fact of men and guns and ammunition in France is a thing that will get speedy results.

We were much interested in an article recently published relative to gold as an article of commerce in the markets of the world. While it is costing more to mine gold, labor is higher, explosives and chemicals necessary to the industry are more expensive, and in other ways it is costing more to mine gold than formerly, the price, according to the writer, Col. Kennan of Idaho, has not changed for 200 years. It is a curious situation. According to Col. Kennan gold suffers because so many substitutes are used for it as money. Vast inflation of paper issues, based on gold, and also including bank checks, have so increased the capacity of gold that it has reached a situation where it does not pay to mine it. Much of the ore from which the gold is obtained is low grade, yielding only a small profit per ton in reduction before the war and which now with greatly increased expenses does not yield any profit at all. To remedy this situation and secure a proper output of gold in sufficient quantities to protect the money system which rests upon it, a suggestion is made that a bonus be paid to gold producers. That is, for each dollar which a mine owner produces the government shall pay him a certain per cent extra, out of the federal funds, as a compensation for the work which he performs for the public. This action is seriously urged in many quarters. Col. Kennan, however, thinks this is charity and as such abhorrent to the proud spirited mine worker. He would change the price of gold, or in other words, alter the parity which it holds with other products. He recognizes that this would have to be done secretly for if the idea once went abroad that the government was to increase materially the price of gold, there would be a scramble for the visible supply and such a panic would ensue as would overshadow anything in that line the country ever before witnessed. Of course the government could call in gold and re-stamp it but we acknowledge we can not see how the stamping of a ten dollar gold piece

into a fifteen dollar piece would make its purchasing power any greater. It would lower the value of the dollar and require a re-adjustment of prices. Fundamental values in comparison with the value of gold could not be changed. If gold is cheap it is because of its paper substitutes.

That the narration of history requires the perspective of time is well demonstrated in the volume "The Oregon Missions" by James W. Bashford, which came to us recently. The writer, a Methodist bishop, in a 311 page book published by the Arlington Press, New York and Cincinnati, tells the story of the early settlement of Oregon, which, by the way, was a purely missionary undertaking, and relates the events that shaped themselves so that Oregon and Washington became a part of the United States and not a portion of the British dominions.

In his story the bishop tells how he himself was first mistaken in regard to certain important events and later through the testimony of records caused to change his mind. This, in regard to the widely repeated story that Dr. Whitman of the Walla Walla mission saved Oregon to the Union by a certain perilous winter trip which he took at the time the Webster-Ashburton treaty was signed. Bishop Bashford pays a high tribute to the life and character of Whitman but finds that the trip referred to was taken because of matters pertaining to his mission and not for the political purpose assigned. The story of Dr. Whitman, of his career and heroic death is one of the most inspiring records of the Northwest.

The state veterinarian of Oregon has a new and fresh idea. Facing a serious shortage of milk he proposes that whales be domesticated and used to increase the stock of lacteal fluid on hand. Since even a small whale will yield a barrel of milk it will be realized that a farmer who has a flock of twenty or twenty five will through his own resources be able to supply a small city. The state veterinarian said nothing about the quantity or quality of cream which whale's milk holds but doubtless a good quality of butter and cheese can be produced, since the whale is a mammal, the same as the cow or the goat, the only difference being that it feeds on the meadows of the sea instead of the land. The quantity of butter of course, would depend upon the test of butter fat altho if a cow can make butter out of a diet of poison oak, boneset and English Walnut leaves, a whale should produce a pretty fair article out of mollusks and other varieties of sea food. Since the whale is characteristically long on oil, it should make a fine quality of butter. Of course, a whale dairyman would have to adjust his circumstances of living to accord with his live stock. He would have to seek some sheltered cove, which of necessity, must have a deep opening to the ocean. Tillamook and Coos bays might become the centers of large whale interests. The whale calves would have to be caught and domesticated, and in event they could not be trusted to return at night when let out to pasture in the morning the might be staked to buoys and thus while the boys would look after the dairy cows on land the buoys might keep track of the dairy whales on the ocean. Just as the land staked cow is a standing challenge to the pedestrian to walk carefully to keep from being tripped up and is apt to wander onto the sidewalk and into the highway to the discomfiture of traffic, so the whales in the pasture of ocean would be apt to get their tethers mixed with the steering gear and propeller blades of passing lumber schooners and freighters. But it is a great idea. There might be millions in it.

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