

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

With a real rain to the credit of the weather man, Oregonians are beginning to enjoy that home like feeling once more.

The indications are that no available spot for wheat will be left unplanted during the coming season.

When it comes to offering attractive lecture talent to the public, Monmouth is one of the leading towns in Oregon.

No American who thinks on the subject can deny the justice of the glowing tribute paid to English arms, valor and courage by Private Peat in his lecture Tuesday night. History may be searched to record its equal. With due honor to the French and Belgians, still they have been defending their homes from aggressive invaders. England has acted on a theory of self preservation and for the principles of right and justice. For these things she changed herself from a peaceful nation to a militant one, raised and equipped an army, sent them on foreign soil where they suffered in four years of up-hill and discouraging fighting, eight hundred thousand casualties. The raising and equipping of our own army has been a simple matter compared with that of England for at every step we have had the benefit of her experience. Too much credit cannot be given to Lord Kitchener whose organizing genius laid the foundation of the military machine which has met the prepared Germans in their own game and beaten them.

Whether it is a matter for national congratulation or not, in the events of the past week we have progressed steadily toward peace. In his first communication, Prince Maximilian announced the readiness of his government to accept peace on the fourteen conditions laid down by President Wilson in his address to Congress on January 8, and asking for an armistice. In his reply the president said an armistice could not be granted until German troops were off the soil of the allies. He also asked whether the inquiry came from the military leaders or from representatives of the people of Germany. Replying, the Germans set forth the claim that the move was on the part of the majority of their legislative representatives and they agreed to evacuate occupied territory. In his reply of Monday the president acknowledges receipt of the unconditional acceptance of his terms by the Germans, referred the means and methods of evacuating the occupied territory to our military authorities and then went on to amplify the political conditions on which peace could be secured, including a severe scoring of the acts of Germans in sinking passenger boats and destroying property, after starting peace negotiations.

All of which is perfectly right. Sentiment in America is in harmonious accord that sufficient guarantees must be presented to satisfy the most exacting, that not only will reparation be made for damage done, but that conditions must so shape themselves to make it impossible in the future for any government to again commit the crimes of which the German government has been guilty.

At the same time there is room for the belief that the German army and people are in such straits that they will suffer any humiliation to get out of their present situation. In either event, however, it is not at all likely that the world will have to wait long to learn their attitude in the matter.

One of the most important contributions to the success of the Allies in recent battles has been the tanks. Morale has counted for great deal. The steadily increasing number of Yankees, the increase in armament and munitions has been very potent, but without the tanks the same measure of success could not have been achieved. These war machines, particularly the newer and smaller designs, the "Whippets" of the English and the "Mosquitoes" of the French, have practically abolished trench warfare. That their success is greater than was dreamed of by military experts is evident in many ways.

Writing in the September number of the Review of Reviews, Mr. Simmons, considered a military expert, prophesied that when the Germans reached the old Hindenburg line with its masonry and successive prepared lines of defense in the rear, the advance of the Allies would be greatly slowed up if not abruptly halted. It is a mistake, he asserted, to assume that trench warfare has been superseded. When the trenches were reached, Mr. Simmons asserted that the old plan of artillery work followed by infantry advance in short steps would be resumed of necessity.

But the facts appear that reaching the Hindenburg line has caused very little slowing up in the progress of the victorious allies. The practice had been to advance only after tremendous artillery work which never failed to indicate to the enemy where to expect an attack. Now advance is made with very little artillery preliminaries and the enemy never knows where to expect attack. With Foch making these unheralded attacks in several different places the German is kept in a constant state of nervousness and apprehension.

The tanks lead the way. Instead of taking hours in demolishing the barb wire entanglements by high explosives, the tanks flatten out the obstructions and roll over them. Stopping straddle of the trenches, the enemy is swept away with machine gun fire. They make straight for the machine gun nests of the enemy, the craters and the pill boxes and make short work of them doing work in short order that formerly could be done only at large sacrifice of life.

The first tanks were slow and unwieldy and were destroyed by the enemies' heavy artillery. But the new tanks are smaller and more active. They travel at the rate of 12 miles an hour and at this pace leave the infantry far behind. Their speed saves them from the artillery for they move about so fast that the heavy guns cannot be trained on them with any accuracy. Equipped with armor which will turn a machine gun bullet or flying pieces of shrapnel, they are a terror to the enemies' machine gun and rifle men and protect their own infantry which in turn is in shape to capture the heavy artillery of the enemy unless it is removed to a

place of safety.

In the matter of tanks the allies have a big advantage over the Germans for the latter now have little material out of which to make the protective plate. The allies make their small tanks with one fourth inch hardened steel, while with the tanks the Germans have made they have had to use thicker plate as the steel was softer. Their plate ranges from four fifths of an inch to two inches and thus they cannot make a machine with a weight much less than forty tons and this is so unwieldy that it is not much of a fighting machine.

The tank is an English idea and the first machines were made secretly. The different parts of the machine were made at widely separated places and assembled at a secret central point. When first shipped, in order to divert attention the shipping cases were labeled "tanks" and this with the English soldier's sense of humor was seized on as the name of the machines; and the name stuck. When the full story of the tank is told it will be evident that it has had a prominent part in winning the great world war.

On the Road to Success.

That young man is wise who makes a plan, organizes his ambition, and makes each day contribute something toward its fulfillment. Success often seems delayed, but it is surely on the way for those who are getting ready for it. Over the desk of the boy or girl struggling with hard lessons that may seem at the present quite useless, let it be written in letters of gold: "I will study and get ready, and may be my chance will come."

Origin of "Algernon."

The name Algernon was originally "als Gernon," and was first applied to one of the crusading Percys. His name was William, but his fellow knights called him William als Gernon or Gernon, meaning William with the Whiskers, or just Whiskers for short. As Algernon the name has persisted in the family to the present time, and the tenth duke of Northumberland, who died recently, was Algernon Percy.

The Lute.

The lute has vanished. It was one of the oldest of instruments, and had a beautiful vibrant tone somewhat like that of the harp. But its size and complexity were against it. It had a long tall, and many strings, and while its size increased its power and range, it also increased its weight and made it cumbersome. The minstrel of today plays on the mandolin, the guitar or the banjo—and the lute is forgotten.

The Gas Mask Drive

(Apologies to Kipling.)

"What makes you save your olive stones?" the Thoughtless Waster cried.

"The government has asked for them," the Patriot replied.

"I don't see what it wants of them," The Thoughtless Waster cried.

"It wants the carbon that they make," the Patriot replied.

"So we're gathering up the cherry pits, the peach stones and the shell

Of walnuts and Brazil nuts and of hickory nuts as well,

And the youngsters hunt for butter-nuts in every dale and dell.

To furnish the materials for carbon."

"What do they want the carbon for?" the Thoughtless Waster cried.

"To manufacture gas masks," the Patriot replied.

"And a carbon respirator in a gas mask over there

Will save our boys from gas attacks. Come on and do your share!

"We dare not waste one single stone—let's give them all they ask!

It takes 200 peach pits to equip a single mask.

And they've given you and me and everybody else the task

Of furnishing materials for the carbon."

—Robert Housum.

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