

The Herald

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Monmouth
Meditations

Alsace and Lorraine appear to be headed in the direction of home.

The Kaiser, Hindenburg and Ludendorff are in a fair way to become back numbers.

Every step taken in the International war game within the past month has been a step in the direction of peace.

There is considerable politics on tap just at present and the most of it is far from good natured. But it is only another illustration of the old truth "the greater the compression, the greater the explosion." We will survive and will all feel better for getting it out of our systems.

The chances are good for resurrected Poland and Bohemia and that Russia will be split up into at least three and perhaps four nations. The best prospects for a federated Europe lie in this direction for the numbers of small nations will have to organize some sort of confederation for mutual protection.

Judge Coke as a candidate for supreme justice appears to be getting support in many quarters. With some small acquaintance with the judge and with a greater degree of familiarity with his reputation and record among his fellow citizens in Coos county, we believe he is worthy of the place he seeks and would make an excellent official.

We note a general scurrying among Republicans to get on their gas masks owing to the sudden bombardment with shells by General Os West. The density and quality of the gas appears calculated to do execution although the stretcher bearers and first aid men have so far been able to care for all casualties.

Having tested it we are prepared to testify that J. S. Prime makes some prime apple cider. The trouble with most cider, says Mr. Prime is that people insist on making it out of rotten apples. He asserts that good cider can no more be made out of rotten apples than angel cake can be made out of rutabagas. But you must have a few worms to give flavor to the finished product, correct acidity, give it tone and add life and vim and pep to it.

We have little sympathy with the idea that seeks to minimize the influenza as something in the nature of a mild distemper. "There is no cause for alarm" says a contemporary "People with grippe and colds should take care of themselves and prevent an attack of pneumonia." We beg to differ for we think there is due cause for alarm. Statistics show there have been more deaths in the United States from influenza than we have

lost in the present war. Also the number of sick in the Nation's hospitals is very much greater than the wounded. Prevention, proper care before the ailment is acquired is very much more to the point than care during the stage of sickness. The situation demands that every precaution be taken that will aid in stamping out the disease.

Peace of the kind to save all the pieces possible appears to be a popular thing with the Central powers just at present and the lobby of the Allied war council is crowded with representatives of the various nations. A verbatim report of the deliberations of that council would be a most interesting thing to read. What the representatives of the successful powers think of each other; of their various interests and what are the impelling motives that influence in the dictation of terms to be exacted of the common enemy—these are things which arouse curiosity. We may have to wait for years for the whole truth, taking it from the memoirs of some one present. Or it may be told when the deliberations of the council are fully ended. It may be taken for granted that future historians will view it as the climax of a long train of unusual incidents.

As a Red Cross benefit we suggest that a hall be engaged and a joint debate staged between L. P. Gilmore and John Howell on the best methods of growing potatoes. Both appear to be equally successful, Mr. Gilmore relying on science and Mr. Howell on the beneficial attributes of certain phases of the moon. We are a little inclined to favor Mr. Howell in the contention for if the moon cannot be put to some service in agriculture we might as well chop it away and let it drop out of the planetary system.

It is doubly irritating to newspaper men who for the sake of winning the war have been asked to make certain economies in the use of paper to observe fifty thousand copies of a so-called prohibition paper sent into Oregon from Indiana to manufacture political sentiment for Mr. West. There are several ways in which this publication violates the spirit of the regulations laid down to newspapers by the war board. It violates the spirit of the postal laws also for it is advertising and is not so labeled, thus avoiding proper payment of postage under the zone postal law.

With Germany adjusting herself to a new and more popular form of government the world may well view the evolution from autocracy to democracy with varied degrees of interest. Will it take the form and substance of the radical changes which befell France at the close of the eighteenth century or Russia within the past year wherein class hatred inflames itself until its heat is quenched in the blood of thousands of fellow beings? Or has the education and training of the German fitted him to make the change in a more sane and less blood thirsty manner? Popular education in Germany, it may be remembered, sprang out of the Napoleonic wars when one or two observing men took note of the fact that the helplessness of the Germans was due to ignorance and founded the school system of that country. Now we may observe whether the education of the German has given him sufficient stability of mind to change his form of government with the same systematic methods which have characterized his career as a manufacturer.

Senator McNary's proposition to give to returning soldiers, logged over land farms sounds better in

theory than it does in practice. People who have tried it know that the purchase price asked for the land is the least part of its cost. The man who clears off this land earns it a second time and when he is done the chances are that it is not worth what he has paid for it. People best adapted to handle this land are people who have other agricultural interests with it and can afford to let it lie in practical idleness for a period of years, with the only income from the land the pasturage of sheep and goats. What the northwest needs more than some one to clear off its logged lands, is industries for its cities. With a large and prosperous urban population, assuring a market for agricultural products, the logged over lands will be cleared by people who have an incentive to clear them.

Monmouth people are somewhat acquainted with W. L. Finley, state biologist, and a few words from him relative to the Oregon City Fish controversy will be of interest. Mr. Finley asserts that the law opposed by the Clackamas fisherman's union is necessary to preserve the supply of salmon. There are so many traps and means of catching the fish between the mouth of the Willamette and the mouth of the Columbia that the few which enter the Willamette are needed for the spawn they produce in the headwaters of the stream. In 1917 the state got but six million Chinook salmon eggs whereas from forty to fifty million eggs are necessary to keep the Columbia stocked. The statement that fish are stopped by the falls at Oregon City Mr. Finley says is false. Practically all the fish that reach the falls pass over without delay.

An unusual number of apples in Polk county this year are affected with brown spots which appeared shortly before picking time. There are several diseases which cause spotting of the fruit, but the most serious one which fruit growers have to contend with, is that caused by the anthracnose canker. The small round spots sometimes develop after the apples are stored and increase in size as they grow deeper into the flesh. They have a rather indistinct outer margin shading into the natural color of the fruit and the middle is usually of a distinctly paler or yellowish brown in contrast to the deeper brown of the outer portions of the spot. The disease which causes the rotting of the fruit also produces dead spots on the bark on any part of the tree although on old trees the trunks and large limbs are not often affected. These dead spots begin to show up in the winter time as round dark spots on the bark. In serious cases infection may become so numerous that they run together, the limbs become girdled and the ends die. The remedy is Bordeaux spray and the cutting out and burning of all diseased limbs. The first spray should be applied immediately after the fruit is picked. It is better to do this early in September if possible. A second application should be given the last of October. If you have this disease in your orchard, call on the county agent for further information regarding its control.

Independence has a complete double set of candidates for city offices in the election of November 5. For mayor the candidates are, W. H. Walker and C. E. Henkle; for recorder, B. F. Swope and R. E. Baker; councilmen, with six to elect, W. E. Craven, J. S. Bohannon, W. W. Mix, C. D. Calbreath, W. S. Grant, W. H. Cogle, G. G. Walker, W. M. Huff, H. L. Fitchard, J. L. Donaldson, R. E. Duganne, M. Pengra.

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