

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

No man ever acquired a lasting brand of popularity by knocking.

Election returns Wednesday morning indicate that the Dutch have taken Holland.

In other words the Allies accept the fourteen terms if they are allowed the privilege of editing them.

The Kaiser wanted the world but will be mighty lucky if he is allowed a mansion in Switzerland.

Republicans will have an extra reason for observing Thanksgiving this fall.

Considering the present cost of eatables a man may well consider himself unlucky who has a family of 13 to feed.

Foch has tied the Hindenburg line into a double bow knot and the Germans are not stopping to untie it.

If Germany doesn't surrender before long, her soldiers left in Belgium will have to learn to swim, for the Rhine is deep.

The Agricultural Department surely can not be accused of lack of foresight. They are advising us to plant black walnut trees as a war measure.

Will Germany accept the peace terms offered? Will a man over board catch at a rope thrown to him?

The valiant, the intrepid, the fleet crown prince by this time should have acquired considerable sympathy for the rabbit who was two steps ahead of the hound.

Republicans may be a number of things but it surely was a bad break to assert that they were unpatriotic. Such a charge just naturally makes them sore.

That Columbus, O., young man who ate fifteen bananas and drank twenty glasses of water to bring his weight up to military requirements, stands out in bold relief from the slackers who were rounded up by the police.

One of the Eastern states is to have a Pershing day. The German army has been having Pershing days every day for the past month and they fail to see how anybody can grow enthusiastic over them.

When the citizen of Germany thinks about the peace terms he will doubtless be gloomy until he recalls that the munition factories of the Fatherland are about to be turned back into breweries.

With due deference to the old masters, we believe the hand which is tinting the autumn leaves just at present is the superior of any of them. Set off with a hazy background and lighted by our occasional bursts of sunlight, the picture of the changing foliage is one

to challenge admiration.

J. O. Andrus says the fertilizer L. P. Gilmore used in his celebrated field of potatoes was strong stuff. Judging from the shape of the tubers he believes the fertilizer turned some of the brickbats of the soil into spuds.

The charge is made that certain members of the New York police beat a specimen of the American Bolshevik to death. It is a little late now but we opine that a regiment of these policemen should have accompanied our army to Siberia.

Because the war is drawing to a close is no reason for faltering in the work of keeping up war charities, the drive for which will soon be upon us. We will probably have soldiers in Europe for a year or two yet. Very few of them will be returned inside of six months. This will be the period of relaxation and during its interval and until the boys return home they will need the looking after for which the war charities are designed. Let the giving be a measure of gratitude for good work, well and faithfully performed.

By far the lesser number of deaths in this war have been caused by shot and shell. To pick up any paper and read the mortuary lists is to shudder at their number. The strain on the nerves is proving the final feather in many cases with the weak and infirm. Who can doubt that the large number of fatalities from the influenza is due to unaccustomed and insufficient nourishment. There is plenty to eat, but the quality that adds color to the food and strength to the physique, is lacking. In many cases the more concentrated food is considered too high in price for use. Therefore less strength to throw off sickness. The consequence of this fact is one of the things for which the German government is responsible and for which it can never be made to atone. Surely a flood of misery and woe have followed in the wake of the Kaiser and his generals.

The war news has steadily grown more favorable as the days have passed. Every move in the international game for the past month has tended steadily toward peace. The indications are that actual peace will soon be with us. If it proves as the prospects are, we must plan to hold Thanksgiving this year that will be memorable. The American Fourth of July made its bow to the European public this year and was graciously received. The American Thanksgiving is also an institution of which our Allies may well take notice and we trust the time will be auspicious for the introduction this year.

We confess to an interest in the stories of progress in our shipping on the sea. The development of our merchant marine and naval forces in the present war is one that thrills the American spirit. American war vessels have been of decided influence in the taming of the U boats and if reports that come out are to be credited Americans are giving important help undoing the work of these sea wolves. Something like four hundred and fifty boats have been salvaged after being wrecked by submarine torpedoes. Most of these are boats which have been struck close enough to beach although in order to do so some times the boat has had to travel a hundred miles or more. Many different plans of salvaging have been taken advantage of. Some times the boats have been raised by means of lifters. Sometimes divers have descended into the sea, patched up the break in the side of the

boat and pumped out the hold by means of electric pumps. In one boat that was beached an air lock was made in the hatchway, air was forced into the hold after which workers were locked into the compressed air and these repaired the break in the ship's side. In one case where a ship was beached so firmly in the sand that it could not be dug out, a film of air bubbles was forced by pressure under the hull and the boat pulled off by power that previously was unable to move it. Some of the sunken cargoes have been exceedingly valuable. A portion of this has been rescued but much more remains and doubtless will offer a tempting field for enterprise in the years following the conclusion of the war.

Last year instead of producing their own necessities of life entirely, some Polk County families bought quantities of canned goods. Data collected from fifteen of the grocery stores in the county showed that \$2933.31 worth of commercial ly canned fruits and vegetables were used in the county during the winter of 1917-1918 which should have been grown and preserved at home.

Use of home products releases commercially canned goods for our Army, Navy, and Allies. Home canned and dried foods help materially in cutting down the high cost of living. Taking these facts into consideration, together with those of the previous survey which showed that Polk County was not making the best use of her resources, led to a special campaign by the Home Demonstration Agent to encourage more home preserved foods and a greater variety. Accurate records which have been kept by the housewives of the county during the summer and fall months in all the communities of the county reveal some very interesting data.

These records show an average canning of 145 quarts of fruit per family; 50 quarts of vegetables; 10½ quarts of meat; 14 pounds dried fruit; 6 pounds dried vegetables; 13 quarts preserves and jams; 18 glasses of jelly; and 7 dozen eggs water glassed, besides fruits and vegetables brined and pickled, meat cured in other ways, and fruit juice canned to later be made into jelly, etc. This means a total of some 788, 490 quarts of food canned in the county during the past season and over 70,000 pounds of home dried materials. Each family has used on the average sixty-eight pounds of sugar and has canned eight quarts more fruits and vegetables than last year. Taking the poor gardens into account this is a very gratifying record for the county. Taking the county as a whole into consideration, 28,800 quarts more have been canned than were canned last season and when estimated at current prices would mean some \$7,200 saved in the county in canned goods alone, not to mention foods preserved in the many other ways.

This is a marked improvement over last year and means that Polk County has not only gone over the top in Liberty Loans and other war drives but in food preservation as well. This information has been collected from every community in the county and of all those reporting Suver and Buell show the largest number of families reporting for the population as well as very excellent records in quantities preserved. Much credit is due the chairmen of the Home Economics committees in the several communities in getting this information assembled and in so promptly. No doubt by another year Polk County will be entirely self supporting as far as home preserved materials are concerned and will save much for the Nation in this way.

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