

# The Herald

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Monmouth  
Meditations

The influenza is neutralizing the effect of the realization among Americans that we are at peace and the prospect is for a dull and somber Christmas.

A few months ago it was determined in certain quarters that history would write him down as "Wilhelm the Greatest". True enough, but they should have added "bone-head in existence."

These are the days of the renaissance of the book agent. The demand for books explaining all about the great war is bound to rival Mr. Creel's intelligence department in its consumption of white paper. We advise the public not to be too hasty in signing up. Later editions are bound to be more accurate as well as more reasonable in price.

Ebert, the new chancellor of Germany rides rather unsteadily in the saddle although he was once a saddle maker.

There is one thing to be said for the literature the government intelligence department as well as the war activities have sent out. The reverse side is fine for the typewriter in the production of "copy".

Snow on the mountains becomes more in evidence daily, but as long as the valley is green we should worry.

When posterity looks upon the portrait of the crown prince it is apt to conclude that his chin was shot off in the great war.

Quite a few Yankee soldiers are winding up their watches on the Rhine now about once in twenty-four hours.

It took nerve and courage to join the hosts who crossed the seas to France but who among the returning thousands would blot out those months from their lives if they were able to do so?

So far Monmouth has fared better in regard to the influenza than any of the four cities in Polk county. Could this possibly be due to the fact that we are the only city of the four to get a water supply from deep wells.

Speaking of personal decoration; you are not really up-to-date unless you are wearing a 1919 Red Cross button.

The Germans planted the Bolshevik in Russia and it was just about as neighborly a proceeding as it would be for one farmer to sow Canada thistle seed in a fellow land owner's pasture.

It will readily be admitted that the world is evolving toward socialistic ideas, but these things have to be a matter of slow growth. Coal oil makes fair kindling if used with caution. But for fuel in a stove designed for slab wood, its use would be attended with difficulties.

The president is having a joyful time in Europe and the Europeans are enjoying it as much as he. We don't begrudge them their fun but still we hope they will get down to business as soon as possible. For the sooner peace is formally declared the sooner will business gravitate to rock bottom.

Santa Claus, in the shape of certain commissioners about to assemble in Versailles, is puzzling over what sort of a Christmas present to drop into the stocking of the Central Powers. Some sort of a bomb would be appropriate.

Numerous books on the war are now appearing, some of them in many volumes; but it will be several years yet before an authoritative story of the conflict is issued from the presses.

None of us like to be dictated to. We prize our independence. But in time of peril we must submit to authority. This is the big lesson the soldier learns. In combating the influenza we are all soldiers and when the health officers give directions it is up to us to obey. That is the only way we can impose a united front to the enemy.

President Wilson's plain tastes are reported to have amazed Parisians. For a public man to live without furs and feathers; to be satisfied with three meals a day and something suitable to wear, they think is extraordinary. The snobs of Europe will doubtless have a few ideas to chew on before America's first citizen returns home.

For the first time in history a vice president sits at the table when the cabinet meets in council. His official capacity being limited to the sitting, he might, in order to serve, keep the pencils sharp while the discussion is going on.

It develops that the so called "Liberty Motor" should have been called the Packard motor. It is commonly believed that two inventors locked in a Washington hotel apartment, designed this motor in five days. The Packard company says the motor was developed by them previous to the war at an expense of \$400,000 and that the two inventors' work consisted of a few revisions and refinements. The government operated the motor under a patent license of the company. The actual creator of the motor was Jesse G. Vincent who resigned as an officer of the company to accept a major's salary. He was one of the men named in the Hughes investigation as having violated the government regulations in a technical manner while the motor was being worked out. As it was plainly shown he had no intention to defraud the government he was pardoned by the president. Without a doubt the Packard company will get deserved advertising out of the use made by the government of their motor.

It must be a pleasant reflection to all that the quarantine restrictions were laid on in Monmouth when they were. Monmouth might not have been any worse off with the meetings occurring as scheduled and then conditions here now might have been very much worse.

For that fine satisfied feeling there is nothing equal to the wearing of a 1919 Red Cross button. Pay in your dollar and be fitted out. In addition to the button you get ten Red Cross Christmas seals.

The hen that lays a daily egg at this season of the year is the hen that pays her way. Eggs are worth nearly six cents apiece at present.

If it were just a plain matter of

settling war controversies it is hardly likely the president would have deserted his official duties in Washington to go to Europe. The League to Enforce Peace, a subject which has very little to do with the adjustment of war disputes is the big topic that attracts all attention. There is some similarity with the position at the end of the Revolution when the states that had leagued together to oppose England, met to establish mutual connections. Very many of the same objections are now being put forward—especially the position and power of the small and large states. A better comparison however, would be the situation that would have arisen had we at that time contemplated the formation of a union in which England also was to be a part. It is this difference that makes the present undertaking something like an uncharted sea. The ship builders about to launch at Versailles, a craft of their own manufacture, plan to do something never attempted before.

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ences that make Aladdin and his tribe seem "tame".

Maybe you don't think the U. S. uniform is respected over here. "Esercito Americano" is written on all our cars and we can go where officers of other nations cannot. Two of our boys passed the king the other day and his Highness smilingly said, "Ah Americano Buongiorno." But it is typical of that man the most democratic, beloved, respected king in all Europe. Someday I'll tell you about the little fellow. He is the man that for the past eight months has not spent two whole weeks in Rome. Where has he been? With his men at the front. But now peace reigns, people are returning to their once homes. Never will I forget the scenes when the inhabitants of captured territory wept over us, raved over their liberators—the Italian soldiers. Old women on their knees clinging to the Italian soldiers legs in hysterics, old men behaving not much better, and children who had forgotten how to laugh would become terrified—thought another bunch of Huns had come to take them away. We were witnesses to this and to more which I cannot write, and I say I'm not ashamed to admit my eyes were moist over it. I wish every citizen of the U. S. could have seen what we saw. Is it true these tales of German barbarity? Yes. We over here shout "Yes" to the heavens. I stop here telling what else we saw and heard. No one will ever know what this nation has suffered.

I hear now the joyous clatter of wooden shoes and think of it, lights are again visible in the darkness outside. And you ask was there a celebration when Austria gave up? Old San Francisco could not do better and talk about torch light processions, it was like a night out of Roman history when the conquerors returned with their spoils of war. And I'll bet that even they did not make old women dance naked in the village square prodded with spears when they captured Gallic cities. Must say too, how these liberated inhabitants cried, sang, kissed our hands, they did not know Uncle Sam's uniform and thought that we might be English, but our little "Old Glory" saved the day. But if they wept over us you should have seen them rave over their liberators. I never want to witness such sights again. We went through cities with not a wall standing. And now my eyes are turned to that house of yours. I won't return an old man but a man who knows that Sherman said the word and also one who has seen enough for his years, and who is ready and longing to get home and all I ask is quietness, quietness.

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