

The Herald

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Monmouth
Meditations

"How Dry I Am" bids fair to rival "America" as the national anthem.

It appears that the rural school has a few friends in the present legislature.

A whole week has elapsed since the flood and it is beginning to be quite dry again.

The man on the high ground is already beginning to figure on his spring garden.

The building of highways is a great deal more popular now than it was two years ago which is another thing we got out of the war.

The price of butter comes down just as if its market price was entirely separate from the cost of the feed that produces it.

It would have been most appropriate to lift the ban on February 2, the day the ground hog comes out to look for its shadow.

The persistent sinner at this season of the year, rivals the constant lawyer in the affections of the poultry man.

Having listened to the optimistic predictions of Profs. Pittman and Gilmore we are now waiting for the brass band to strike up "Yankee Doodle."

How closely the sentiment for the liquor traffic is associated with the profits in it is disclosed from the localities from which excuses for the business continues to be made.

It seems it requires as much preparation to stop a war as it does to start one. Just at present we are presenting a picture strikingly

similar to that of the man who, having grasped the bull's tail firmly finds it hard to let go.

Now in these times of peace adjustment the price of products is being squeezed down and labor is getting into a place where it must re-adjust its values. The period of strikes and disorders draws near and it will be observed that the people who sacrificed the least for the cause will be the most exacting in their demands.

Thrift day, Tuesday, February third, is a good day to put in practice some of the lessons of the times. Thrift never meant so much to the American people as it did within the year past. Thrift will count for us more during the time when we are a part of that league of nations than it has in the years gone by. For we will have been competition in our struggle for the things necessary to modern existence.

One benefit will result from the influenza scare. People are taking better care of their health. Common colds are more carefully attended to and the result when the winter is over should be more vigorous constitutions possessed by people who have been compelled to take unusual precautions.

Of course great wars have had some man or group of men who were responsible but if any of these have ever been brought to time and compelled to answer at the bar of justice for their deeds we do not now recall such instances. Napoleon was exiled, but more for the regulation of his subsequent activities than for his previous crimes. The trial and punishment of Germany's conspirators would be refreshing as an instance that the world progresses. Such an example would also have considerable influence on future groups who have similar opportunities. After all, the effect of punishment of criminals is not on the criminals themselves but on the great unapprehended multitude who may be tempted to follow in their footsteps.

In spite of the fact that House and Senate have united to abolish the zone postal law, letters continue to come urging country editors to bombard their representatives in Washington for the purpose of retaining it. The latest to arrive is from the "Republican" of Mitchell, S. D., which complains of the competition of Minneapolis dailies. We do not believe the dailies of one section are entitled to protection from the dailies of another to the amount that increased postal rates

would present. The time of issue gives them sufficient advantage. Neither do we take a great deal of stock in any need of protection of a country weekly from a daily paper. The country weekly has a field of its own where it is paramount. It is more menaced by the lame ducks and cripples whom this bill would foster than from competition with any healthy enterprise.

In the complete ebb tide of prohibition there is bound to be stranded a lively assortment of the gentry who have been accustomed to making their living off of the frailties of their fellow men and in certain localities a partial effect of this letting loose of gentlemen of easy morals is reflected in police statistics. At no other time in the history of the country has there been presented to the wiles of the grafter and confidence man the opportunity such as is presented by the possession of government bonds among people unused to responsibilities of this character. This is especially true in the great wheat and oil producing centers where a swarm of charlatans have descended on the guileless bond owners seeking to separate them from their property. The favorite method is to exchange for stocks in oil or mining companies. Possession of the latter is represented as a sure means of getting rich quick. Stories of ease and affluence following on small investment are glibly told and one hundred per cent dividends per annum is a small figure in the returns which are assured the investor. In place of the meager four and a fourth per cent which the government pays, the dazzling bait of riches only dreamed of is found irresistibly attractive. Such a menace has this evil developed to the prosperity of communities that leaders in the different sections, council of defense and other like organizations have taken means to combat the agents. In one town a large tank has been erected, painted yellow on the outside, with tar within and committees await on the agent when he alights at the depot show him the tank and tell him the time of departure of the next train. At other points the agents are seized and placed in jail until time to be put aboard outgoing trains. Warnings are given to the population and every possible handicap that ingenuity can suggest is put at work to save the money of the community for the people who earned it.

Oregon fruit growers are seeking legislation for the credit of the state. California, first in the mark-

et, and never modest about claims, has been building up a reputation on Oregon fruit. It is claimed and much proof has been presented to show that Oregon fruit has gone into the eastern market under a California label and has been bought and acquired a reputation at the hands of people who did not know of the origin of the product. Canned fruit is sold in the east as California produced. Prunes and pears grown in Oregon have gone far to create an impression that the best quality of these articles is associated with the word California. Walnuts and loganberries are among other products which it is sought to get full credit for. If legislation can get for Oregon full credit for its fruit products it will be that much accomplished.

Items of Interest

W. V. Fuller, Polk county legislator was confined to his home in Dallas by sickness last week and could not attend the opening sessions of the legislature.

E. C. Kirkpatrick and H. L. Crider have opened a brokerage office in the National Bank building in Dallas.

The flu situation in Dallas had eased up sufficiently so that school began there Monday morning, although many citizens opposed the move.

A. L. Martin, former head of the Power Co. in this county has been elected president of the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce.

A license was recently issued to Oliver White of Buell and Miss Gladys Putnam of Monmouth, Miss Putnam has been teaching in one of the schools of northwest Polk county.

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Pirtle, who traded a hundred and sixty acres of land near Red Prairie, Canada, with Galland Jackson for his forty-five acre farm northwest of the city have also traded for the La Creole academy buildings of Dallas and will remodel the old dormitory and turn it into an apartment house.

Senator I. L. Patterson has introduced a bill in the senate to make Washington's birthday a half holiday in schools with the forenoon devoted to patriotic exercises.

The Mountain States Power Co. has moved its central office from Tacoma to Albany and will transact executive business from that city in the future. The company has branches all the way from Marshfield to Klispell, Mont.

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