

The Herald

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Monmouth
Meditations

The Japanese and the French at the peace table appear not only to know what they want but are going after it.

As the swallows give evidence of the returning spring, the appearance of additional men in the student body in the Normal testifies that the war is over.

It will cause some straining to achieve a gravity water system for Monmouth, but it appears as if we were headed in that direction.

While the herding together of those 57 alien agitators on Ellis island with no one to talk to but themselves, must have been a tragedy to them, it has an element of comedy to the unfeeling outsider. At a distance it must have sounded like the buzzing of a disturbed colony of yellow jackets.

It will take time to work out the practical details of a league of peace and many important points will not be settled until a practical working of the plan has been secured through trial, but the idea is one that will not down and is the next step in the fitting of world conditions to meet the expanding needs of civilization.

The idea of a memorial hall in Monmouth appears to meet with approbation wherever the subject is broached. Just how popular the idea is will be determined when the financial side of it is given a try out.

The industrial clouds at Seattle a week ago looked dark but the storm which broke did not last a great while and had the effect of clearing the air. The positions of laborer and employer in the North-

west, because of it, have now become more definitely marked.

The quality of the entertainment given by the joint societies of the Normal last Friday night could not have been surpassed had it been of the formal kind to which an entrance price is charged. The theme was appropriate, the actors were well trained and the stage effects were fine.

Foresighted people have already begun to speculate on the industrial result to the country of prohibition. There is a large army of men who have been employed in the alcoholic drink business from the raisers of the rye, barley and corn through the breweries and distilleries, down to the retail distributors of the manufactured product. Many people are asking themselves what will happen when the growers produce food alone instead of the foundation of liquid fire? Will it not place our country in the novel position of being flooded with food stuffs? And when the number of our workers is swelled with the ranks of the men who have been making and selling red-eye will it not bring on a condition of industrial oversupply that will make the time of Coxe's army seem like a commonplace? Now, of course, with the development of motor traffic it may be possible to originate alcohol burners and turn the distilleries into producers of gasoline substitutes. But let us look at it another way. What good has the grain done which has been used to make a gallon of whiskey? It has not fed or clothed anyone. It has not gratified any beneficial quality of mind. It is not permanent. When it has passed through the system of the man who drank it, no positive need or nourishment has been supplied. As far as he is concerned the grain which was originally planted might just as well have been taken and dumped into the ocean. If by adopting prohibition we disturb our economic system we might carry out the original transactions with the nothing which the final drinker receives as a basis. The farmer might save his seed grain and sell imaginary crops to the distiller who could pay for it in real money. The distiller might pay his men for doing nothing and sell imaginary corn juice to the retailer for real money. The license and revenue money could all be paid, the bar tenders and bouncers and hangers on could all get their share and the consumer could take imaginary high balls and pay real money for them. Thus the end would have been accomplished. The money would have been put in

circulation and the world would have been just as well off as if those countless gallons of liquor had been swallowed. Better in fact, for there would have been less work for the police, less demands on the insane asylums. If hard times are ahead of us we might try it. Of course, it would put quite a load on the liquor consumer, but he is used to it. Just one year of it would be a practical demonstration to him of just what a philanthropist he has been.

This reminds us that if it is necessary for our peace and well being to maintain an army of persons who do not produce anything but insist on drawing pay for their time we might find a substitute in the office holders who having directed the winning of the war will now want to perpetuate their jobs to help us maintain peace. The council of defense it is now asserted will be necessary to the solution of problems which spring up following the war. We might name off-hand a dozen organizations, boards and commissions which were necessary in war time but which will now seek to hang on to any and every excuse for drawing salaries. If they all are kept at work we will shortly be as thoroughly regulated as that dear Deutschland in pre-war times and reach a condition at which our Revolutionary ancestors protested in the words of the Declaration of Independence: "He has erected a multitude of new offices and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

Woman's War Loot

As late as 1914 it was in order in England if a young woman appeared in Hyde Park in riding breeches, or even in divided skirts, if she rode astride, to write to The Times about it. As late as 1917 in New York it was almost obligatory for young working women to go to their work in skirts cut to display as much ankle as possible and to call attention to the line of the hips, with peekaboo waists and other accouterments which cried aloud at every rustle—Look, I am a woman! And a good part of the difficulty of that young woman in industry was to know what to do with the men who responded to the call of her dress and conducted themselves to her as to a woman rather than as to a fellow worker. Today London excels all other cities in the number of bifurcated styles for women's wear, and in any American city can be seen on the poster of the Y. W. C. A., an organization devoted to the conservation of all that the world most cherishes in its young

women, an American girl clad unabashed in cap and overalls.

The war will undoubtedly have its value in retaining one of the most important and least noticed industrial gains, the raising of the efficiency age for women factory workers.

Until the eventful year 1917, the age at which such workers went to the discard was thirty-five, just the age at which the sheltered woman begins to be of use to society. There were two or three reasons why this should be the case: Bad feeding, beginning work too young, and the "speeding up" system. But actual tests of women workers by women very quickly determined that one single item outweighed all the rest. This was the judgment of foremen, influenced perhaps unconsciously but nevertheless definitely influenced, by appearances. It is a fact that at the age of thirty-five few women who have worked since the age of sixteen for day's wages present that appearance of "pep" upon which very largely their efficiency is determined. And a very large factor in their appearance is the failure, through wanting interest or a growing need to save, to dress attractively. Put these women in uniform designed of itself to increase their own sense of fitness, and the unconscious estimate of efficiency rises with it.

Actually the situation of women, as women merely, is more critical than it has been since the time of Charlemagne. Never since then has the disequilibrium of population in civilized countries been so great as it is now. Official estimates give us ten million as the number of men whose lives have been laid down on sea and land. Ten million women cut off from home and husbands and children.

How shall they be accommodated in the economic order? How shall they make their contribution to society, seeing that they can no longer make it in terms of children? Finally, how shall the excess of feminine population be kept content, not to become, through the complete dislocation of its natural interests, a source of social unrest?

We hear a great deal about the million odd mutilated men. All our periodicals are choked with plans for their happiness and rehabilitation. But ten million women mutilated in their affections, their profoundest instincts—!

So far the only practical attack on this problem has come from two sources. It has come from England where, very largely owing to the activities of Mrs. Pankhurst, plans are being made to utilize the productive energy of women in food raising. Mrs. Pankhurst, being statesmanly to the highest degree, knows that women serve the state best when they are taking care of something.

The only other practical suggestion for utilizing the surplus woman population comes from Germany, and is one of the reasons why the war has been fought. It is a proposal to keep the women at their work of child-bearing either by raising the status of the unmarried mother or by creating a new form of "lateral marriage", which is a practical polygamy. We must do justice to the German women by saying that it does not yet appear to what extent they have acquiesced in the program imposed on them by their war leaders. But certainly the German women's wail for food would have had more response here if they had accompanied it by the assurance that their children, if saved by us from starvation, would not be permitted to grow up an offense and menace to the family.—Mary Austin in the February Sunset.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday School	10.00 a. m.
Preaching Service	11.00 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. Meeting	6.30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting	7.30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday	7.30 p. m.

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