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RICHARD B. SWENSON
Editor & Publisher

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Monmouth Meditations

While the general trend of traffic at this season of the year is from the artificial works of civilization to the natural attractions of mountains and ocean, the Herald man and two sons reversed the process this past week and spent a number of days in Portland. Our experience proved that Portland is something of a summer resort, itself. Recreation is accomplished by change, and while Portland might learn many things from Los Angeles and San Francisco in the way of presenting its wares to the public which wishes to buy recreation, it has the goods all right in quantity and quality superior to either of them. Of course the Columbia highway is the big feature and along with it trips to Mount Hood, Bull Run park, river trips to Oregon City, The Dalles and Astoria; but aside from these there are very many things within the city in which rural town folk may find delight at this season of the year. Typical among these is the Council Crest ride where the trolley rises to a height of over a thousand feet above sea level within a distance of three or four miles and also Mount Tabor which yields a fine view of the city and surrounding country.

Collections and exhibits, characteristic of the locality or presenting age old ideals of humanity, appeal alike to the visitor from country and city and for any one with a mechanical turn of mind there are thousands of things to be seen in the occasional city visit, things that perhaps leave a deeper and more lasting impression than the things which are specialized and catalogued.

We found especial interest in the plant of the "Evening Telegram" where the big double press with deafening roar ground out the mail edition of that newspaper. Also Kilham's printing establishment yielded much that was of interest. There we saw color process work under way with automatically fed presses; also machines for embossing, engraving and ruling.

It was a pleasure to stand on the Broadway bridge in the evening, watching the river traffic, the launches that with rapid chug-chug, came and went swiftly on their way; steamboats towing long rafts of logs, passenger boats with state-rooms alight and the larger craft before whose booming whistle the bridges opened that they might pass through. The trains making up, the switch engines with clanging bells; the street cars coming and going; the continuous string of automobiles, swiftly speeding in either direction; the electric lights, illuminated signs, brightening and darkening, arcades, street lights that in the higher sections of the city seemed to hang in the clouds; all had a common interest.

The human evidences around them make the bridges across the Willamette more interesting than the greater spans over the Columbia. But there is the sweep of bigger spaces in the latter and broader areas; the eddies of the waters of the mighty river that comes down to the sea from the Inland Empire, indicate the depths of the yellow flood. The winds that sweep forward and back seem in propor-

tion to the river they follow.

Our idea of zero in avocations is that of saying pleasant or even patient things about the Portland base ball team. The sporting writers on the Portland newspapers accomplish the feat but it must require an acid proof brand of self restraint. A set-to between the Portland and Oakland teams which was staged Saturday afternoon was enough to have wilted the enthusiasm of even the most hide bound partisan. There was enthusiasm in plenty when in the eighth inning of the first game Portland succeeded in scoring eight runs and it was enthusiasm of the kind where the dyed in the wool fan stands on his toes, clutches at the whiskers of abandoned glee and yells until the empyrean dome quivers with his reverberating echoes. At that it was a scene that could be duplicated several times when the Heavy Swatters and the Never Swets meet on the back forty to decide the championship of Greenacres township. The playing was about the same grade. What between balls muffed and booted, wild pitches and wild throws, bases on balls and batters hit, passed balls and general listlessness on the part of many of the players, it was something over which the gods might well weep. But one would never suspect it reading the official accounts of the afternoon. Portland sporting writers have home loyalty developed to the superlative degree.

We stopped to talk with a blue coated water front guardian at one of the municipal docks. His specialty, he said, was finding corpses or the drowned in the river. He had found four hundred in thirty six years. He claimed to know the waters of the valley from Myrtle Creek to the Columbia and said the waters of the Willamette were treacherous and a large per cent of bodies lost in it were never recovered. He named instances where bodies had been found, seen first, then brought to the surface by studying the tendency of currents.

Ship building—it was ended—all over. Why? Because the government contracts were completed and there was no other work in sight. How about foreign contracts? Nonsense, there weren't any. Why should foreign nations hire their ships built when they could build them for themselves. No, the government never forbade taking foreign contracts. If you have a business and are in shape to handle business, is the government going to make you refuse business. Silly idea, he concluded, and added "I tell you we're in for a hard winter."

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