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The Herald

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RICHARD B. SWENSON
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Monmouth Meditations

Well, well, that was quite a rain.

After a day or two of enforced vacation the hop pickers are hopping to the picking with redoubled energy.

You can't rise above the H. C. of L. in a flying machine. An 8 per cent tax is to be added to the fare for riding with the bird men.

The national prohibition law won't be put to a real test until next year. It will be hard lines on the statesman who was wont to corral votes by rolling a keg of beer into a crowd of freeborn American citizens.

It was certainly some reception that was tendered to General Pershing on his arrival in New York. But if the general is not strong on ancient history he might with profit read of the receptions given Dewey and Hobson some years ago, and of the outcome. The path of roses takes some unexpected curves on occasion.

Now that the vacating time is over we are being treated to weather during which a vacation would be a real pleasure.

That w. k. favorite the English walnut is now preparing to doff his summer suit of green and get into his service suit of khaki.

The story of the burglar of whose profitless visit to the home of Attorney Swope an account is given in another place, reminds us of a story Eugene Field used to tell. Certain clever burglars in the mountains of Bohemia had long had their eyes on a certain village, and since a study of the inhabitants disclosed the fact that the editor and the preacher were the most conspicuous on all occasions, the burglars concluded they must be rolling in wealth, and drawing lots decided to visit the editor. Breaking in the house, which they did with surprising ease, they searched the same from top to bottom without finding anything to excite their greed and at last they reached the room in which the master of the house, with deep and regular breathing, slept the sleep of the conscience clear and the unworried. Here, surely, thought they, must be the diamonds and rare gems for which they were seeking. But they found nothing and after a last search through the editorial trousers without financial advantage, the story is they slipped a Canadian quarter and two blue trading stamps into the pocket thereof and with solemn awe stole away.

Speaking of Attorney Swope, the business visitor at his office does not get a glimpse of the real man. It is when the attorney becomes the householder, gardener and chicken fancier that the real man is met with. While by no means the most ornate and expensive, Mr. Swope has one of the most attractive homes in Independence. There during his hours of relaxation the visitor is apt to come upon the judge, clad in coveralls, busy with saw or hammer or spade or hoe, communing with nature. On the land surrounding his bungalow there are so many things that it is difficult to catch it all with a few fleeting glimpses. Yet the eye retains the impression of the nodding tassels of

tall corn, fruit trees bending beneath the load of pear and apple, white chickens scratching and feeding, and a most pleasant and attractive picture it is.

As the greeting to returning soldiers has grown in volume its climax has been reached in the acclaim of welcome to General Pershing, symbolizing as he does the victorious effort that put the German ego down and out. It was a great work and was well and faithfully done.

An employee of Barnum's circus at the time it made a tour of Europe some years ago, tells an interesting story of show experiences in a recent article. The Emperor of Germany was the only crowned head in Europe who would not attend the circus and Germany was the only country to which an entrance was difficult to effect. The people of that country welcomed the show but the officials did not. The slogan which was used on show advertising—"We have conquered America and now we come to conquer, etc." was not allowed in Germany, although it was taken good humoredly in the other countries. But in Germany, anything hinting at the conquest of that land was not considered proper and the show bills had to be printed specially for that land with the objectionable sentiment omitted.

People who have grown up in it, inevitably acquire a tolerance for differences of political opinion that is foreign to the character of the professional man who for some reason or other is thrown into politics. Reflections of this character are an accompaniment to the reading of Henry Watterson, who though he spent his life in places where politics is a very serious avocation yet has maintained a tolerance for opposing opinions that is most refreshing. A strong quality with Watterson has been his loyalty to his friends. This has shown itself in a number of instances as when he stood by the confederacy when he actually believed it was wrong. His service in the last days of Artemas Ward is another instance. His eulogy of Joseph Jefferson is also a pleasant sidelight on Watterson's trait of loyalty. Jo Jefferson, with his great ability and exalted character was once a household name in America and Watterson's references to him are sure to call up fragrant memories in many places.

Pity Oscar Zook! For months past he has been doomed to spend his time at Newport News, attending the movies and watching the crowds of pretty girls go past. Lots of darkies there also but Oscar has not had any eyes for them. All the work he has had to do has been to wash his own clothes and clean up his establishment once a week. However he expects to get back home by the first of next month.

M. M. Jones who spent the summer at Sawtelle, Cal., in the national soldier's home there heard the call of cider making time in Oregon and decided to come home. He arrived here Sunday and has been busy since shaking hands with old friends. He found the summer very pleasant in the Los Angeles country, with foggy mornings and cool nights and his Oregon training enabled him to sleep with considerably less covering than his comrades who had become acclimated to Southern California.

Returned service men, whether soldiers or sailors or marines, may not be aware of the ruling of Secretary Glass that an insurance policy that has lapsed because the premium has not been paid, can be reinstated, even after eighteen months, but not longer. The man is not required to pay his premium for the intervening months. He merely pays for the month of his discharge and for the current month in which he asks reinstatement, making two months back premium all that is required.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Siegel are visiting at the home of Mrs. Siegel's parents, E. W. Strong and wife. The Siegels are looking for a farm in this vicinity.

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