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Wm. Riddell, Robert Steele, Ira C. Powell

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
Monmouth, Oregon

**The Herald**

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RICHARD B. SWENSON  
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MONMOUTH, OREGON

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**Monmouth Meditations**

With a whole week to practice on you should be able by this time to write it 1920 without an occasional lapse.

Unfortunately the people who are fondest of talking in public are not always the ones who have something real to talk about.

The time of the fraternity installation is with us and it is a poor joiner who has not one or more honorary offices to his credit.

The get together that includes a dinner marks the highest sense of neighborliness. It adds significance to the saying that we are all of one brotherhood.

The idea of taking the census in January must have originated in sunny Southern California. This is the time of the year when that part of the country may be enumerated with the greatest degree of success.

It is a common saying that a dollar is worth only fifty cents at present and the few newspapers which still stick to the dollar and a half price are to be considered as only valuing themselves at seventy-five cents a year.

The action of Messrs. McAdoo and Hoover in shying at what the Democrats have to offer suggests the thought in the mind of both that the coming campaign for their party is not as bright as it might be.

Truth is stranger than fiction. If a stranger should happen among us and you should tell him that less than a month ago we were snow-bound with zero trimmings, he would take you for a colossal romancer.

It is sort of hard on the old war horses who have their petisms and phrases committed to memory, but the prospect is that the coming campaign will develop a number of new and strange rocks on which

public opinion will split.

The stage in the political campaign has arrived where the prospective candidates seal their publicity dope, mark it "personal" and place a two cent stamp on the envelope instead of the usual one center. But the kind of dope that makes a hit with the publisher is the kind that is marked "advertising order" and is figured up monthly at the regular rates.

The coal shortage has cut down business in many places and caused the railroads to lay off trains. The Milwaukee road announces that it will electrify its entire line through the mountains. As coal grows more expensive waterpower and electricity are bound to come to the fore and these are assets in which the northwest looms large.

The annual financial report of the city throws an encouraging light on future prospects. Not only is the water system to be greatly improved, and Engineer Jones says the system can be put in for less than the amount set aside for the purpose, but we have a road fund now and can with a little care, bring up the streets of the city to an improved plane which would have been impossible a few years ago. We are now also in a position where the old system of going a little deeper in debt each year can be remedied and with conservative management the city stands a chance of not only becoming improved in appearance and comforts, but in a way to wipe out its debts.

Here is an example of contrasts: A year ago a Curry county gentleman entered a ball room and deliberately killed a young man. He was declared insane and released from the asylum within a year. Recently in the course of an altercation a Curry county gentleman threw a brick, it is alleged, against the head of another Curry county gentleman, and the coroner's jury absolved him of blame. The man's death was due to natural causes was the verdict. A Coos county girl is found killed from a bullet wound. A fifteen year old boy is held for her murder. With only circumstantial evidence against him, nothing that could not be erased as marks are washed from a slate if possible persons arose to do it, the boy is held in jail, subjected to browbeating and ingenious mental torture, tried before two juries which have disagreed and now is about to face a third trial. To an outsider it looks as though it were time for a new deal in the administration of justice in that section.

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