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**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 rainless winter following a rainless summer the pessimistic farmer is looking for a deluge along about planting time in the spring.

Not even the league of nations can keep the French from having an occasional crisis.

The legislature had all of the earmarks of a three minute nag on which a stop watch is being held with the expectation of making the circuit in something like 2:15.

Whoever is steering Herbert Hoover's campaign for the presidency, if it can be called such, is making some adroit political moves. We are beginning to think Hoover has some chance. He is a western man and this fact will not hurt him any between now and convention time.

From American Legion headquarters comes a warning to members not to be too hasty in judgment and condemnation on so called "red" and socialists. A timely action too for the tendency is to run to extremes and anything like persecution will react. "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church". Anything like persecution of its advocates will serve to make the red doctrine more popular with a certain type of citizen.

A new reason for the high cost of living has been found. Wm. B. Colver, member of the commerce commission says it is the excess profits tax, which he claims takes four or five dollars from the consumer for every one it gives to the treasury. An assertion of that kind does not prove anything, however. The excess profits tax is a very good thing for the small producer, and, we fancy is a fine thing for the national treasury.

"She Stoops to Conquer" the comedy given so splendidly in the Normal chapel Saturday afternoon by Devereux and his players was written in 1773, nearly one hundred fifty years ago. Its author was Oliver Goldsmith, a writer who although not greatly esteemed personally in his time has the distinction of having written things that have found readers in every generation since his death. Men who jeered at Goldsmith and made sport of his garb and his mannerisms, have turned to dust and been forgotten but Goldsmith still lives. The Vicar of Wakefield and the Deserted Village, a novel and a poem respectively, are among the classics of the language. They are marked by a certain humor and cleanliness of thought, quite in contrast to the work of his contemporaries and no one can read them and not be the better for it.

Monmouth people are under obligations to Senator Patterson and Representative Fuller for their assistance in getting the millage bill before the people. Mr. Fuller never lost an opportunity to give the Normal a boost and Senator Patterson from his position on the Ways and Means Committee was a tower of strength and his influence in legislation was clearly felt. It remains now for Monmouth people to turn in and give the millage law a unanimous boost in the special election. While prices have gone skyward along all lines, teachers have been pressed more and more as with

restricted incomes they have been compelled to pay the higher cost of living out of salaries that were small enough before the era of war prices. That teaching may not become an abandoned profession it is necessary that incomes be granted in accord with the present plane of prices, which no one who has given the matter consideration, doubts will prevail for years to come. We might as well accustom ourselves to the thought of higher prices and the increased millage for the Normal is strictly in line with this.

While the legislature was in haste as the circumstances of the moment compelled it to be the governor was able to take his time and his veto power has been wisely exercised to sort out the legislation that may well be reserved for times of greater deliberation. While the road bills were worthy yet one could not have been allowed without all being put on the statute books and this in addition to the projects the road commission already has on hand would swamp it with the immensity of the task. As the governor also says the straight party ballot plan may well be passed upon by the voters first before it is made a law. Having some familiarity with the straight ballot system the mediator believes it has certain advantages over the Oregon system and these are things which if thoroughly explained to the voter will be readily understood and agreed to by him. The statement is commonly made that this plan compels the voter to restrict his choice to the candidates of one party. This is untrue. It is easier to vote a split ticket under the straight party plan than under our present plan for less lead pencil work is required. The straight party plan makes it easier to prepare a ballot for voting and easier to count the ballots when cast which are two very important items in our great national pastime of carrying on an election.

The game and fish commission still holds the stage. The sportsmen are all right but Oregon has altogether too much at stake in its commercial fisheries to allow their equilibrium to be very much disturbed.

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