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FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Monmouth, Oregon

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

This is the season of the year when the kalsominer and paper hanger works in the day time and spends his evenings planning how he can accommodate all of the people who demand his services immediately.

The booster, the man who helps put a town on a map, is known by the things he does, not by the things he says.

Senator Chamberlain modestly admits that he would not mind having six years more of it.

They are robbing royal graves of gold, silver and jewels in Germany which while not a very brave trick, has at least the merit of utility. The trinkets will surely be of more use to the living than to the corpses.

It is said that the shipment of phosphate rock from Idaho through Portland is bound to result in growth of that city just as Seattle profited through the trade to Alaska. On such things does fortune rest and the growth of Portland will help the whole Willamette valley.

Mark Twain was fond of telling the story of the spider who looked over the columns of the home paper to find the merchants who did not advertise, feeling assured that there he could go and weave his webs in peace.

It takes quite a little to discourage Hiram Johnson. He thrives on criticism and saws wood with persistence and enthusiasm. He is bound to be one of the contenders in the big convention next June.

The opportunity to invest which the power company offers, at eight per cent, is not as alluring as the hundred per cent which some oil companies offer, but it has an element of safety that is more soothing to a nervous temperament.

When city councilmen handle large sums of money, constantly aiming to spend it as judiciously as they would their own; when they cultivate the eagle eye endeavoring to foresee and forestall graft and needless expense, when they sacrifice time and money in promoting the public welfare, it appears to us they are entitled to the gratitude of the community served.

This constant freezing and thawing is hard on crops but the Wood boom appears to be holding its own and promises to emerge in the spring in a very thrifty condition.

The house cat, asserts a news report, has achieved a new value. The fur market demands cat pelts and a good cat hide will bring as much as \$1.25, when it may appear as sealskin in a cap or as ermine in a muff. In addition the cat furnishes the world's market for fiddle strings. When a few more uses are discovered, we may awake to the real value of our soft footed feline friend who warbles out his soul in song in the small hours of the morning.

Now that the railroads are about to be turned over to their owners it must be admitted that they have been administered in just the right manner to make the people dissatisfied with government ownership. Possibly this may be due to the fact

that the work was steered by railroad men themselves into channels they knew to be plainly obnoxious. If the government had limited the pay of railroad men to the same scale held in the post office department it is fairly evident that the big deficit would never have been accumulated. The trial of government ownership of railroads has been by no means conclusive and the discussion for and against will doubtless continue to be with us as of old.

The public expressions of people who think and are prominent in the state are all favorable to the millage increase for the higher schools of the state. It is a proposition that must appeal to any one who gives it thoughtful consideration. The schools have always been hampered for lack of money and from year to year have been compelled to go to the legislature to eke out the funds that they should have. This is an excellent opportunity to make the effort to correct this matter of school money. All of the schools are united. Their friends, faculty, students and alumni are all working to make the proposed millage law the law of the state, and friends of the Normal, if they fail in this instance will have occasion to regret any active step they might have taken to advance the end.

Commander Robert E. Peary who died last week accomplished the actual discovery of the North Pole, a goal which many had sought before but none achieved. Peary was not a good advertiser. He did not have the faculty of eliciting popular sympathy and interest in his moves. As an explorer, "Doc" Cook who was a hot stove artist in that line, had Peary distanced in the work of getting the ear of the public. Cook sat down at his typewriter and there discovered the north pole and was promptly acclaimed by the public as the king of explorers. He set out on a lecture tour of the country and without proofs the country accepted him as the real thing and attended on his words in large multitudes. People in lonely stations got up early in the morning to see the car that contained Doc Cook, go by. Then came the humiliating report of the Danish investigators. Cook was dropped like a hot potato, but Peary who came a week or two later, a real man, an explorer of merit, a man of capacity of mind and soul, could never get the receptions that Cook the fakir, got. We recall him, as he appeared in Central Music Hall in Chicago, a number of years ago, at an afternoon matinee, with an audience made up largely of students of the city. Peary then was back from one of his "farthest north" trips and was raising money with which to go still farther north. He appeared in his Arctic furs and on the stage with him were his dogs, sleds and last but not least, his wife and the little girl who had but a few months before been born within the Arctic circle. When we think of the greatest of Arctic explorers, we recall him as he stood that February afternoon in 1893, quiet of demeanor and apparently rather diffident, exhibiting his northern trophies and explaining the stereopticon views as they were thrown on the screen.

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