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The Herald

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RICHARD B. SWENSON
Editor & Publisher

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THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION



Monmouth
Meditations

With fair weather, Monmouth will be host to one of the largest crowds in its history Sunday afternoon.

No, we did not notice that any item of the big program of work which the highway commission plans for next year, refers to Polk county.

With the state fair this week and the county fair next week, the mammoth pig and the blue blooded pumpkin once more arouse the admiration of enthusiasts. From the exhibits it is hard to believe that it was once said the Willamette valley was no pig country. That theory was disproved just as the theory that it is no corn country is being disproved.

Theodore Roosevelt once predicted that Alaska would within a century, support as large a population as the entire Scandinavian peninsula, that with its enormous resources of mineral and great fisheries it would produce a race as hardy and vigorous as any part of America. It is equally reasonable to believe that the entire northwest has but scratched the possibilities of future development and will multiply at no distant date its population and business importance.

A Seattle publication comes to us this week with propaganda favoring the Japanese side of the controversy which is one of the big questions of the coast. The question is dealt with from the standpoint of the employer to whom the opportunity of securing Japanese workers is doubtless attractive. The other side of the question of course comes from labor which the Japs supply and from communities where the question of Japanese predominance among the citizens is as real as negro domination in the south. Sometime this question will have to be faced in this country and both sides must have a chance to be heard.

As the last month of the campaign draws near Candidate Cox is confronted with a most perplexing problem. As the theories of President Wilson are at stake the latter is anxious to see his party win. He is planning now to take an active interest and boost the party ticket. At the same time, Cox, having emerged from the west, might be expected to appeal to the large cities of the east by leaning a little heavily on the wet issue. The question is, will not one of these moves offset the other? Will not the appeal of Wilson for his league offend those of the wets who are Irish and German? Will not any leaning by Cox to the wets offend Wilson's league friends, to many of whom it is akin to a moral issue?

The smash in prices last week led by the Ford Company and two Chicago mail order houses developed some momentum although not enough to achieve radical results in the way of lowering the cost of living. Business at present is too highly organized to allow any great amount of price reduction at one time although the trend is evident and the signs indicate that steadily lowering prices will continue for some time to come. We hear it asserted that wages must stay as

they are but fail to see how there can be much of a reduction in prices until wages are reduced. People talk about the high cost of living as though the items of cost were matters that affect other people exclusively. But the truth is every body is implicated; all to a great or less degree share in its advantages and are responsible for its extortions. But the laborer, instead of being the least, shares greatest responsibility for high costs. Labor is the one big factor in the high price of everything we buy. Therefore it will become labor to seek to reduce the price of agricultural products for wealth is obtained from the land and if the farmer can not make money enough to buy the high priced products of labor there will soon be an end of big wages everywhere.

A writer in the Youth's Companion calls attention to the difficulties of grammar as a study. He says that our grammar as constituting a branch of instruction in schools, is an adaption of the Latin system which, while it serves admirably for that language, is faulty and awkward when it comes to classifying the elements of English. In other words the result is similar to what would happen if a surgeon skilled in separating and arranging the organs of the human body should insist on the same classification for whales. Whereas the Latin language was built like a machine, with modifications and additions as they became necessary or desirable the English language was formed as the hills grow at the terminals of glaciers taking the material as it is shoved onto them with little choice as to its character and quality.

To classify such a mass under the divisions invented by the Latins at once confronts many obstacles. As a technical branch of instruction it presents the difficulties inherent in any inexact science; its standards are constantly changing. The terminology of grammar differs radically from year to year just as do the styles of clothing or of architecture and a knowledge perfected now with patience and labor may in a few short years become obsolete when some bright mind with new or original ideas rises to make a new plan for analyzing the structure of our mother tongue. We have one rock of refuge, however from which it is hard to dislodge us; this being the classics of the language as they have come down to us through the past. The man who is reasonably well familiar with the language of Shakespeare or Oliver Goldsmith or Washington Irving as a background for modern reading need not be alarmed at the move advocated in some quarters to do away with the study of grammar entirely.

In the name of clean sport base ball enthusiasts must insist that the players convicted of purposely aiding to lose games for the sake of gamblers should be hunted out and banished from the ranks of their associates. Attention at present is focused on the Chicago American league team where a number of players have been charged with and have admitted guilt in this dishonorable practice. Charges and suspicion of the sort have been made in big league circles previously but this is the first time that proof has accompanied the accusation. May we not suspect that this is only another of the instances where war and its accompaniments have loosened from their moorings the moral character of men and caused them to do things they normally would not have done? Previous to the war we are told that messengers employed by the banks of New York were invariably honest and the loss of valuables entrusted to them never occurred whereas within the past few years, thousands, even millions of dollars have been lost through conspiracies and sudden lapses in fidelity attending these bank messengers. It's in the air.

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| 11:00 A. M. | 1:00 P. M. | 1:15 P. M. |
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