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### A POINT OVERLOOKED



## The Herald

Entered as second-class matter September, 1906, at the post office at Monmouth, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

RICHARD B. SWENSON  
Editor & Publisher

MONMOUTH, OREGON

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY

FRIDAY, JAN. 21, 1921

### Subscription Rates

One year - - - \$2.00  
Six months - - - \$1.00  
Three months - - - 75 cts

Foreign Advertising Representative  
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## Monmouth Meditations

Community ambitions and rivalries, when they are healthy, are an incentive to progress, but when they reach the point they have in Polk county, where their influence is negative rather than positive—when they evolve into a first class ruction where each would rather stop the whole works than not have its way, they are a detriment and a stumbling block in the way of advancement.

It is entertaining how much more positive the theorist is in his theories than the man who bases his beliefs on actual experience. Recently the Review of Reviews interviewed certain prominent people on the matter of determining their opinion on business prospects for 1921. Practically all of them expressed the opinion that the peak of high prices had been passed some time since and the belief that business on a safer foundation would be resumed during the year ahead. Prof. Fisher of Yale and Prof. Person of Harvard were positive in their predictions and the latter set April, 1921, is the time when confidence would be restored and prosperity begin.

The manner in which candidates for postmaster are shying their hats into the ring indicates an early spring, the fear of a dry summer, or something.

The man who has burning thoughts on highways, and roads, and new ways of taxing automobiles, and who has not communicated his thoughts thus early to the legislature, is slow. Everybody else in the state has been there ahead of him.

It is to be noted that the people who are urgent for the repeal of the excess profits tax are people who are affected by it directly. It is the large concerns who complain of its hampering influence and who insist it is passed on to the public. It stands to reason that a sales tax which would affect the small dealer as well as the large one, would be passed on to the public. But we surmise the excess profits tax has a few good points that are not generally understood. It is not paid by the small dealer whose profits are not large enough to come within its scope. The small manufacturer and the craftsman who compete with the larger shops are giv-

### Uncle Johns Ash

NOW THEY'RE GOIN' TO GIVE BREAKFAST FOODS TO THE POOR DUMB COWS. SAWDUST, TREATED WITH MILD ACIDS, HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE GOOD CATTLE FEED.



en the advantage. The legislation and business practices of the past fifty years have conspired to drive industry to the large cities. We believe the excess profits tax will, if given a chance, help to restore a better balance of trade and population in the rural districts and large cities.

(Continued from page 1)

If anything goes wrong with your business or farm, brother citizen, do you blame the market condition, circumstance, competitors and God knows who? No sir. Not if you are the right man. You will get up early and stay up late and will hustle yourself to find ways to overcome all obstacles. Because of you don't you will fail.

The judge's friends tell us that the circumstances were always against him such as high cost of material, labor, etc.

Right you are—but that should have been only a spur to the judge to find ways and means to do the work cheaper and better than any other county of the state. Then and only then would he have proven his ability. We never have claimed that the job of a county judge is a soft one and that is the reason we need a man who really can do things for the best of the county in spite of everything.

We can prove that things can be done if there is enough will power behind it and our good judge has furnished the proof himself. Since the recall started there has been more road work done than in the previous two years. Gravel has been distributed all over the county roads have been scarified, graded and money for road work spent freely. But here again the judge has shown bad judgment and his unfitness for the office he is holding. November, December and January are about the three worst months in the year to do road work efficiently. Much money is spent that could have been saved, if the road work had been done in the right time of the year. And much done at this time will do the roads very little good and will last only a short time. Those arguments of his friends that the judge was not to blame but the circumstances, cannot hold good as Robinson has shown that if enough pressure is brought forth, things can be done.

The highway commission has done hundreds of miles of road work in nearly all the counties of the state without much friction the commission has changed roads in other counties and has come to an understanding with the courts, except with Polk county. Why? The highway commission has a big state road program worked out as good as they know how to the best of the state in their opinion. But this program did not agree with the wise plans of our judge and some other citizens and therefore the deadlock. But who will suffer? The highway commission, the state or Polk county? \$20,000,000 will be spent in 1921 and 1922 by the highway commission and how much of this money will go to Polk county if we do not come to any understanding with the commission?

Very likely none. The other counties will get so far ahead in the next two years with their roads that we will be unable to catch up in the next ten years. Can you picture for yourself how Yamhill, Marion and other neighboring counties will benefit through their good roads and how we will sink back in mud dirt and filth?

Dallas, with its big payroll should be at least twice as big as it is now. What is the matter? Let us wake up, open our eyes wide and take a new hold on life. Life is good, noble and beautiful.

Let us forget all little selfish interests; let us combine and join hands for greater and bigger things; let us get Polk county to the front again; let it be once more the blue ribbon county not only in products but also in thought and spirit.

My good fellowmen if we will keep these ideals before us we can not go wrong. So let us think and act accordingly. All of us for a better, greater and bigger Polk county.—OLD CITIZEN.

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