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The Herald

Entered as second-class matter September, 1909, in the post office at Monmouth, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

RICHARD B. SWENSON
 Editor & Publisher
MONMOUTH, OREGON

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Monmouth Meditations

Dean Davenport of the Illinois college of agriculture in the last Saturday Evening Post, relative to farmers and labor unions, said things that must startle the uninformed. With wheat at 90 cents a bushel and bricklayers wages at \$1.25 per hour he says a bushel of wheat will buy twelve bricks laid into a wall. The same bushel of wheat he figures, costs fifteen hours of time, to say nothing of money invested in land and tools. At the same time the laborer pays practically no taxes at all while the farmer's property is levied on for enough to pay for both. In some of the industries, notably coal, the high prices paid labor have attracted so many workers that there is not enough work for all and they work half time. Then they strike to get full time wages for half time work. An income tax would help to adjust some of this tax burden. This is one of the reasons why the candidacies of Wm. Riddell Jr., for county commissioner and of Jack Syron for the legislature are meeting with strong favor in the rural districts of Polk county.

It has been some time since Oregon had so lively a state campaign as this one which is being waged this year. It is no lady-like affair. Records on both sides of the house are being searched for information designed as ammunition for the opposition. Some notable things about Mr. Pierce's official record have been dug up but as a general thing it may be said he has the advantage inasmuch as he is out and Olcott is in and therefore on the defensive. All of the opposition that naturally swells the ranks of the man out of power are behind Pierce. The yellow ticket of the federated societies, the orange ticket of the Ku Klux, the tickets of at least two other groups of citizens have endorsed him and to outward indications he should have an easy victory. But there are a number of things working against him that may upset his chances. His official and business record has been punctured rather startlingly in several places. His stand on the school bill has not pleased many party men whom he might expect to be friendly. In his efforts to undermine the Republicans he is not receiving active backing from many of the old line Democratic war horses. That he feels he can neglect nothing in the way of campaign material is evident from the savage manner in which he attacked the highway commission at Ashland last week. This is a subject that is loaded with dynamite.

Of course he will please Independence and the Enterprise has declared for him but Oregon as a whole has a high regard for the disinterested work of the highway commission. The state ranks high in its road work. To criticize before a miscellaneous audience the salaries paid its employes smacks of the demagogue. He might also have got a reaction from the crowd had he quoted the salaries of teachers, doctors or other professional men, none of whom are over paid. To consider fairly the recompense of a worker we must take into account the time and money spent in acquiring the capacity to earn a livelihood. These things are all regulated by the law of supply and demand and none knows this better than Mr. Pierce.

Mrs. Brumfield takes the insurance money for which Brumfield murdered and perished and has married an Italian laborer who will help her spend it. People who wondered how a man of Brumfield's intelligence and culture could do the deed he was charged with possibly did not take into consideration the character of the woman he was mated to.

The Portland Telegram is showing evidence of prosperity by moving into a new and larger home which was made necessary by increasing business. In its old quarters the Telegram was perhaps the only Portland paper which allowed visitors to roam through its various departments and we trust the same freedom will be allowed in the new. The publisher of the Herald seldom goes to Portland without dropping in at the Telegram building to watch the various processes of printing a great metropolitan paper. Its composing room, stereotyping department and press room are matters that interest all. The Telegram is fearless in its public policy and deserves the patronage it is receiving.

We trust the water situation will not be allowed to rest in the same class as the countryman's leaky roof which did not need repairs as long as the weather was good. A repetition of the shortage we have just experienced must be guarded against. We need a larger reservoir to guard against accidents which are liable to occur on the long stretch through the Luckiamate valley. The intake should be regularly visited, especially at this time of the year.

Legion Women's New Head-dress



Thelma Sines, of Logansport, La., wearing the new head dress of the women's American Legion Auxiliary as adopted at the New Orleans convention.

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