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Christmas

Christmas, the birthday of the Saviour of the world, the season of joy and good will among men, is at our threshold. The time of the green holly with its red berries, and of the mistletoe, with its light-veined legends; the time of spiritual and physical feasting and open-souled generosity; when the little children laugh in glee making ready for the visit of the beneficent Saint Nicholas, and the older folks assume a kinder mien, comes again with wide-open arms to bring joy to a weary world and give terrestrial toilers a brief respite from their labors.

This year, when distress holds its sway in many parts of the world and when even in this land of American plenty, there are millions out of employment, families hungry, cold and miserable, and countless hordes of children looking to a cold fireside, thinking of Santa Claus, who most likely will be unable to make glad their hearts with his usual visit, it behooves us citizens of Watauga, where plenty yet holds sway, to look about us this Christmas eve, lest our share of these destitute people be without good cheer on this holy day. We have been signally blessed this year, with all its accompanying hardships. Our hills and valleys have brought forth abundant yields, our granaries and larders are filled with the life-giving fruits of our labors, and while financial prosperity can not be measured with previous years, we are enjoying a manifestly greater blessing than has come to our neighbors in other parts of the country.

Let us open up our hearts this Christmas, even if our purses are not bulging, and help each other to enjoy the sacred season. There is food and warmth for all, and let us use diligence in order that there may be no wan hungry faces, trying to effect a smile as they utter a cheerless "Merry Christmas."

"The Way of Life"

By BRUCE BARTON

PROPHETS

A man who was in France told me this story, which is interesting and may be true. He said that on November 10, 1918 a friend of his went into war headquarters and stopped beside the desk of an officer who was engaged in statistical work. The officer had been so busy with his charts and figures he had hardly left his office for days.

The visitor said to him: "Well, I guess it's about all over." "What do you mean?" asked the statistician.

"Why the Armistice will be declared tomorrow."

"Nonsense," the statistician exclaimed, "this war is going on for another five years." Whereupon he drew out his graphs and charts and proceeded to prove it.

Here's another story, told me by a banker.

In November 1930, the ten leading economists of the country held a secret conclave and took a ballot on how long the business depression would last.

One of them said it would be over in six months.

Four said it would last from one to three years.

The other five said it would last from three to five years.

"If they are right, the outlook is pretty gloomy, isn't it?"

"I said it certainly was."

"There is just one joker in the story as I told it," he added. "That the meeting was not held in November 1930. It was held in November 1920. And that depression came to a close, as we now know, in August 1921."

Looking back over business we can see that prophecy has always been a dangerous business. But as between the optimistic prophets and the pessimistic the balance is in favor of the optimists.

Old Mother Shipton, in the early 1500s prophesied that "iron upon the sea would float as easily as a wooden boat." She foretold the airplane, the submarine, and the telephone. She was suspected of being crazy, but she does not look so crazy now.

John Law, of Mississippi Bubble fame, sold shares in his vast concessions on this continent. Speculation ran them up to wild prices and the ensuing panic ruined thousands. But those concessions represented the richest part of the United States. Even at their highest price they would be cheap today.

I do not intend to join the ill-fated company of prophets. I merely record my general agreement with the late P. T. Barnum, who said:

"You'll Like This, I Betcha" By Albert T. Reid



"If the truth were known I think it would be found that in this wide-awake country more people are fooled by believing too little than ever were fooled by believing too much."

The Family Doctor

By DR. JOHN JOSEPH GAINES

A CHRISTMAS SKETCH

The American Indian, celebrated his victories of the battleground with sumptuous feasts; he had no other festival days than those wherein he took the most scalp. The American white man is very different. He has many festival days, most of which celebrate some peaceful event.

Christmas is, or should be, a time of rejoicing. The family doctor here sees American life in its varied phases. He is called to administer to the American glutton who "celebrates" with his stomach, and unknown to the masses, his hand goes into his pocket to help in bringing cheer to the squand home. It is amazing how many homes of the latter sort we have when we take a second look.

If ever a people should feel profound gratitude and thankfulness to a beneficent Creator, then our people should be first in appreciation. There is abundance here for all, but none. It is to be regretted that superior skill and cunning have taken most for themselves—but that is not God's work, it is man's. He knew men pretty well when he said, "the poor ye have with you always."

Gluttony is man's weakness—yet it's a serious fault. I can see no reason for celebrating the birth of our Saviour with riotous living. It should be a spiritual, rather than a gastronomic feast. Indeed my Christmas hours are more filled with mental feasting than with material spices. I love to contemplate that wonderful manger and its princely Occupant—and it is good for my soul. My body is amply content with the simplest things. We may penalties for intemperance, without regard to when it occurs. Blessed Christmas! With its abundant spiritual feast!

Sunday School Lesson

REV. SAMUEL D. PRICE, D. D.

December 27th THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY IN EUROPE

Review lesson offers unlimited opportunity for research. It is of value this time in relating the individual and often scattered events that we have studied in the life of Paul. The work of the quarter began with the call, "Come over into Macedonia and help us," which was heard at Thess. It will be helpful to survey the entire life of the apostle to the Gentiles. Read all of the Acts if you can make the time, but begin at least with the conversion in chapter nine. You will need a map as you follow the travels of this itinerant evangelist on his four missionary journeys. Then you can reach good measures by reading the epistles that he wrote en route or while in the two imprisonments at Rome.

In Macedonia, Paul began the evangelization of the continent of Europe, whence the influence was extended to America. The second journey took Paul with Silas, Timothy and Luke, first to Phillipi and then as far as Corinth. Fine results were obtained. Then he took his two working companions, Aquila and Priscilla, with him as far as Ephesus.

On the third journey more time was spent at Ephesus than elsewhere. Multitudes believed and gave evidence as they made a huge bon fire

and destroyed their worthless charms and idols. Again Paul went as far as Corinth and then returned to Jerusalem, preaching en route, where he was arrested. There more than two years were spent in prison at Caesara before the eventful shipwreck voyage was made to Rome. During those two years in the Imperial prison the apostle taught and wrote epistles. Then came a short release, followed by a second imprisonment which ended with his beheading. Paul evaluates his life by saying, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."

Electrification Is the Keynote of the Soviet

Moscow.—Nicolai Lenin's magic word "electrification" will be the keynote of the Soviet Union's second five-year plan.

With the government leaders claiming that the chief objectives of the present five-year plan of national development will be completed in four years, the press turned its attention last week to the second plan, which will be discussed at the forthcoming session of Communist party leaders, summoned to Moscow by Josef C. Stalin.

Like the first plan, which has given the world an amazing if somewhat vague picture of the progress of the Communist state, the new plan will cover a wide field, but will concentrate on electrical developments throughout Russia. The benefits of electricity was one of the channels through which Lenin captured the imagination of the nation a decade ago.

It also will provide for further mechanization in farming, including improvement of the great co-operative and state farms and for higher quality of industrial production in Russia's new factories, according to indications at present.

There will be one striking contrast between the second plan to be drawn up by the Soviet leaders and the first plan, which was considered an impossible dream when it was first announced. This will be in connection with construction of new factories and machine shops.

The first plan necessarily laid emphasis on the building of factories to supply Russia with implements and machines which she had been forced to import in the past. That stage has been completed to a certain extent and, in the new plan, stress will be placed on the necessity for fullest development of the industries built up under the first program.

There will be no demand for construction of new "giants" in the industrial field, but instead the government will exploit to the limit its present facilities.

There also will be a broad program for municipal improvements, such as the recently announced plans for the rebuilding of Leningrad into a "model Soviet city."

It was confirmed that Stalin and other leaders are making improvements of living conditions in Russia one of their primary objectives, presumably feeling that the terrific pressure under which the nation has labored in recent years merits a trend toward elimination of some of the hardships under which the people have lived.

The newspaper Pravda, commenting on the new program, emphasized that Russia is no longer dependent upon foreign countries for tractors and various other machines.

Esley Hope Forbes 4-H Club member of Gaston County, now has a herd of 23 animals worth about \$2,500. In the nine years since he has been a club member he has won over \$1,300 in premiums at the Gaston County Fair.

Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Canada

Canada's census of 1931 has just been completed and it shows the total population of the Dominion to be almost exactly ten million persons. That is an increase of about fourteen per cent in ten years, which is a fairly rapid rate of growth—a faster rate, in fact, than the United States showed between 1920 and 1930. It is not very many people, however, to populate Canada's enormous area. The Dominion has 3,690,000 square miles, which is 660,000 square miles larger than the United States. Our population is about thirty-eight persons to the square mile, and Canada's is fewer than three persons to the square mile.

This vast and largely undeveloped area to the north of us still holds immense possibilities for the pioneer and the explorer.

Vitamines

We hear a lot about vitamins and the necessity of eating foods containing them, but few people are able to keep the list in mind. Here is a simple, concise list of the common foods which contain the vitamins essential to health:

- Vitamine A—milk, butter, fresh cheese, eggs, green vegetables (spinach, lettuce, etc.), yellow vegetables (carrots, yellow corn). Vitamine B—Germ of cereals, liver, yeast, lettuce, raw peanuts. Vitamine C—Lemons, oranges, grapefruit, raw cabbage and sprucekruut, sprouted grain or peas, tomatoes, lettuce, watercress, raw spinach, turnips or green peppers. Vitamine D—Liver and cod liver oil, egg yolk, snails, sunshine (that is, sunshine on the body actually causes vitamine D to appear in the body, which aids bone growth, prevents rickets, prevents tooth decay). Vitamine E—Germ oil of wheat or other grain, other vegetable oils, fresh meat and animal fat, fresh lettuce. Vitamine F—Same foods as vitamine B. Vitamine G—Fresh or evaporated milk, liver, green vegetables, fresh or canned, bananas and yeast.

Gas

Enough natural gas is being produced in the United States today to provide six times as much energy as all of the electric power stations put together.

New natural gas fields of enormous volume have been discovered and developed in the past two years in Southern New York and Northern Pennsylvania, and in many other sections of the United States. I know some countries in which almost every farmer has his own gas well.

Probably enough natural gas has been allowed to go to waste in the past fifty years to supply the whole nation with fuel for a hundred years. A great many gas fields "petered" out, but new ones are constantly being brought in. Eventually natural gas seems likely to be our chief source of power.

Insurance

The life insurance companies of the United States paid more than two thousand million dollars to their policy holders and beneficiaries last year. There is about three times as much life insurance in force today as there was ten years ago. There are literally millions of men who are providing estates for their dependents after they die, and comfort for

themselves in old age, by no other means than setting aside a fixed percentage of their incomes for life insurance premiums.

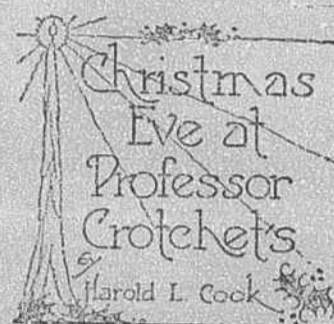
A good rate for anybody buying life insurance is to take as large a policy as can be paid for out of ten per cent of the individual's fixed annual income, and increase the insurance as the income increases.

Jobs

The hardest problem that community committees on unemployment have to face in using the funds raised for unemployment relief is finding or making jobs for the class often called "white collar workers."

It is comparatively easy to make work for the manual laborer. New York is doing this by all sorts of street, park and waterfront improvements. A good many white collar workers are being provided work in collecting information which various public and semi-public institutions need but in ordinary times have felt they could not afford to collect. One New York business house suggested a house-to-house canvass of the city to find out how many domestic electrical appliances of all kinds were in use, and on condition that this information should be available to every distributor of electric appliances, one of the unemployment relief agencies put a thousand men and women at work on salary, ringing doorbells and gathering these statistics.

There is no community so small that some work of that general nature cannot be found for unemployed who are not able to do manual labor, and who are unwilling to take charity.



THE night was crisp and cold. The thermometer had fallen below zero. The snow crunched under the feet, and the very stars seemed to snap and crackle in the heavens. Frequent gusts of wind shot their icy pins in-

to the ever redder cheeks of the carolers as they went from house to house singing their Christmas songs. As they passed through Beaumont street the wind seemed to sting more than ever, but the street was short and there was no reason for the singers to pause there. Only one house broke the expanse of white lawns with plumed bushes and hedges; that was the house of Professor Crotchet, before which they would not dare stop. The professor was a exact man, but he was also a peculiar man and a recluse whose wife had boasted at the last reception they had attended that it was the first time they had honored any gathering by their presence in eighteen months. "My husband is so busy," she had said.

This Christmas eve the house was dark as usual except for a dim ray of light which escaped between the long shutters of the french windows in the professor's study. The leader of the carolers, noticed this pale light, and much to the surprise of everybody, called the singers to a halt under the professor's window. Then broke out on the frosty air the joyous voices of young people singing, "It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old."

Professor Crotchet, deep in the stillness of his study, pushed back his papers nervously at the first notes of the carolers. "Diague take these



young ones!" he muttered. "How can a man ever work in this day and generation with people singing under his very windows?"

He waited impatiently for the quiet he expected to succeed the song. But he was disappointed, for the singers had decided to give the crabbed professor their whole program. One song followed another. By the opening of the third carol the professor was pacing restlessly up and down. Then he suddenly reached for his day's mail which he had not yet opened.

"Perhaps I can read this, even if I can't determine in the midst of all this bedlam how the Bulgarians pronounced O'beurs G. in 1834," he muttered. "And to think, I bought the only house in the street just to have peace and quiet."

He ripped open an envelope and was amazed to read the following letter:

"Dear Professor Crotchet: As secretary of the class of 1900, I was requested at our last reunion to write you at Christmas time our appreciation not only of the privilege we feel in having studied over thirty years ago under a man who has since won such world renown as a philologist, but even more, our heartfelt thanks for the homely, friendly, healthy counsel you gave us at that time, the application of which has played such a large part in our several successes since then. When you dismissed us for the Christmas holidays in 1898,

you said, now boys, go to your homes and rejoice with your families and friends. Forget books and studies for a fortnight, fill your lungs with the pure air of the great out-of-doors, skate on the frozen rivers, slide on the icy hills. When you play, play hard, when you relax, relax; then you will be ready to return to your work fresh and vigorous and strong. This is the advice which we have all followed, and this advice has been the foundation of our success. When we have worked, we have worked hard, and when we have played, we have—

Professor Crotchet read no farther. He scratched his head for a moment, then rushed to the french windows, which he threw open into the night.

"Enter, enter!" he called to the carolers, "enter, and warm yourselves by the hearth."

"Merry, Merry," he shouted, going to another door, as the singers entered by the window, "hot tea and cakes for



twenty, Merry, our friends have come to wish us both an old-fashioned Merry Christmas."

Then coming back toward the young people he greeted them cheerfully with a "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas to you all."

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Quality Baby Chicks Means Poultry Success

The most important factor in the success or failure of the coming poultry year is the baby chicks to be hatched or purchased.

The present-day poultryman, whether engaged in the business commercially or simply as a farm flock owner, or whether he is new to the business or has had years of experience, must give attention to the quality of his baby chicks," says Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at State College. "If these chicks are not of proven stock, no amount of expensive equipment, care in feeding or careful management will put this quality into the birds. It must be transmitted to them by the parent stock."

By quality, Professor Dearstyne points out, he means that the chicks be from flocks of high vitality, carefully chosen for production and conformation to the standard of the breed, and from blood-tested parents, if possible. Such chicks are to be found only in hatcheries which have a carefully chosen source of supply, or from flock owners who have proven themselves capable of developing such chicks.

Dearstyne looks for an increase in poultry growing in North Carolina this coming season and this means there will be a demand for baby chicks. Some will purchase on a price basis without regard for quality and bring disease and low production into their present flocks. Some will be misled by enticing advertisements and will send orders without first investigating the conditions. It would be wise, thinks the poultryman, for those who contemplate buying from outside of North Carolina to first take up with the agricultural college of that State the status of the source of supply.

HEREFORD BULL FOR SALE—22 months old. Weight 800 pounds. \$50.00 Allied Watson, Deep Gap N. C. 12-24-2c

Dr. C. B. Baughman, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, Elizabethton, Tenn., will be in the office of Dr. J. B. Hagaman in Boone, on the first Monday in each month for the practice of his profession.

FARM FOR SALE—Eleven acres of good land, 1-1/2 miles from Cove Creek school in Villas community. Good six-room house, barn and other buildings. Good terms. If interested, communicate with Elder G. W. Trivett, Villas. 12-10-3c

PASTIME THEATRE "Place of Good Shows"

Friday-Saturday Dec. 25-26. BUCK JONES

"TEXAS RANGER"

Monday, Tuesday, Dec. 28-29. EDMUND LOWE, LOIS MORAN

"TRANSATLANTIC"

Wednesday, Thursday, Dec. 30-31. BERT WHEELER and ROBT. WOOSLY

"CRACKED NUTS"

ADMISSION 10c and 25c Western Electric SOUND SYSTEM