

THE ELKIN TRIBUNE
AND KENFRO RECORD

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The Christmas Spirit

Before another issue of The Tribune appears Christmas will have come and gone. The day will be celebrated in the usual widely different ways: There will be those little tots to whom Santa Claus is a sacred personage whose favor they crave; there will be others to whom the fine spirit of the day will be lost in ribald frivolity, augmented by brews that bring only veneered enjoyment; there will be that other group, all too small, who will lift their eyes heavenward in thankfulness for Him who came to suffer and to save, and whose birth the day reflects.

There is a marvelous magnetic force in the Christmas idea that draws all men into it. Under its influence the primitive instinct to get which causes rivalry and dissensions and hatreds, gives way to the impulse to give, which unifies and makes the world akin.

The angel song of peace on earth, good-will to men has awakened a responsive chord in the hearts of mankind that has become greater in volume and sweeter in intonation than when first echoed from Judean hills. The whole round world now joins in the spirit of the refrain.

In this Christmas spirit there is a magically ennobling influence that searches out the finest qualities and finds them common in high and low, rich and poor, and temporarily at least establishes a bond of sympathy that holds across these casual lines of cleavage. It is like a great orchestra, which thundering out the strains of a mighty symphony, sets a thrill with responsive harmony the lowest utensils in the building.

Out of every manifestation of the Christmas spirit comes the prompting to enlarged sympathy, to generous sharing, to greater kindness and mercy and to all those finer and tenderer emotions which universally are recognized among mankind as basically good. There is something in the Christmas spirit that makes the people of many countries feel that even the lower animals ought to have a share in the Christmas bounty.

This has been a year of privation for many of us; we will argue that we can do little to carry on this commendable spirit by giving gifts. Maybe this is so. But there are gifts that may not be measured in dollars and cents—and we can give these, unstintedly, and feel richer by doing so.

And so we come again to this period that ought to be a joyous one for all—let's not forget those whom we have reason to believe are short on joy. We can bring some little brightness into their lives and thus brighten our own.

The Tribune extends its heartiest best wishes to its readers and to everyone, for a Happy Christmas.

Do We Need A Dictator

Italy's chamber of deputies has passed a bill presented by Premier Mussolini himself, giving the government the right to veto the erection of new industrial plants or the enlargement of existing ones. Premier Mussolini points out that the bill would have importance during business revival by preventing the extension of industrial capacity beyond consumers' demand.

That is one of the troubles of the United States, in that in boom times from 10 to 20 per cent of capacity has not been utilized; the principle of free initiative has developed a competition which in its race for prestige does not provide for the necessary profits, and the net result is idle plants and idle men.

The successful manufacturer in any community is haunted with the knowledge that his success invites others into his field, resulting in a "capacity beyond the consumer's demand." This absorbs investment funds which must be lost and generally gives rise to bitter competition to the further detriment of profits.

The principle of freedom of initiative for American business has no place for a dictator, but sometimes it seems to us that an iron hand is needed to keep the economic ship on an even keel.

Of course if Mussolini were directing affairs in this country he would not confine himself to the manufacturer, but the farmer would be given more than a gentle hint that a reduction in his cotton and tobacco acreage would dovetail into the supply and demand theory of production. The chances are too, that the hint would not be disregarded.

Surplus Money—Idle Men

The government recently sought loans totaling six hundred million dollars. The total money offered was ten billion seven hundred and ninety-five million dollars, or nearly eighteen times as much as the government wanted to borrow.

The interest the government offered on these loans would not average two percent, yet ten billion one hundred and ninety-five million dollars has been offered—for which the government has no use.

Queer paradox! Ten million idle men and ten billion idle dollars! Men willing to work for less than they had ever dreamed would be offered them in wages; dollars willing to work for an interest rate that should prove profitable.

While state and city governments and citizens' relief committees are trying to care for idle men, the idle dollars are allowed to go back to

their hoarding places to remain idle dollars still. What we don't know about high finances would fill a barn, but the more we look at those figures, the more we are convinced that the government could anticipate settlement with the war veterans, and with that rate of interest, make itself some real money. While the veterans are only a small part of the idle ten millions, every one of the group would benefit by the wide distribution, and there would be less need of talk about the idle, hoarded dollars.

Financing Our Competitors

England has paid her war debt installment, maintaining her honor, and has risen in the estimation of the American people. France has done neither. The debts were honestly made, cautiously agreed to and every effort should be made to meet them. Conditions arise with nations, as with individuals, when obligations cannot be met. It looks like that condition exists in the case of the war debts. If so a generous American public will be glad to approach the council table through its representatives to revise them and make them less hard to pay.

If the European nations cannot pay in gold, they can pay in something else. It is Governor Roosevelt's idea, apparently, to talk turkey to them individually: trade agreements may be reached that will make their obligations to us an easy matter, and the exchange mutually helpful. Uncle Sam is not a Shylock, neither does he enjoy having the wool pulled over his eyes.

Cancellation of the debts would mean that European taxpayers would be favored at the expense of the American taxpayers, and European industries would be favored at the expense of American industries. Therefore the debts should not be cancelled but held for legitimate trading purposes, for trading is the fondest thing Europe is of.

Senator Pat Harrison points out that in the event of complete cancellation the total remaining debts of the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy would be about \$68,000,000, and if we deduct the total pre-war debt the remaining war heritage would be \$54,000,000, which would be divided among the nations as follows: "Germany would escape with possibly 1 percent of the remaining burden of the war; France, 8 percent; Italy 2 percent; the United States 39 percent and Great Britain, 50 percent."

And then Senator Harrison adds this further significant observation: "Germany, free from debts, will be a principal competitor in world markets and Italy and France will have to be reckoned with."

A Heavier Burden on the Other Shoulder

The next legislature will hear a lot about balancing the budget, and a general sales tax looms as not only a possibility but a probability. If the 15 cents state property tax for school is to be eliminated, the state will have to look elsewhere for money. If the property tax is to be replaced with a sales tax, the question arises will the farmer be the beneficiary. The principal argument in favor of the source transfer, is that it will benefit the landowner.

Available figures show that the abolition of the 15 cents property tax and the substitution of the 2 percent general sales tax in its place will cost the farmers and their families almost \$2,000,000 more per year than under the present set-up.

The forthcoming tax commission's report, with calculations based on the 1930 census in North Carolina and on other data, will probably show that only 9 percent of all the property taxes in the state are paid by farm property. Corporate property and land for other than agricultural purposes pays about 50 percent of the properties, leaving the other 41 percent to be paid by non-corporate city and town properties. In other words property taxpayers are divided into three main groups contributing to the state in about the following ratio: farmers \$445,000; corporations \$2,250,000; city taxpayers \$1,805,000.

If these figures are anywhere near correct, the corporations would benefit most from the removal of the 15 cents property tax, the city property owners next and the farmers last. On the other hand the general sales tax would fall heaviest on those who live in the cities, because of the increased population and the consequent consumption of commodities. But next to suffer would be those who live in the rural districts. The corporations benefiting most by the shifting of the property tax, would pay less to the state in lieu of it, because corporations buy little across the counter on Saturday evenings, or any other time.

If practically all of the revenue from a general sales tax is to come from the pockets of rural and city dwellers, the burden has not been shifted from the shoulders of the farmer as he had hoped. It is pointed out that instead of the \$445,000 now paid by the farmers in the 15 cents property assessment, his purchases covered by a general sales tax will cause him to pay \$2,400,000.

The farmer has been promised that the 15 cents property tax would be lifted from his back. If he is to be saddled with another that will take a greater toll, where will he benefit? When the farmer sees the amount written on his tax receipt appreciably lowered, he is inclined to jump up and pop his heels in glee, forgetting that at the cross roads store and in the purchases in town he has paid the amount of the decrease several times. The argument that he "pays and doesn't miss it" may be good psychology but it isn't good business.

We do not profess to know the intricacies of taxation, but we do know that often in the past, taxes have been camouflaged to make them appear what they ain't.

One thing we would like for Santa Claus to put in our stocking is a debt moratorium.

The Washington Herald observes that "a lame-duck Congress naturally contains a good many quacks."

The Great Trade-In Season

By Albert T. Reid



I'D LIKE TO TRADE THAT FOR ANYTHING—JUST ANYTHING. IMAGINE IT—FOR A PRESENT!

Calbee
T. Reid
ARTIST

Surry Body Hands Alleged Primary Fraud Matter Back

(Continued from Page One)

4, 1932. This investigation was made by the Attorney General of North Carolina and the Solicitor of our District. It was given to us at a time that we were very busy with other court matters. The report contains nearly four hundred pages. No recommendations were made to us from either the Attorney General or Solicitor. No member of our grand jury has much knowledge of the Election Laws, and none of us has any legal knowledge. Without knowing the law, and without legal help, we examined this report the best we could and it is our opinion that it should be further examined by a more competent party."

The report states that the jury found the conditions at the County Home and jail in satisfactory condition. Recommendations for minor repairs were made for the court-house. A total of 47 true bills

were returned and 6 not true bills. Eight presentments were received.

Touching on the whipping post matters, the report declares:

"It is our opinion that a whipping post, properly handled would be of great benefit to Surry county. Call this also to the attention of our legislators."

Want A Carol? Light A Candle

On Christmas Eve night the members of the Senior and Intermediate Baptist Young People's Union of Jonesville, will sing Christmas carols. Those desiring carols sung in front of their homes are requested to put a lighted candle in their window.

Stolen Automobile Found Near Zephyr

The automobile which was stolen from Paul Fletcher Monday night, December 12, has been recovered, it was learned Tuesday. The machine was said to have been found abandoned in the woods near Zephyr. A tire was missing and the motor was frozen, it was reported.

Stage Bankrupt Sale Of McDaniel's Stock

Following the referee's sale Monday of the McDaniel's Department store stock, which was confirmed shortly thereafter, the entire stock has been repriced at bankrupt figures and was placed on sale to the public this morning.

The store is in the hands of a special selling agent who promises some of the biggest values ever to be offered in Elkin.

A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS
State Road, N. C.,
Dec. 20, 1932,

Dear Santa Claus:
I want you to bring me a big doll, candy, oranges, gloves and galoshes, so the snow will not get in my shoes. Fred, my brother, who is three year old, wants a harmonica, a big truck, candy and a ball.
With love,
ANNIE LEE HARRIS,
4th grade Bryan school, 10 years old.

Oh, if women could only learn to change gears as smoothly and non-chalantly as they change husbands!—Arizona Producer.

JEWELRY

OF LASTING CHARM

Elgin Watches
An Elgin strap watch makes a real gift. Latest styles—
\$15.00 to \$35.00

Pendent and Ring Sets
These beautiful pendent and ring sets will make an appreciated gift—
\$4.50 to \$7.00

Watch Chains
\$3.00 to \$6.00

Whether for "Him" or for "Her" the most acceptable gift you will want at the pay here among gift offerings. Select the gift

CONKLIN SETS
It will please, years of use—
\$8.50

Waltham Watches
\$15.00 to \$20.00

Bar Pins \$2.50 to \$12

Bulova Watches
The ever popular Bulova is now on display. All new models. And priced at—
\$24.75 to \$37.50

Rings
A man will appreciate a ring. Ruby setting—
\$6.00 to \$10.00

Ladies' beautiful stone set rings—
\$4.00 to \$9.75

CARL W. STEELE

E. MAIN ST. JEWELER ELKIN, N. C.