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Mussolini may think he has his troubles but just let him bump into the confusion of one of our income tax blanks.

With thirty-odd thousand prisoners to feed and care for Britain may not call the campaign in Egypt a victory after all.

"Transparent furniture may have its problems. Think of the embarrassment of a man who tries to sit down on the floor and finds himself sprawling in a chair."—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Merry Christmas

For this short Christmas holiday season we all revert to the simplicity and sincerity of childhood. All hearts are mellowed and opened, even depressed hearts are lighted by Christmas goodwill and cheer. We like to think that the Christmas greetings that flood the mail at this season are not mere formalities, mechanical in their exchange, and that our gifts are but expression of the love that is in our hearts, rather than a habit we have formed.

In almost every city in the land the Christmas lights are shining and music is in the air. And this is as it should be, for the birth of Jesus, which created Christmas, was attended by light and music—the indescribable light of the heavens, that shone upon shepherds tending their flocks, and the strains of celestial music, the hallelujahs, so appropriate for a time like that. And so the lights and music of this modern day are warranted by the characteristics of that first Christmas.

If we have commercialized the Christmas holiday season, we can still find consolation in the fact that in the process we have added happiness to thousands for whom there would be no Christmas cheer if all during the year our factories and our merchants had not been fashioning and bargaining for this and that in the hope that it would add to our happiness as well as dollars to their tills.

Most unfortunate, it is, that at this Christmas time the lights that should be burning in many places are not there for fear they would light the way for an enemy bent on their destruction; the music of Christmas bells will be drowned by the roar of bombs and guns, telling of the inhumanity of man's greed. Yet this war-dominated Christmas will be more characteristic of that first Christmas if it serves to show the world the only way to lasting peace—loyalty and devotion to the teachings of Him whose birth we celebrate at this time.

And so, if it was meant that there should be joy and music and brightness at Christmas time, it is the duty of each of us to contribute our share of each by bringing brightness and cheer to those about us in whatever way we can.

We should be thankful that we live in a land of peace; thankful that we need not dim our lights in fear, and utter a prayer that soon the people of the world may share this privilege with us.

We are extending all our patrons and friends our hearty and sincere wish that their's may indeed be a
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Santa Claus in the Flesh

Playing Santa Claus to a family of twenty-five hundred is some job, as most of us who have to act in that capacity for a family of a baker's dozen will attest. But the Chatham Manufacturing Company measured up to that job—and how.

Because it has been the custom of this concern in the past to remember its employees at Christmas time, it is plain that they were expecting something in their stocking this Christmastide. But none of them was prepared for the "bonus" that was handed them along with their pay envelopes Friday—an expression of appreciation by the concern for the loyalty and efficiency of its workers.

Nor did Elkin's biggest and most treasured industry confine itself to its own individual family. The churches and other institutions of the city were remembered handsomely, and not a single worker will be more appreciative than these institutions and those they serve.

The manner of determining the amount of the bonus for each individual worker is definitely interesting because it shows the concern's interest in those who have helped to build it to its present high place in the industrial world, for something was added for each year's service to the regular bonus.

Because the Chatham Manufacturing Company has had one of the most successful years in its history, there should not be the mistake of saying: "Well, why not." For

we submit that one would have to search far and wide for similar interest of any industry in its workers. That bonus in its surprising proportions came because of Thurmond Chatham's deep human interest in his fellowman: a concern that is all too often sadly lacking in industrial giants whose greed for more dollars to jingle in their till, shuts out the important things of life.

This magnanimity will not be lost on the workers. It will not be lost on the citizens of the community, for all will have a new conception of an industry that is not so grasping and self-centered that it cannot sense human values.

This thoughtfulness and consideration of its workers, on the part of the management of the Chatham Manufacturing Company, is one of the finest things we have ever seen, and in spite of the modesty of those who ordered it, it should be heralded to the world. And here is new evidence of Elkin's good fortune in being the home of this concern whose fame is world-wide.

Only a Lasting Peace

It is right and proper—and timely too—that at this Christmas time anxious leaders here and in England should be scanning the skies for signs and portents of an end to the world's most destructive war. For they sense the fact that if the conflict continues there won't be much left either in England or Germany, and if it continues to spread, as it probably will, the whole world will be a shambles.

But in which direction can they turn to find any basis for lasting peace. If German leadership were of a character that could be trusted to make an agreement and keep it, such steps would have been taken long ago. As a matter of fact, if there had been a reasonable, sincere and honest leadership in Germany, this terrible and costly conflict never would have been started. But it is obvious to all that official London cannot negotiate with Hitler with any reasonable expectation of arriving at any agreement that would be respected longer than it suits the fuhrer's purpose to honor it.

And the world well knows that when peace is made with Germany it must be something more than a truce. It must be enduring if all the destruction and hellishness of the past year is to have its compensation. Peace that is only a truce would serve no better purpose than to permit Hitler to consolidate his gains for another conquest. And just as certainly the Western World would be the next on his calendar.

Last week it was intimated that Britain would clarify her peace aims in response to the clamor for such a statement, and it was predicted that official London would assure the German people that no indemnity would be demanded, no invasion by a victorious army, no humiliation to a proud people. Obviously such a statement would be meant as an inducement for the German people to throw off the yoke that is galling their necks. But it would only be repeating the mistakes of the last peace agreement. For it would again allow the German people to escape the responsibility that is theirs for blindly following unscrupulous leaders. And if they are allowed to pay no price for this conflict, it will only invite a repetition.

The Real Cause of Their Misery

Former President Herbert Hoover doesn't take Britain's "no" as final. He and his group continue to urge that American relief be extended Europe's hungry, blockade be hanged. In fact it is alleged that Mr. Hoover has said that he will force Britain to yield by putting London on the spot by leaving the British in the light of obstructing relief for human misery.

We'll wager that Britain has weighed that point carefully. In fact Winston Churchill has expressed the deepest sympathy for the victims of Hitler's hellishness. Yet he sees for them a greater reward in the breaking of the bonds, that hold them—a reward that will amply repay them for their sacrifice.

None of us want to see starvation and misery while we are steeped in plenty, and for this reason Mr. Hoover's program appeals to the magnanimity and tender hearts of Americans. But there is the fault of looking upon the Hoover program as a purely charitable undertaking when it is not that by a long shot. If we should be able to persuade Britain to lift the blockade the war wouldn't be over six months until Europe would be referring to us as "Uncle Shylock," and for very good reason.

For in its final analysis the Hoover program would enable certain producers to take money out of it. For he merely proposes to impress our government to unfreeze the assets of those countries whose funds were sent to the United States for shelter; to unfreeze them so Belgium, France and the rest of Hitler's victims can buy food from us—at a profit. It would be fine for American producers, but it might be tragic for Britain in a hundred ways.

Dorothy Thompson sizes up the situation thusly:

"The French peasant does not need our pigs—he needs his own pigs that German looters are taking away from him. The Norwegian peasant doesn't need our fish—he needs his own fish that are being stolen from him. The Danish peasant doesn't need our butter. He needs his own butter. The Dutch people don't need our milk. They need the milk their farmers produce. What all of them need is not food, but a knife to cut their bonds. In all the world today, only one people, the British, are trying to cut those bonds and set these people free."

Dorothy has drawn an accurate picture of the situation, and we should keep it before us when again we are inclined to let our sympathy run away with us.

MOUNTAIN PARK

Members of the Mountain Park Home Demonstration club were hostesses to their families, members of the Mountain Park school faculty and of the school band at a buffet supper at the club house Wednesday evening. The room was decorated with native evergreens, holly and red candles, suggestive of the Christmas season. A delicious chicken stew, with numerous accessories, was served. The guest list included 75.

A program of Christmas readings, interspersed with band music, was enjoyed. Following this a number of games and contests, including bingo, furnished entertainment for the guests. Novelty prizes were awarded.

A Lot o' Static
Dinner over, Grandpa relaxed in an easy chair and began shaking the rafters with snores. Mother came into the room, just in time to see George busily twisting one of Grandpa's vest buttons.

"George, you mustn't disturb Grandpa."
"I'm not, mother," he returned. "I'm just trying to get another station."

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WANTS

For Sale—A good iron safe, size 40x57 in., outside. Elkin Furniture Co., Elkin, N. C. 12-26c

For rent: 4-room downstairs apartment, large rooms, bath, one mile north of Elkin. Telephone 161. ttc

For Sale or Lease—Big Nickel Lunch, Elkin, N. C. Completely equipped and now in operation doing nice business. Easy terms to responsible party. Owner has other business interests. Phone 333J. ttc

Announcing Bell's Studio over Ideal Beauty Shop, opening Saturday, December 21. Let us fix your pictures. Better pictures is our motto. 1tp

Wanted—1000 people to know about the plate lunch specials served every day at the Nite Spot just across the bridge in Jonesville. Choice of one meat, two vegetables, hot corn bread, or rolls and butter for 25c prepared by "Aunt Teenie" Martin, best colored woman cook in these parts. Plenty of parking space and quick service. ttc

For sale—Eight weeks old setter pups, females \$4.00, males \$5.00. Also one female pointer nine months old, priced reasonable. Red Walls, Ronda, N. C. 1tp

Large assortment used phonograph records, 10c each. The Nite Spot. Open all night. ttc

For sale—white Plymouth Rock capons, buttermilk fed. Phone 22-F-11. O. P. Wall. ttc

For sale: baled lespedeza and soy bean hay. L. S. Weaver, Jonesville. 12-26c

Hilary Martin shines shoes seven days a week at the Big Nickel Lunch, on Bridge street. 1tp

For rent—three-room apartment with private bath and private entrance. Good residential district. Phone 327-J. ttc

Lost, strayed or stolen, small black heifer calf. Finder please notify C. I. Boger, phone 197-R. ttc

For rent: 6-room western bungalow, refurnished throughout. Dr. W. R. Wellborn. ttc

We buy scrap iron and metals. Double Eagle Service Co., Elkin, N. C. ttc

Wanted: Eggs, hams, butter, chickens, all kinds of country produce. For best cash prices see Earle Combs, South Bridge street, Elkin, N. C., Phone 308 ttc

Kill destructive insects with proven insecticides. Arsenate lead, magnesium arsenate, Paris green. Turner Drug Co., Elkin N. C. ttc

Wanted to repair — radios. Our expert thoroughly knows his business. Prices right. Harris Electric Co., Elkin, N. C. ttc

Help Wanted—Woolen Mill Superintendent. Age 30-50. Begin January. Experienced Superintendent or Asst. Supt. A-1 city in Georgia. \$50-\$70 a week. Write details of experience to Greenleaf Placement Bureau, Atlanta, Georgia. 1tp

"Good Luck, Kid!"



Such As It Is
Frederick was visiting his Aunt Matilda, and was trying hard to mind his manners. As he was tasting hesitatingly at a rather small bowl of unfamiliar liquid, his aunt remarked, "Don't you like the soup, Frederick?" "Oh, yes!" he exclaimed eagerly. "It's very good soup—what there is of it." And then, realizing in consternation what he had said, Freddie rushed on: "And there's plenty of it, too—such as it is."
We Wonder
Why they put so many holes in Swiss cheese when it is Limburger that needs the ventilation.

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