

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1934.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE THOUGHT

CONSIDER THE POOR: Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.—Psalm 41:1.

LET'S HAVE LIVING, GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES

Hertford is all a-glimmer with gay Christmas decorations and all a-glow with bright lights. It is very pretty. Some of the stores are really beautiful.

The merchants started earlier than usual this year to decorate for Christmas, which is a fine thing. It makes for good cheer to be all dressed up, and it is a fine thing to get ready for Christmas in time to really enjoy the pretty colors and the bright lights.

We wish to go on record as being in favor of Christmas decorations.

But there is another side to this subject. Like many another good thing, it can be abused and carried to the extreme. It is carried to the extreme when too many living, growing trees are sacrificed as Christmas trees. This is not done much in Hertford. We are proud that our people do not run the matter in the ground, so to speak. This wholesale slaughter of young trees every year, trees which are not grown for Christmas trees, where the growing of Christmas trees is not an industry, on the part of thoughtless persons, is not good. It is a shame to go out and cut down so many lovely trees which should live and grow.

The subject of Christmas decorations is to be taken up at the meeting of the Woman's Club next week, when the women will be asked to fall in line with the movement throughout the South to stop the waste of cutting down so many young trees every year, and to plant trees to be decorated as they stand, growing and alive, as Christmas trees.

This subject has been agitated to some extent in Hertford, and not entirely without result, as shown by the growing cedar on the court house lawn, which will be decorated as a community Christmas tree, and which was planted by women of the Woman's Club as a permanent Christmas tree, to avoid the sacrificing of a fine tree every year for this purpose.

In many of the yards of homes in Hertford there have also been planted pretty cedars, which are decorated as Christmas trees.

Let's have more living, growing Christmas trees!

PEACE THAT THE ANGELS SANG ABOUT

The sympathy of the entire community goes out to Mr. and Mrs. I. A. White, the grief-stricken parents of J. D. White, who met an untimely death at his adopted home at Robersonville on Thursday night.

Delmas, as he was familiarly known in his native Hertford, is remembered as a fine young man of splendid character and attractive personality.

That the light of this bright young life should have been so suddenly snuffed out is one of those mysteries which we find it so hard to understand.

That the tragedy comes at Christmas time, when the family was looking forward to a reunion of joy and gladness, makes it all the more sad.

Nobody would wish for this stricken family, with the vacant chair at the Christmas fireside, a merry Christmas.

How few of us really care for a merry Christmas, after all! There is so much more than that to Christmas.

May not only these grief-stricken ones, but may all who grieve for a loved one who is gone, find at Christmas, the peace which the angels sang of on that first Christmas night.

WE NEED A HIGHWAY PATROLMAN

Why is this section of the State of North Carolina to have less highway patrol protection than formerly? There has been complaint of the former inadequate number of highway patrolmen in many sections of the State. With the removal of the patrolmen formerly stationed at Edenton, even the restricted service this section has had for the past few years is reduced.

This newspaper has no information as to how much territory the lone patrolman who is to be stationed at Elizabeth City will be required to patrol. That he cannot afford any great amount of protection to the entire area on this side of the Sound is certain.

Christmas Trees

By **MARJORIE HAYES** in Boston Herald

NEARLY every one has a Christmas tree nowadays, but if you had been a child in America a hundred years ago the chances are that you might never have seen one. The custom was universal in England many years before it was very common here, except in communities of German or Scandinavian settlers. For it was in Germany that the Christmas tree had its origin. There are several different legends in regard to it. Here is one which dates from the Twelfth century:

An English monk named Winfred who had gone as a missionary into Germany, came upon some priests about to sacrifice the young prince Asulf to the god Thor beneath the "blood oak." He stopped their ceremonies and ordered them to cut down the oak, whereupon a young fir tree appeared in its place which Winfred told them signified the tree of life, or of Christly living. From that time Germans who became Christians made the fir a part of the Christmas festival, decorating it with gilded nuts and apples to shine like stars.

The two trees most commonly used for Christmas trees are the spruce and fir. They look very much alike, but



Spruce Twig, Showing the Cones Hanging Downward.

the spruce is likely to shed its needles after two or three days in the house, while the fir remains in good condition much longer. There are several ways in which you may distinguish them, first the cones. Those of the spruce hang downward while the cones of the fir are held erect. This will not be much help to you in selecting a Christmas tree, however, as they are usually not old enough to bear cones. But if you examine a twig of the spruce you will find it covered with little horny projections in which the needles are set.

The spruce tree is pyramidal in shape, the long cones hanging from the branches near the top. The needles are arranged in spiral rows around the stem, those at the top pointing sharply upward. They have three or four distinctly angled sides. Some common varieties are the red, black, white and Norway spruce. Spruce timber has been used a great deal of late years for wood pulp.

Fir trees in various sections of the country are the balsam firs which grow abundantly in the mountains and which we find displayed in our markets at Christmas time. The fir is shaped much like the spruce, but the needles are flat and blunt, and usually spread feather-wise from two sides of the stem only. They are dark green above and silvery beneath. The dark purple cones stand erect glistening with balsam near the top. Balsam also exudes from the trunk, and is used for medicine. The fresh needles are used as a stuffing for sweet-smelling balsam pillows.

Another evergreen sometimes used as a Christmas tree is the hemlock. It is more slender than the spruce, with feathery waving branches which grow very close to the ground. The needles are arranged in two flat rows on the twigs, and have tiny stems. They are



The Fir Tree Is Shaped Much Like the Spruce.

soft, and silvery underneath. The cones are tiny, growing at the ends of the twigs. The bark is used in tanning leather. Wreaths made of branches with little cones on them are very lovely.

Farm Family Living Outlook for 1935

By **GUY A. CARDWELL**, Agricultural and Industrial Agent, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co.

The following is taken from a recent publication entitled "The Agricultural Outlook for 1934-35," prepared and circulated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. Information regarding the farm family living outlook for next year should be of interest not only to farm families, but to urban families as well.

The total cash income available to farm families for living expenses has shown a distant advance from 1933 to 1934, and some further improvement, but of smaller magnitude, may probably be expected in 1935. The increase in income will probably be offset only in part by a rise in the average level of prices of commodities farmers buy for family use. Although some further rise in the level of food prices may be looked for during the coming year, the prices of other goods purchased for family living will probably continue at about their present levels. A small improvement, therefore, in the purchasing power of farm families may, in general, be expected. In the areas severely affected by the drought, however, cash incomes during 1935 will be extremely low, at least until the new crops are marketed, and the number of farm families on relief will undoubtedly continue to increase.

Throughout all of the drought-stricken areas, the supplies of home-grown foods will be lower than in many years, and expenditures for purchased foods will absorb an unusually large share of the cash available for living expenses. The quantities of vegetables and fruits canned and stored for winter use are far below normal, and in many homes shortages will also be felt in milk, butter and eggs provided by the farm. Supplies of home-cured meats, however, will be abundant, owing to the unusually large slaughter of cattle, hogs and poultry for home use. In areas not affected by the drought, many farm families are entering the winter with a very generous food supply, as a result of the extensive program of home food production and conservation carried on during 1934 by the extension service and by relief agencies.

Those families who will enjoy some leeway in cash expenditures, after the cost of food and other necessities of living have been met, may increase somewhat their expenditures for clothing and for home furnishings during 1935, in order to replace articles that have seen some years of wear. Additional expenditures may also be expected for the repair and running of the family automobile, and some increase may appear, especially during the spring months, in expenditures for repairs and improvements in the house, in response to the stimulus of the Federal housing program. In many farm homes the increased funds available for family living will probably be devoted, as in 1934, to sending the young people to college. In a large proportion of homes, however, payments on debts and other obligations will continue to absorb a large part of the surplus of cash over essential living expenses.

Cash Income From Agriculture
The cash income received by farm families from agriculture during 1934 has continued the upward trend which began during the first half of 1933. The improvement is due in part to the advance in the prices of agricultural products, and in part to the rental and benefit payments made by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and to income from the emergency sale of cattle, sheep and goats to the government. But to the extent that the increased income this year resulting from emergency sales of livestock represents a reduction in livestock inventories below what normally would have taken place, farmers have gained in current receipts by sacrificing assets. Those farmers who have been forced to a severe liquidation of livestock will be in a weakened economic position until their livestock numbers are restored.

Preliminary estimates place the total cash income from the sale of farm products, including payments by the AAA, at approximately \$6,000,000,000 for the calendar year 1934. This figure represents an increase of 19 per cent over the figure of \$5,051,000,000, and 39 per cent over the low level reached in 1932. It is still, however, only 59 per cent as large as the average annual cash income received from farm marketings during the five years preceding 1930.

This increase of almost \$1,000,000,000 in cash income for 1934 has been partly offset by an increase in production expenditures of farmers. During 1933 these expenditures, on the whole, were slightly lower than in 1932, continuing the decline of the preceding three years. For 1934, expenditures for interest and taxes are somewhat lower than in 1933, but commodity prices and farm wages are noticeably higher. The prices paid by farmers for commodities used in production averaged 16 per cent higher during the first nine months of 1934 than in the same

months in 1933, and wages paid to hired labor have averaged about 8 per cent higher. The increase in total expenditures for production during 1934, however, is not as large as the increase in cash income, and the balance of income available for family living and for improvements and savings will probably show a distinct gain over 1933.

Income estimates by states for 1934 are not yet available, but the principal increases over 1933 incomes may be expected in the dairy and tobacco sections and in those regions where crop production has been fairly good, especially in the states east of the Mississippi and in the Pacific coast states.

The seasonal decline in farm income from the fall peak in October may be slightly greater than usual unless cattle marketings continue large this winter. The level of income during the first half of 1935, however, is expected to average higher than that of a year earlier. If crop production in 1935 is more nearly normal, farm marketings of

crops will increase and farm prices are likely to rise, but increased marketings of crops will tend to maintain the level of gross farm income, especially if the level of domestic demand through the year averages higher than in 1934.

The income that farmers will receive during 1935 from rental and benefit payments cannot be estimated at this time, as the amount will depend upon whether part of the payments on programs now in operation is made after the beginning of the new calendar year, and upon the new provisions that are adopted for 1935 programs. Present indications are that income from the sale of farm products, plus rental and benefit payments, may show some advance over the 1934 level, but it is not probable that this increase will be as large as the increase from 1933 to 1934.

SPORTS TALK

The P. C. H. S. girls and boys basketball teams split a double header with Gates on Friday night.

In the girls' game the score was 60-19, with the local girls on the heavy end. The P. C. H. S. girls ran all around the Gates girls and piled

up 69 points. OH, HEY!

Ruth Howell made several nice shots, dropping them in from all parts of the court.

The Gates boys defeated the local boys to the tune of 40-15. The P. C. H. S. boys could not find the basket and the Gates men were dropping them in from everywhere. Sutton and Harris were high scorers for the local boys.

If anybody wants to see Coach Hughes as a flower girl in the "Womanless Wedding," be at the High School at 2:30 on Friday afternoon. Supt. F. T. Johnson will be the bride. Come out and get a big laugh.

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