

RABBITS and hats. Rabbits are getting so scarce in Kansas that the state fish and game commission is planning to restock the state with them. Rabbits are becoming such a nuisance again in Australia that the government of that commonwealth is offering bounties for their destruction.

The demand for rabbits in this country is not for their meat alone, but for their fur, which is used for nine-tenths of the felt hats. In a perfectly-ordered world Kansas would be glad if it was rid of the pests and Australians would ship rabbit fur to Danbury, to be made into hats to be sold in Kansas, Mongolia and the rest of the world.

In our present spasm of economic nationalism I suppose it is heresy to suggest that something produced in some other country might be of value to us.

PIONEERING . . . still available.

While some Americans are bemoaning the passing of the last frontier, Australia is offering an opportunity for young men who want to be pioneers. The great Northern Territory is being opened for development. Anyone who wants to go in there and start raising cattle or sheep, prospecting for minerals, or constructing railways and harbor works can get all sorts of concessions from the Australian government, including special tariff privileges and exemption from land and income taxes, as well as some financial assistance.

There are always opportunities for adventurous youth and adventurous capital. The British people are the world's greatest adventurers, and Australia's new policy will doubtless call thousands of young Englishmen and Scots to the antipodes. We have been so busy developing our own hinterland that young Americans have not yet formed the habit of looking beyond our own borders for opportunities.

Personally, I don't believe America's possibilities have been exhausted, but to anyone who thinks otherwise I recommend giving Australia the once over.

ROMANCE . . . in the eye.

My good old friend Fred Wilbur, now well past eighty, scoffs at the idea of romance. "Nothing but hard work," he says, when I try to get him to talk about his adventures as a mining engineer in the Andes, as the bosom friend and advisor of the great Japanese statesman, Marquis Ito, and of the wild countries and wilder people among whom he led exploring expeditions in his youth.

I was reminded of him when Captain Ivy Wamboldt came into the port of New York in command of her schooner, the E. P. Theriault of St. Johns, Newfoundland, the other day. Newspaper men thought there was something romantic about a girl of 22 commanding her own craft. "Nothing to this romance of the sea," said Ivy. "That's the bunk. It's nothing but hard work."

Romance is in the eye and mind of the holder. The men and women who get the world's work done seldom have time to think about how romantic it is in the doing. Even Hollywood is not romantic to the people who work there.

COLDS . . . an air cure.

If you want to cure your cold, go up in an airplane. That is the advice of Dr. Haldor Carlson of Chicago, who has been investigating the belief that common colds disappear at high altitudes. Among passengers who had made the flight between New York and Chicago he found fifty or more who had been suffering from colds when they boarded the plane and had not a sign of a cold at the end of the journey.

The doctor doesn't try to tell why that is so, but airmen have long believed it, and now it seems to be proved.

If doctors really knew how to cure colds, there wouldn't be so many "cold cures" advertised.

THEORY . . . human approach.

No-body knows just how many hundreds of thousands of years, perhaps millions, since human beings began to try to discover the best way to live in communities together. Whatever the length of time that this experiment in living has been going on, it is a safe bet that every imaginable social scheme has been tried. Some of them have worked, most of them have failed because they did not fit the quirks and vagaries of human nature.

It is easy to set down on paper an ideal scheme for the reorganization of society. It is hard to get the social unit, man, to adopt himself to any prepared plan. About the only way to cram a new theory down the throats of any considerable number of people is to back up the theory with an army. And that does not guarantee that people will like it and conform to it after the threat of force has been removed.

One reason I don't worry much about some of the impractical theories which some of the bright young men in Washington are trying to put over is that they haven't any army back of them. Human nature will

Democrat Abridged; Force Had Holiday

The Democrat comes out today in condensed fashion, due to the fact that those responsible for its publication had a brief respite from their work for Christmas. However, with next week the paper will assume its usual proportions.

The Democrat hopes that those who have contributed to its welfare, as well as those whose friendship it craves, have had a happy Christmas season and that the coming year will be one of unusual prosperity and happiness for each one of you.

BUSINESS BETTER THIS CHRISTMAS THAN LAST YEAR

Recent Statistics Indicate Improvements Which Started Late Last Month Are Continuing. Holiday Festivities Find Leading Industrial Indices Well Above Minimums for This Year and for Last.

New York.—It's a merrier Christmas in the business world this year.

Holiday festivities find leading industrial indices not only well above their 1933 lows but also above 1932 minimums, most of which were recorded late last December as the country began to sink into the troublesome situation that led to the banking holiday.

Recent statistics indicate that the improvement which started late last month is continuing. Freight car loadings, on the basis of the last report available, show a distinct contra-seasonal trend. Moody's index, adjusted for seasonal variation, rose to 59.5 from 58.3 the week before. The same barometer measured steel production at 48 compared with 44.1 in the previous week and electric power output 101.3 against 100.5. The combined average improves 2.5 points to 69.

Retail Sales Near Record

Retail sales, says Dun and Bradstreet, attained "nearly record proportions" in the last minute Christmas rush and profit margins are said to have widened. Volume was above earlier estimates. Liquor sales, in states where they are legal, contributed substantially to the aggregate.

The agricultural South, according to reports reaching here, is showing considerable recovery, attributed by some observers to the government's 10-cent cotton loan plan. Cotton loans and options are said to have given many farmers surplus cash which is finding its way not only into retail trade channels, but is also being employed to liquidate old loans.

Automobile output is not moving at as fast a rate as had been expected, although car production last week estimated by Cram's at 18,000 units, represented a small increase over the previous week. A year ago volume for the same period was 27,400. Ford is expanding, but Chevrolet is not yet in volume production on its 1934 passenger models. Total December figures for the industry are now being revised downward.

Hopes Bright for New Year

Hopes for the new year, or at least its first quarter, are being based on an assumption that confidence has strengthened, that governmental expenditures will continue to help business and enliven the capital goods markets, that seasonal influences will become more assertive and that world trade will maintain its slow upward movement. The fact that the late weeks of the old year, which normally witness a contraction of activity, have brought gains is also viewed as encouraging.

MIDNIGHT SHOW

The management of the Pastime Theatre announces that the New Year will be ushered in with the screening of a popular picture, "Girl Without a Room," featuring Charles Farrell and Marguerite Churchill. According to Mr. Hamby, this is one of the most favored productions of the year and he expects a large crowd to be present for the New Year's party. The show begins promptly at 12:01 Sunday midnight.

STUDENTS' NIGHT AT LOCAL CHURCH

Sunday night will be observed at the Boone Baptist church as College Students' Night, at which time a playlet will be staged entitled "The Jericho Road." All the young people of the community are asked to be present and enjoy the interesting program which has been prepared.

accept such parts of the new schemes as seem good to the individual, and pay no attention to the rest. In the long run, nothing can help or harm us much except what we do ourselves.

ROOSEVELT XMAS HAPPY OCCASION—NATION GREETED

Chief Executive Supervises Hanging of Stockings, and Reads Christmas Carol to Family. Delivers Brief Message to His People and Grants Civil Rights to About 1,000 Persons Convicted of Espionage.

Washington.—President Roosevelt Monday spent the "happiest of Christmases" with his family at the White House.

After issuing a proclamation giving full civil rights to about 1,000 persons convicted of war time espionage, lighting a great Christmas tree near the Washington monument and broadcasting a Christmas greeting to the nation, Sunday night, Mr. Roosevelt devoted Monday to his family.

Christmas trees twinkled at the White House windows. Gifts were piled high for the President, Mrs. Roosevelt, and the several other members of his family who came to Washington for the holidays.

Children Expectant

"Sister" and "Buzzie" Dall went to bed excitedly on Christmas eve, intent upon peering into their stockings at crack of dawn. The stockings of the President's grand-children, together with those of every member of the family, were hung in a row on the mantel-piece of Mr. Roosevelt's room. He supervised the nailing of them there.

Before doing that, Mr. Roosevelt gathered his family about him before a Christmas tree upon which candles flickered and read Dickens' Christmas Carol, his custom of many years' standing.

Previously he had pressed a button which lighted a myriad of lamps on a giant fir in Sherman Square and had delivered a brief greeting to the country.

"For me and my family," he said, "it is the happiest of Christmases. To the many thousands of you who have thought of me and who have sent me greetings, I want to tell you how profoundly grateful I am. . . . Even more significant is the deep conviction that this year marks a greater national understanding of the significance in our modern life of the teaching of Him whose birth we are celebrating."

"Love" Showing Effect

"To more and more of us these words 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself' has taken on a meaning which is showing itself and proving itself in our purposes and in our daily lives."

"May the practice of that high ideal of twenty centuries grow in us all in the years to come, and so I give you and send you one and all, old and young, a merry Christmas and a truly happy new year. And so from now and for always, 'God bless us everyone.'"

In returning full civil rights to hundreds of persons who have been convicted under the war-time espionage and selective service acts, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"During the World War a large number of persons were convicted under the espionage act and the selective service act of giving utterance to sentiments adverse to the prosecution of the war and to the enforcement of the draft. They have paid the penalty that the law imposed upon them. The emergency that made it necessary to punish them has long expired. Fifteen years have elapsed since the end of the war."

"Accordingly, I have issued a Christmas proclamation extending a full pardon to all persons who were convicted of such wartime offenses, and who have complied with the sentence imposed on them. The effect of this proclamation is to restore to such persons their full civil rights."

Mrs. Sarah Thomas Dies at Black Mountain

Mrs. Sarah Thomas, 84, aunt of Mrs. John Horton of Boone, died at her home in Black Mountain last Wednesday, following an illness of several months. Mrs. Thomas was a native of Mountain City, Tenn., but had resided in Western North Carolina since 1900. Immediate survivors include the husband, Mr. John Thomas, one brother and one sister.

Funeral services were conducted at Tabernacle Church, Black Mountain, Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Herman F. Duncan, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, was in charge. Interment took place in Tabernacle cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Horton of Boone attended the rites.

CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT

A neighborhood Christmas tree and appropriate program combined to make a pleasant affair for the people of the Cool Springs school district last Saturday evening. Under the leadership of Mr. Dewey Mitchell, the teacher, local talent was used in presenting "The Prodigal Son," and the audience was large.

Heralding The New Year



Governor Joins Movement To Close Burley Markets; Other News From Raleigh

Governor Ehringhaus last week joined the Governors of Kentucky and Tennessee in issuing proclamations calling for marketing holidays in the burley tobacco region until some adjustment is made as to more satisfactory prices. Burley tobacco, used primarily in chewing and pipe smoking tobacco, is grown in the western part of the State, and a market has been operated in Asheville for the past few years for its sale. Watauga County is now a considerable producer of burley, and local farmers market for the most part through Tennessee and Georgia warehouses.

The burley problem seems a little more complicated than the flue-cured bright tobacco situation in that there is a lesser surplus and a greater reduction in acreage will be required to let the surplus be used up.

Wine may be obtained by a licensed preacher having charge of a congregation for sacramental purposes to the amount of three gallons each ninety days, and hospitals and sanatoriums may secure whiskey used in curing inebriates when it is administered by a licensed physician. Attorney General D. G. Brummitt has held in a series of opinions dealing with the liquor laws.

In both of these he points out that this is under the Turlington Act and that transportation companies handling liquor must keep complete records as to dates and places of shipments, senders and receivers, and keep records available.

Mr. Brummitt also holds that intoxicating liquors may be shipped through the State from one wet state to another wet state, but may not be shipped from or into this state. He admits that permitting liquor to be carried through the State will cause much trouble, as it will be almost impossible to prevent its being delivered in this State, which is contrary to both State and Federal laws.

Another batch of highway projects to cost an estimated \$117,100, including four regular highway jobs to cost about \$110,000 and 31 municipal highway jobs to cost an estimated \$310,000, have been sent to Washington for approval by the State Highway division. These projects are under the National Recovery Administration, and the entire cost will come from the emergency funds. Six other municipal projects, originally included, were eliminated for checking purposes and may be included in another batch to be sent to Washington later. Included in the batch sent to Washington is one project in Watauga County, bituminous surface treatment on N. C. Route No. 17 in the town of Boone.

Already 1934 automobile license tags, available less than a month, have been sent in showing the paint on the figures largely removed, as was the case with 1933 tags. However, this is not from normal wear and washing, but the paint had been removed to make it harder to get the number. Captain Charles Fanner, of the State Highway Patrol, states, announcing that his men will watch obliterated plates and indict the owners for trying to delete the figures. Most of the last year plates and those showing up now are scrubbed with chemicals or other substances to make the numbers hard to read. Captain Fanner states that rum-runners and others seeking to avoid being caught by their numbers try to remove them. His men will keep a close watch on such, he said.

John H. Harwood, Bryson City, former judge and former assistant at-

torney general, has been issued a license to sell life insurance in North Carolina for the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, after examination by the State Insurance Department. He announced that he would devote his entire time to the insurance business, in which he was engaged back in 1907. He noted in his application that he had pleaded guilty to violation of Consolidated Statutes 4255. He served a sentence for attempting to mutilate State Revenue Department records to prevent conviction of his daughter, Miss Lola Harwood, for embezzling State funds. Both served prison sentences and all State money, about \$4,000, has been repaid, with interest. Judge Harwood, 53, recently sought to have the part of the sentence depriving him of his law licenses stricken from the records. The case is now before the N. C. Supreme Court.

Two men alleged to be members of an organized gang of rum-runners and vendors of counterfeit money, were held for Federal Court when given a hearing in Durham last week for passing and conspiring to pass counterfeit money. One of the men had given an eastern N. C. man nine spurious \$20 bills for a load of liquor. Ford S. Worthy, U. S. Marshal for eastern N. C., and Henry Thomas, Charlotte, secret service man, worked up the cases. They say it is very hard to tell the spurious money. One plan of making it is to soak the ink from small bills and print larger denominations on the same silk-woven paper. Some of the money got by local banks and Washington experts here helping run it down found it very hard to detect.

Purchasers of goods who live outside the State but from North Carolina merchants are required to pay the three per cent sales tax just as a resident of the State. Harry McMullan, director of the sales tax division, Department of Revenue, holds in a statement answering an inquiry from a local merchant's association. "The residence of the purchaser has nothing to do with the liability for the sales tax if the sale is made and delivered in North Carolina," he said.

North Carolina farmers are to have a new service through the Federal and State departments of labor as a part of President Roosevelt's recovery program. Major A. L. Fletcher, commissioner of labor, announces. This service proposes to make of each employment office a clearing house through which farmers, farm tenants and farm labor may go when in need of any kind of help.

Families of farm origin now living in town or mill villages will also find this office of help should they be interested in returning to the farm. Some provision is being made to aid such families with provisions and clothing where needed, under certain conditions. Major Fletcher expresses the hope that this service may in these unsettled times, be of help in placing families of farm experience who have drifted to town and find it difficult to fit themselves into urban or mill village life, back to their rightful environment.

Under a new ruling, effective January 1, any sale of mixed feed to consumers of less than one ton must be classed as a retail sale and the three per cent sales tax applied, instead of the former 100 pounds minimum. Harry McMullan, sales tax director, announces. Under this ruling, No. 42, mer-

HOLIDAY TRADE BEST IN YEARS, SAY RETAILERS

Throngs Pour Into Boone as Last-minute Shopping Gets Under Way. Some Merchants Report One Hundred Per Cent Increase Over Last Year. Others Say Best Since 1928. Holidays Unusually Quiet.

The last days of the week comprised the busiest period for Boone merchants, since the panic got going, according to general belief among the shopkeepers, and sales forces were glad when late Saturday night they could retire from the milling throngs and begin to make delayed preparations for their individual Christmas festivities.

Many merchants report a one hundred per cent increase in holiday trade over the same period a year ago, others say it is the best trade since 1928, and some who have not checked their sales records carefully believe it's the best trade they've ever enjoyed. From far and near the people came to Boone and by closing time Saturday many establishments had sold out in popular gift items, despite the fact that preparations had been made on a larger scale than heretofore.

Christmas Tree

The American Legion Christmas tree event brought a great number of the visitors to town, and the affair went over in fine shape. Some hundreds of kiddies were fed, and carried away liberal packages of toys and fruits.

On the whole it was a happy Christmas. Those who had set about to enjoy Christmas through the route of liquid refreshment were taken care of by the police force and Saturday night's round-up comprised more than a dozen who had lingered long over the wine. No appreciable disturbance however was reported, and Sunday and Monday balmy weather contributed to the pleasure of the citizenry.

Sale of Christmas Seals Is Successful

The sale of Christmas seals this year has been very successful, according to Mrs. Mary Harris, of Amantia, who is in charge of the campaign. Incomplete returns indicate a total sale of \$56.61, and it is explained that several large communities where sales were being made have not yet reported.

HONOR ROLL FOR FALL QUARTER OF A. S. T. O.

The honor roll for the fall quarter at Appalachian State Teachers College bears 116 names. These are distributed throughout thirty-seven counties in North Carolina and in five states. Watauga county leads the list with 21 students. Forsyth comes second with 10.

Watauga county is represented by Clint Adams, Vilas; Mary Laura Carender, Mabey; Toy Farthing, Sugar Grove; Pauline Eingham, Olie Jean Coffey, Pearl Cowles, Beatrice Culler, Homer Eggers, Ralph Hagaman, Rex Hagaman, Dale Keller, Mrs. Beulah Lyerly, Banner Miller, Madison Miller, Mary Moretz, Paul Perkins, Winton Rankin, Karl Sawyer, Ray Strikes, Fawn Watson, Mary Williams, Mrs. J. T. C. Wright, Boone.

FIRE RAZES HOME

A fire supposedly originating from a defective fuse Friday afternoon destroyed the homes of Coote Haigler and George Goines, colored residents of the town, and badly damaged a new structure being erected by a neighbor, Frank Crimes. All household furnishings were destroyed. Haigler having perhaps suffered the greatest loss, since a smoke house with a large quantity of meat and a well filled crib were burned. The citizens of the community evidenced the Christmas spirit and have contributed liberally to the destitute negroes.

Mr. Johas Winebarger, of Piney Flats, Tenn., is spending the holidays visiting with his 83-year-old sister, Mrs. Martha Miller, of the Meat Camp section. Mr. Winebarger states that his aged sister is very ill and that there is great anxiety as to the outcome of her illness.

chants, manufacturers, mixers, blenders, producers and mills selling at retail to consumers will be required to pay and collect the retail sales tax. Sales of ton lots at wholesale prices to consumers may be classified as wholesale transactions under this ruling.

Merchants, manufacturers and distributors selling cotton seed meal which may be used for fertilizer, or feed are required to collect the sales tax unless they take from the purchaser a certificate showing that the purchase by the farmer is for the purpose of being used as fertilizer. Mr. McMullan's order holds.