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Thursday, December 27, 1917

RIPPLING RHYMES
By Walt Mason

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

I've done my stunt as Santa Claus; with horse-hair whiskers on my jaws, I ran the Christmas tree; and all the Christmas gifts in sight were reminiscent of the fight that's on across the sea. My little girl, Evangeline, drew down a large tin submarine, and never raised a brow; she said this instrument of crimes was more in keeping with the times than any sawdust doll. The baby smelt a cartridge case, and happy smiles lit up his face, where I expected tears; Aunt Sarah got a flashing blade and said for that she'd prayed and prayed for many weary years. One kid received a bright tin lance, and one a steed that couldn't prance, because its legs were oak; and there were soldiers made of zinc, Lieutenant blue and colonels pink, and other warlike folk. There was no sign of peace on earth, oh, no, a bogus nickel's worth upon that Christmas tree; my grandeur drew an aeroplane, and said a gift more safe and sane he surely never did see. And 'ere the dandy stuff was wrought in shape of cannonball and shot, and bomb and hand grenade; and as I ply my creaking pen I wonder if good will to men must permanently fade.

CORRESPONDENT SHEPHERD.

William G. Shepherd, war correspondent and special writer on the staff of the United Press, is a welcome visitor to Asheville. Those who have enjoyed his thrilling war stories printed in The Sunday Times, hope that Mr. Shepherd will enjoy his rest of these few days while he sojourns at Grove Park inn.

Mr. Shepherd is one of this country's most interesting characters, and because of the fact that he has spent many months, since the beginning of the world war, in the front line, he is even more entertaining as a writer of war record.

In his address to the Rotary Club today Mr. Shepherd did more toward making the Rotarians "mad all through" than any speaker who has touched war conditions the past year.

PLANNING ANOTHER ISSUE.

Recently a conference was held in Washington and representatives of Liberty Loan organizations met with officials of the Treasury department to discuss the plans for future Liberty Loan campaigns. It was determined to complete an organization, wider and yet closer in compact than former organizations. It is proposed that in the future campaigns for the sale of Liberty bonds, the rural communities and smaller towns and cities shall be more effectively reached than in the two previous efforts.

One of the officials present remarked concerning the failure of rural communities to subscribe liberally and it was explained that this condition was not due to less patriotism but rather to a lack of thorough organization and intensive campaigning. It was proposed that educational work, through the schools, the women's organizations and every other agency be stressed and that this work continue during campaigns rather than simply during the time when the bond issues were being sold. More than one hundred delegates were present at the conference and the meeting was characterized by enthusiasm, patriotic expression and earnestness of purpose.

The men who participated in that conference struck center, the people of the rural districts are equally patriotic, but the former Liberty bond campaigns have not successfully reached the mass of the people. It takes time and men to properly educate and teach the people the necessity of loaning their "little" money to the government, but once the impression is made, the national treasury will find a steady stream of dollars coming from the rural districts.

THE LATEST MOVE.

As expected and predicted during the past several weeks, the national government, by proclamation of President Wilson, will assume control of the transportation lines of the country, with the exception of local inter-urban electric companies.

This action is purely a war measure and President Wilson makes it very clear that the interests of the stockholders will be fully protected and that Congress will arrange for guaranteed earnings.

This action suggests an opportunity for the believers in governmental ownership of public utilities to witness the working of their plan and yet it does not necessarily portend a permanent condition. But when the war is ended and national affairs have again become normal—who can tell what will transpire?

Just at this time, however, with the absolute necessity of the most economical administration of the transportation problem, when every pound of motive power and every inch of rail is needed in order that the munitions of war and army supplies shall be promptly handled and that the needs of the people here at home shall be as fully covered, it seems wise that some plan should be devised whereby the railway systems could be coordinated to the extent that there be no wastage of transportation ability.

When the atmosphere is pregnant with possibilities of strikes of employees, when labor seems likely to cause the nation embarrassment, it may also prove advantageous for the government to be in control.

THE MESSAGE FROM BETHLEHEM.

Yonder in the trenches, facing the Prussian force of blood-mad and apparently uncivilized brute beings, there is an army of British, French and Americans.

On the one side there is a desire to destroy, in order that a national emblem may float over a larger territory and more millions of people be enslaved under the "black eagle." On the other side there is the purpose entirely opposite. The desire of the men who face the German army is that "peace on earth" may be brought to pass.

Christmas day came to the trenches, and to the men in the camps. Messages went to the men of England, France, and America. Gifts were received, such as could be gotten to them, hidden away "somewhere in France." Love and tenderness; confidence and pride; sympathy and encouragement—all of these were expressed in the messages and gifts.

But another message went across the world to the men in the battle front. This message was sent by General Allenby, commander-in-chief of the British forces in Palestine. To General Pershing, commander-in-chief of the American forces, General Allenby, stationed in Bethlehem of Judea, telegraphed:

The British troops in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve send to their American comrades a message of greeting and of hope that through the achievement of their common purpose the law of force may yield to the force of law and peace and good will reign at length on earth.

This message tells the heart story of every true soldier of the Allied forces. The struggle is not for territory, for commercial gain, for national honor—but the titanic struggle, costing the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of lives, the expenditure of billions of money, the overturning and stoppage of the wheels of private and national interests—the titanic struggle, is that "the law of force may yield to the force of law and peace and good will reign at length on earth."

"Right will prevail," said Secretary Daniels. The words speak the future. It will cost something. It will take time. It will leave sorrow and pain in its wake—but right will prevail.

SAVING BIGGETS SUCCESS.

Looking backward, many a successful man attributes his achievement in business life to the saving of his first dollar. That first dollar put away marked the birth of a habit and the result was a course of conduct culminating in success. "War savings stamps mark an epoch in our national life," said the secretary of the treasury in discussing the importance of placing before the people the government's plan for raising a part of the necessary war funds.

Just as the saving of the first dollar has created a habit and resulted in a successful business career, so will the purchase of thrift stamps and war savings certificates bogot the habit of thrift and accumulation in the mass of the American people. Not only will millions of people begin to save but the habit of economy will come to be a collective movement, not of individuals alone, but of the entire nation.

Canada spoke loudly when by an overwhelming vote conscription was endorsed in the recent election. The result reminded Germany that Canada was in the war until the world is made safe for democracy.

BITS OF BYPLAY
By LUKE McLUKE

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You Know Him.

A careless spendthrift is young Tom. His friends are always vexed; This way he measures time is from One pay day to the next.

Paw Knows Everything.

Willie—Paw, what does casting your bread on the waters mean?
Paw—It means buying a drink for a man when you know he will buy you two or three in return, my son.

Fact.

You get short weight from many men. Short measure, too," said Hubbes; "But all men give full measure when They start to trading troubles."

Not a Bit Journalistic.

"Why did you fire that new reporter?" asked the Managing Editor.
"I sent him to cover a social session and lunch and he failed to say in his story that a bountiful repast was served," replied the City Editor.

No Chance.

You may consider this joke poor. But I'm right here to say, That while man may be slow but sure, His watch can't be that way.

The Champion Mean Cuss.

"Who was the meanest man you ever knew?" asked the Old Fogey.
"Well," replied the Grouch, "he was the man who had this epitaph carved on his wife's headstone: 'Tears Cannot Restore Her—Therefore I Weep.'"

Advice.

"Big talk is one thing you should shun,"
Advised old Uncle Hood;
"It's easier to boast, my son, Than it is to make good."

Correct.

[Sacramento Bee.]
The man who has a new suit of clothes and a shabby overcoat seldom finds it cold enough to wear an overcoat—Luke McLuke, Cincinnati Enquirer.

Learn One New Thing Each Day.

Chief Be She She is the high muckamuk of the Navajo Indians.

Same Old Ending.

A fellow who lived in North Bend, Indorsed a small note for a friend; When the paper fell due
Oh, I'll leave it to you
To tell how this story should end.
—Quill.

Why, the Idea!

What the Heck is S. W. Booser, of Prosperity, S. C., doing in a Dry State?

No Joke.

"That poverty is not a crime. They say," said Mr. Naybor; "Yet I have found out in my time It dooms you to hard labor."
—Luke McLuke.

Through poverty is no disgrace, And often I have said it, It is not apt, in any place, To boost a fellow's credit.
—Detroit Free Press.

Reminiscences.

What has become of the old-fashioned railroad train that occasionally arrived on time?
And, speaking of the High Cost of Liberty, what has become of the old-fashioned saloon that was known as the Poor Man's Club?—El-Jay-El.

An Old-Timer.

Harry W. Smith, of Cleveland, ran across an ancient Josh Billings Almanax while at the old homestead in Washington County, Pa., and found this rhyme in it:

"Their was a man in ower town, his name was Matthew Meears; He would hie kink up every nite for twenty-seven years; Wun day this fatheful timepas an 8-day klock proved to be, An a madder man than Mister Meears you wud not kair to see."

You Win!

B. T. Longfellow says: "It Is Never Too Late To Start Something."

Names Is Names.

Rev. E. B. Redhead lives at Elyria, Ohio.

Our Daily Special.

You Can't Play Hookey From The School Of Experience.

Luke McLuke Says

Marriage is never quite as important as the elaborate preliminaries would seem to indicate.

Nearly every man who smokes cigars owns a cigar case that he never thinks of carrying.

We hate to seem cynical. But the fact is that many a divorce causes more joy than did the wedding preceding it.

If men had the gift of second sight, there would be nightly few cases of love at first sight.

The average Missionary is so anxious to do good in a distant continent that he hasn't time to bother with a nearby one.

Every man imagines that his is the best brand of Red Eye, And every woman imagines that hers is the best brand of Baking Powder.

When David figured that all men were liars he didn't take in any the much territory. The only mistake he made was in not including the members of the other sex.

There will always be the High Cost of Living to wrestle with as long as one woman thinks it is her duty to dress better than another woman.

Why is it that you can't keep a boy out of water in Summer and can't get him into water in Winter?
We often knock the women. But this world without woman would mean stagnation and damnation. The reason why most of us see over-worked is because we have to catch up on the time we wasted in loafing.
A woman never thinks of talking about her neighbors—unless it is bad enough to repeat.
It is hard for a Hero to act that way when he steps on a wooden cello; but with his bare foot.
A jury may not get to read the news-papers. But it manages to find some other basis for its prejudices.
Heartily knows, When half-gods go, The gods arise.
—Emerson.

What Others Are A-Saying

T. R. Takes Issue With Administration (Kansas City Dispatch to Washington Times.)

Charging that the American people will be "guilty of criminal folly" if they follow the lead of the Administration in its policy of universal military training and preparedness, former President Theodore Roosevelt, in a copyrighted article in The Kansas City Star, discusses the recent annual report of the Secretary of War, Baker, which, he says, is President Wilson's official declaration through a department head.

"Mr. Wilson's war secretary," says Mr. Roosevelt, "at this moment does not favor universal military training as a permanent policy." This, the former president declares, is, in effect, the same position taken by Mr. Bryan, who said that if needs be 1,000,000 men would "spring to arms overnight." He adds:

"The administration now officially and complacently announces that the policy which at this moment has proved disastrous is to be persevered in for the future. It therefore assumes complete responsibility for every blunder and delay and for all the misconduct, and announces that these blunders and delays and all this misconduct have taught us nothing, and that we are to ambie onward in the same path until disaster overtakes us. Mr. Wilson's secretary officially declares that we shall persist in our own folly until we are brayed in the mortar of dreadful calamity."

"At this moment not more than one-tenth of our soldiers, taken altogether, are fit to go to battle; nine-tenths of our militia and fine spirited men, and equipped with the training, arms, and equipment that would permit them to meet any trained foe. After ten months of war and the expenditures of huge sums of money, we are socially unable to defend ourselves and our own safety rests only to the fleets and armies of our war-worn allies."

"This condition is due solely and entirely to our unpreparedness to which the administration adhered for the two and one-half years when even the blindest ought to have read the lesson of the great war."

The administration now announces that we are not to alter this policy, and that we are to continue the doing nothing policy of refusal to prepare. If the American people follow the lead of this administration, they will be guilty of criminal folly."

Miss Wilson in North Carolina. (Wilmington Star.)

Charlotte and Asheville have had the honor of entertaining Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Woodrow Wilson, during the past few days. Miss Wilson gave a social in the city in Charlotte last Friday night. Finding out that Charlotte is to have a municipal Christmas tree, principally for the children and families of soldiers, Miss Wilson became the first contributor to the tree fund.

The Charlotte News notes that on Saturday Miss Wilson learned that the war taxes on tickets for the concert which she gave Friday night amounted to \$65, and she at once suggested to the mayor that if the money could be diverted to the purchase of a tree to be the first donor to the big tree for the 24th of the present month.

A telegram was thereupon sent to Collector A. D. Watts at Statesville for a ruling as to whether the war tax was due on a concert given, and Miss Wilson's for war relief. The collector immediately wired back, after being acquainted with the situation, that the tax did not apply in this case and thereupon Miss Wilson generously ordered the sum of \$65 to be turned over to the mayor to be used in purchasing foods and practical gifts for Charlotte's municipal Christmas tree.

Feeling The Allies or Fooling His Subjects? (Charlotte News)

Washington does not know, it admits, whether the latest coup of Germany towards peace is a sort of feeler or whether Germany really wants to have a definite understanding with the Allies. The probabilities are that Germany wants peace but that she does not want any other peace except the one she can dictate herself. And of course, if this is granted, there has never been any sense in having the war at all. If, as a matter of fact, there is in the mind of the Germans ever to allow Germany such dictation, it would be criminal to continue the war a day longer.

There is no excuse at all for getting optimistic over the report that Germany is going to make a peace proposal. The Kaiser is more than likely only playing again to the grandstand, the grandstand this time being composed chiefly of his own subjects. He wants to make a bold challenge of their faith in the enterprise, to submit terms to the allies that will be honored with words, but aimed directly towards giving Germany the chief part of the spoils she is to obtain. Then, should the allies be foolish and blind enough not to see through the sventful purpose in the scheme and accept the proffer, well and good. Should they refuse, the Kaiser would point to his subjects and in stentorian voice declare again that the war "for the perpetuation of the empire," will have to proceed, not of his volition but because of the determination of the allies to wipe Germany off the face of the earth.

Followed Bryan. (Greensboro Record.)

Some interesting political history is revealed in the following article in the Christian Science Monitor on Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews:

When William Jennings Bryan, on that memorable day in July, 1896, in the old Coliseum at Chicago, was allowed twenty minutes to speak in close the debate on the party platform, arose in the national Democratic convention, faced the representatives of the Eastern States, and with a voice that could be heard in every corner of the hall, 16,000 people who were present spoke as only the "Boy Orator of the Plains" could speak in those days, and as he spoke, there came over the assembly a great wave of enthusiasm broken by one of the wildest outbursts of enthusiasm recorded in the history of American politics.

That speech influenced the opinions of millions, the careers of thousands of people. In Brown University, in Providence, R. I., was a scholar who had served the institution ably for years as teacher, professor of political economy, and president. Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews, a native New Englander and a son of New Hampshire, he enlisted as a mere boy in the Union army, was made a second lieutenant,



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Tar Heel Farmers Have Formed 68 Loan Banks

By GEO. H. MANNING.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—That the farmers of North Carolina have enthusiastically availed themselves of the opportunity to make long-term loans on their farms at five percent from the Federal Farm Loan bank system is shown by a report issued by the Federal Farm Loan board reviewing the operations of the system up to December 1st.

The report shows that 68 farm loan associations have been formed by the North Carolina farmers; that loans of \$4,498,319 have been applied for by these associations; that the Federal loans of \$2,199,046, and that the Farm and Loan board has approved loans amounting to \$418,430 have been finally closed.

The farmers of the southeastern and western states have taken full advantage of the Farm Loan system, while the farmers in the north Atlantic and New England states have exhibited an apparent lack of desire to embrace its advantages.

The farmers of Virginia have formed 48 farm loan associations and applied for loans of \$6,524,618; Tennessee has formed 31 associations; Alabama 59; Mississippi 28; California 74; Oklahoma 85; Colorado 99; New Mexico 76 and Washington 96.

On the other hand the farmers of Pennsylvania have formed but 19 associations and applied for loans of but \$1,253,545; New Jersey has formed 9 associations; Delaware 1; Connecticut 8; Maine 8; New Hampshire 1; Vermont 3 and Rhode Island 3.

This activity in connection with the Farm Loan bank system in the south and apparent indifference towards it in the northeastern states is undoubtedly due in a large measure to the fact that the northeastern farmers

have been always able to obtain loans from the banks at between 5 and 7 percent, while in the south, the figures of the Treasury department show the bankers have held the farmers up to an average interest rate of over 9 percent and in many instances much higher.

California has applied for the largest loans making application for \$15,102,789, and Delaware for the smallest amount, \$29,150.

Kansas has received the largest amount of loans, getting \$3,594,000, and Louisiana has received the smallest amount, having obtained only \$389, although the Louisiana farmers have formed 14 associations and applied for loans of \$2,038,161.

Up to December 1st, \$29,324,655 had been actually paid out to farmers of the United States. The total of loans approved by the Federal Land bank including those closed and those awaiting verification of title and other formalities, is \$165,138,539.

The report also shows that the total loan applications made to the twelve Federal Land banks has been \$218,760,740, which has been cut down by reductions and rejections to less than \$180,000,000. The interest rate under the farm loan system has been increased from 5 percent to 6 1/2 percent and the increased rate will apply to all applications which have not yet been approved by the Federal Land banks.

Borrowing under the Federal Farm Loan system is done through co-operative farm loan associations organized by farmers, each association being composed of ten or more farmer-borrowers, and such made to the twelve Federal Land banks had chartered 1,858 such co-operative associations.