

## Start For Next Christmas

Raleigh.—Christmas is just over but it's not too early to begin thinking about next Christmas, if you're a farmer interested in increasing your income.

John L. Gray, in charge of forestry for the State College Extension Service, yesterday noted that a survey of seven wholesalers and chain store buyers, and 84 retailers of Christmas trees indicates that there is a demand for more locally-grown Christmas trees.

Gray said that more than half of all dealers interviewed want to try more home-grown trees. In the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, they want red cedar of desirable shape, rich color, and dense foliage. Buyers in the Coastal Plain prefer delivered trees; half of those in the Piedmont want fresh-cut trees on a delivered basis and half want to buy standing trees and cut them as needed. Mountain dealers want balsam fir as standing trees. Dealers in all areas want trees 5 to 8 feet tall.

Gray said that prices paid

growers in the Piedmont have been low, but this may be due to low-quality trees.

He points out that there are still about 170,000 one-year-old and 120,000 two-year-old red cedar seedlings available at state nurseries. Balsam fir can be secured through commercial nurseries for planting in the mountains.

In the past five years, according to Gray, farmers, 4-H Club members, and others have planted some 2,200 acres of Christmas tree-type seedlings. Many of the 1948 and 1949 plantings are approaching marketable size.

Americans spent for their leisure-time hobbies in 1952: \$836,000,000 for flowers, seeds and potted plants, and \$200,000,000 for outdoor power tools, says a Dec. Reader's Digest article. In addition, they bought 17,000,000 fishing licenses, 14,000,000 hunting licenses and 500,000 outboard motors.

Rhode Island has only 2,598 farms, fewer than any other state.

## THE TACK SHOP

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