

What of the Checks?



Let me entreat one thing of thee and I will adventure to promise thee a good year. The request is in itself reasonable and may to thee be eternally profitable. It is only this: duty to prize and diligently to improve time for the blessed end it was given for and is yet graciously continued unto thee by eternal God.—REV. JOHN SHERMAN (1813-1885).

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

WHAT of the checks that you and I are going to draw on the Bank of Time in 1922—if we keep on drawing checks through the year?

"There's nothing new under the sun," according to a very old saying. It's true, too, in a sense. But in another sense it most certainly isn't true. For there is something new every time New Year's day comes around.

There are several things that are new at New Year's beside the New Year. There's a new chance. There's a new responsibility. There's a new balance in the Bank of Time. There's a new bank book. So, what will the check stubs show at the end of the year?

Rev. John Sherman had a right to make his "reasonable request," if practicing what one preaches gives that right. His "three score and ten" were busy years. He was born at Dedham, Essex, England, and before he was twenty-one he was an A. B. and A. M. of Trinity college, Cambridge, a minister of the Church of England and a Puritan on his way across the Atlantic to the Massachusetts Bay colony. There was no church for him, since the only three in existence—Boston, Salem and Watertown—had efficient ministers. So he was one of the "original planters" of Wethersfield, Conn., and a "watcher," 1634-40. Then he was one of the founders of Milford, New Haven plantation. Next he was a magistrate representing Milford in the New Haven colony and also charged with the duty of dividing land. Meanwhile he preached wherever opportunity offered.

In 1647 he became the minister of the Watertown church. There he preached till his death in 1685. Church and state were pretty much the same thing in those days, so the village affairs kept him a busy man. He found time, however, to publish for many years an almanac, for which he made all the astronomical calculations and wrote the text. He was also the first fellow and overseer of Harvard university. Incidentally he also found time to marry twice. Cotton Mather in his "Magnalia Christi Americana," says he had 26 children; this is a misstatement, but he did have 16. His epitaph in Latin on the tombstone in East Waltham, Mass., thus sums up his life:

"Sacred to the memory of John Sherman, a man distinguished for piety, character and truth; a profound theologian; as a preacher a veritable Chrysostom; unsurpassed in his knowledge of the liberal arts, particularly mathematics; a faithful pastor of the Church of Watertown in New England; an overseer and fellow of Harvard college. After a life of faithful service to Christ in the church for upwards of 45 years in the fullness of time he passed away and received from Christ the palm of victory, in the seventy-second year of his age, August 8, A. D. 1685."

Let us hope that the "reasonable request" that this early Puritan put to himself was to him "eternally profitable." In any event, he stands forth as a fine sample of a sturdy American pioneer family that has given four immortals to the nation—Roger Sherman, one of the framers of the Declaration of Independence; General W. T. Sherman; Secretary of State John Sherman; Vice President James S. Sherman.

Certainly his request is one that is always reasonable. And it is one that was never more reasonable than now. The year 1922 is a year when every good American should endeavor "duly to prize and diligently to improve time." It is a year with a challenge. It is a year with a promise.

Though in folly and in blindness
And in sorrow still we grope,
Yet in man's increasing kindness
Lies the world's stupendous hope.

And it is a reasonable request to every red-blooded, thinking, patriotic American. Such a man knows that nobody can stand still; that he has either to progress or fall back. The progressive man accepts responsibilities as the measure of his capabilities. He never shirks them, for he recognizes in them the price he must pay for advancement.

Competition is going to be keen this year. The dollar is going to be hard to get. Men who have been getting twice what they were before and have had lots of money to spend are going to feel the pinch. It looks as if everybody who works for a living will have to work a little harder. It may be that life will seem hard. But what of it? Life has always been hard—perhaps it was meant to be. Anyway, it is something that has got to be lived and mastered. It's the business of men "to greet the unseen with a cheer" and "to advance on chaos and the dark."

Of course all of us cannot have a hand in the big things that must be done in meeting the challenge of 1922. But if all of us do the little things we may, 1922 will indeed be the "Happy New Year" of our greetings.

To save a little money,
To praise a little more;
To smile when days are sunny
And when the tempests pour;
To pay less heed to sinning
And more to kindly thought;
To see beyond the winning
Just how the fight was fought;
To be a little kinder,
A little braver, too,
To be a little blinder
To trivial things men do,
To give my hand to labor,
Nor whisper that I must;
To be a better neighbor
And wortlier of a trust,
To play the man, whatever
The prize at stake;
God grant that I shall never
These New Year pledges break.

Anyone looking for something to do in the way of helping along can help bolster the morals of his community. The war has done what all wars do. And the leeches on society are always active at such times. Just now we are facing all sorts of loose living and the public at large apparently feels little concern. Any man or woman can at least help by setting a good example.

A good American can help just now by putting his respect for the law strongly in evidence. For the law is the law. If it is a poor law, it should be changed. But until it is changed, it should be obeyed—whether it relates to the shooting of game birds or to the use of liquor or to the speed of automobiles or to murder or to anarchy. Many people who would hotly resent the charge that they are anarchists take delight in evading the laws and in making sport of the laws.

Every thinking man must realize that this Twentieth century civilization is too complex to be sane, safe and sober. Medical philosophers are unanimous in declaring that we Americans live too hard and too fast; that our rapid ways are harmful both to the individual and to the race; that we should slow up. We are, to use the homely old phrase, burning the candle at both ends. Men try to succeed in business, to rule in politics, to be social leaders—all at the same time. To crowd dissimilar things together has become a national characteristic. Our avocations are often as wearing as our vocations; we play even harder than we work. Thus to crowd two or more lives into one is to borrow of nature. She is a hard creditor and she always exacts payment.

One cannot, of course, indict a whole people. There are still millions of sane, safe and sober people in America. But a society that demands or even countenances such recklessness is in need of reformation. It would be interesting—and startling—to know how many men and women put themselves in an early grave by going the pace that kills.

"Of all sounds of all bells, most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the old year. I never hear it without a gathering up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelve-month; all I have done or suffered, performed or neglected, in that regretted time. I begin to know its worth as when a person dies. It takes a personal color; nor was it a poetical flight in a contemporary poet when he exclaimed: 'I saw the skirts of the departing year.'

"Every first of January that we arrive at, is an imaginary milestone on the turnpike track of human life; at once a resting place for thought and meditation, and a starting place for fresh exertion in the performance of our journey. The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must be either very good or very bad indeed. And only to propose to be better is something; if nothing else, it is an acknowledgment of our need to be so, which is the first step towards amendment. But, in fact, to propose to oneself to do well is in some sort to do well, positively; for there is no such thing as a stationary point in human endeavors; he who is not worse today than he was yesterday, is better; and he who is not better, is worse."

So wrote Charles Lamb. Therefore let us make New Year resolutions "duly to prize and diligently to improve time for the blessed end it was given for"—even if we break them.

abuse and a nuisance. The kings and feudal nobility of the Middle Ages practically leveled on their dependents for gifts. The presents varied according to sex and rank.

FEAST DAY FOR RUSSIAN CHILDREN

In the country towns of Russia New Year's is the great feast day for the children. Boys fill their pockets with dried peas and wheat and go in bands from house to house. People they

have any grudge against are doused with the peas, while they shower the wheat upon their friends. A curious custom also is feasting the hand-somest horse and leading him to the house of a nobleman. The pea and wheat shooters follow in droves. Both guests and horse are admitted to the parlor of the lord and the guests receive presents.

Berlin is to erect Europe's first skyscraper along American lines, a building 22 stories high.

IMPORTANT NEWS THE WORLD OVER

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS OF THIS AND OTHER NATIONS FOR SEVEN DAYS GIVEN

THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in The South-land Will Be Found in Brief Paragraphs

Foreign—

President Eibert, of Germany, is now paid a salary equivalent to \$2,000 a year. The reichstag budget commission has agreed to raise his stipend, in view of present high prices and hard times.

A report that has gained considerable circulation during the recent days that Fritz Kreisler, noted violinist and composer, had been appointed Austrian minister to the United States was officially denied at the Austrian foreign office.

German motion picture film manufacturers have perfected a co-operative organization one of the prime purposes of which is to capture the European trade held by American producers. In the effort to compete with the American film the Germans are endeavoring to develop a "screen humor" which heretofore has been lacking in their productions.

Withdrawal of American troops stationed in Cuba will be requested by the government under a joint resolution passed by both houses of congress. The resolution states that "it would be regarded as a friendly act" if the American government acceded to the request. The troops referred to are marines, which were stationed at Camaguey in March, 1917, at the request of President Menocal.

The national assembly recently ratified the treaty of peace between the United States and Hungary at Budapest. Count Albert Apponyi, chairman of the committee in charge of the peace agreement, in an address in the chamber after the ratification, said: "Though we are not yet acquainted with America's future world policy, this separate treaty is proof of her disinterestedness and her sincere wish to help in the reconstructions of eastern Europe. This single peace, which was not dictated, recognizes Hungary as an equal."

The text of the note addressed recently by Chile to Peru in regard to the dispute over the provinces of Tacna and Arica, proposes that the plebiscite, provided under the treaty of Ancon, be advanced so as to do away with the necessity for maintenance of excessive military establishments.

France is willing temporarily to forego cash reparations payment from Germany a high official in the French foreign office told the correspondent of the Associated Press.

Further shooting occurred recently in the Newtownards road district, Belfast. Several women were wounded.

The former German crown prince, who, since November, 1918, has lived in Wierzen, is now planning to return to Germany and expects to request permission of the Dutch government for his departure early in the spring. Frederick William looks forward to life as a country gentleman with his wife and children on an estate at Oelst, (Oelsin, Prussia).

Meeting simultaneously in the Irish and British capitals, the daily eireann and the British parliament have started to work on the Irish peace treaty, and will decide whether peace or war shall rule in Ireland.

There is a report that revolutionary troops operating in eastern Peru defeated the government forces in a battle. The Peruvian censorship is of the strictest character.

Washington—

Secretary Herbert Hoover has asked for twenty million dollars to feed the starving Russians. He says the voluntary plan is a failure, and that only the government can save the day.

The new four-power treaty to preserve peace in the Pacific has been formally sealed and signed by the plenipotentiaries of the United States, Great Britain, Japan and France.

Western Washington was counting its damages recently after four days of floods that resulted in the loss of 13 lives, rendered hundreds temporarily homeless, washed out bridge and roads, disorganized traffic and cut wire communications in many parts of the state. The property loss was estimated at a half-million dollars.

The conditions by which Japan's league of nations include provision for free admission of missions and protection of American interests in the mandated territory, and require that Japan shall report to the United States as well as to the league on details of her administration of the mandate.

Subject to Tokio's approval, the Japanese delegation accepted the Chinese offer to pay \$3,000,000 gold German marks to the Kiao Chow Tsinanfu railroad in Shantung, plus what Japan has made in permanent improvements, but less deterioration.

Approval of 182 advances for agricultural and live stock purposes aggregating nearly \$7,000,000, was announced by the War Finance corporation. Of this amount Georgia receives \$461,000. An appropriation of \$10,000,000 to be used for the purchased of 10,000,000 bushels of corn and 1,000,000 bushels of seed grain to be distributed in Russia is proposed in a bill introduced in the house.

The American and Japanese governments have composed their differences over the Pacific island of Yap, and are preparing to sign a treaty by which Japan retains administrative control over the island and the United States secures the cable and wireless privileges there for which she has contended since the Paris peace conference.

Japan has indicated conditional acceptance of the American "5-5-3" naval ratio and a final settlement of the question appears imminent. After a meeting of the naval "big three," it was stated that only a very small point remained to be determined.

Agreement of the "big three" naval powers on the "5-5-3" naval ratio plan was officially announced recently at the state department. Under plan Japan retains the superdreadnaught Mutsu instead of the old battleship Setsu and the United States retains two additional ships of the Maryland class instead of the Delaware and North Dakota. Great Britain as an equivalent will build two superdreadnaughts similar to the Maryland and Mutsu types, but of greater tonnage, scrapping four old battleships of the original retained list suggested by the American plan.

Domestic—

Negotiations are under way for the sale by southern pine interests to the French government of approximately 240,000,000 feet of pine lumber, valued at between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000, according to an announcement at a meeting at Memphis, Tenn., of southern yellow pine producers.

Twelve years ago, when Harold Fenner was nine years old his mother was killed by a blow on the head. Nothing was done about it at the time; the case not even reported to the police, being generally accepted as an accident. Harold Fenner recently went to court at Jersey, City, N. J., and swore out a manslaughter complaint against his step-father, Richard Townes, 56, alleging he struck the blow which caused death.

Equipped with "dust" shooting pistols to bring down high-flying insects that cannot be netted, Jesse H. Williamson and John W. Strohm, a retired army captain, will sail from New York on the steamship Polycarp, for the jungles of Brazil in behalf of science. They plan to penetrate beyond the River of Doubt.

Coster shops of the Southern railway were closed at Knoxville, Tenn., in their entirety and operations, except in the roundhouse, are suspended until January 3. Closing the shops means that between 1,000 and 1,200 men will be out of employment for a period of about fifteen working days.

Operating coal mines at night as well as throughout the day, a radical departure from the established custom, has been decided by the LaFollette Coal & Iron company, and its employees, at LaFollette, Tenn. This is not only intended to give miners more work, but to reduce the cost of production, according to a statement issued by L. C. Crewe, president.

The body of Tom Slaughter, slain desperado, buried in a Little Rock, Ark., cemetery in the presence of thousands of curious spectators recently, may be disinterred. Governor T. C. McCrae announced receipt of a long distance telephone message from G. D. O'Brien, of Dallas, Texas, protesting against the funeral service, and denouncing a woman known at Little Rock as Mrs. Myrtle Slaughter, supposed to be the bandit's widow, of El Dorado, Arkansas.

Murder was given as the cause of the death of Charles Nelson, 55, formerly of Columbus, Ga., at Mobile, Ala., recently by the coroner following an investigation after the dead body was found at the bottom of a railroad embankment. Nelson was last seen alive at his home, when he left in an automobile in company with a man that the police have been unable to locate.

An earthquake that rocked buildings and which was accompanied by a roaring noise, was felt at Rockwood, Tenn., and reports that the tremors were severe at Spring City.

Tommy O'Connor, two-gun man, sentenced to be hanged for murder, and two other notorious Chicago criminals, escaped from jail, fighting their way past half a dozen guards, most of whom were beaten into unconsciousness by the desperados in their dash for liberty, were later apprehended.

Jack Howard, the convict who shot and killed Tom Slaughter, leader in the spectacular prison jail delivery at Little Rock, Ark., recently, has been arrested on a charge of first degree murder.

Acres and diversification will be the theme of the second annual cotton conference to be held in Memphis, Tenn., during the week ending December 17.

Adoption by the senate recently of the conference report on the first deficiency bill sent the measure to the president, the house having adopted the report earlier in the day. The bill, as agreed to by the conferees and house carried approximately \$103,000,000, of which \$66,000,000 is for the veterans' bureau.

The woman sheriff of Allamakee county, Iowa, admits that there is no clue to the murderer of Miss Edda Magnuson, a school teacher of Waukon. She has sent bloodhounds to the scene of the murder.

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Chairman Lasker of the shipping board said, in an interview: "These men are taking needless offense. They were taking offense where none is intended."
"A tall, gaunt, vinegar-faced woman walked into Wawa station one day and said to the ticket agent: "Give me a ticket for Chester Heights."
"Single?" asked the agent.
"The woman's eyes flashed steely sparks."
"None of yer darn business," she hissed. "Gost knows, though, I might have married a dozen times over if I'd been willin' to grubstake some shiftless, putty-faced monkey like yerself."

Her Only Chance.
Incoone—Does she dance badly?
Quential—Yes, if the chaperones aren't looking.—Petican.

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