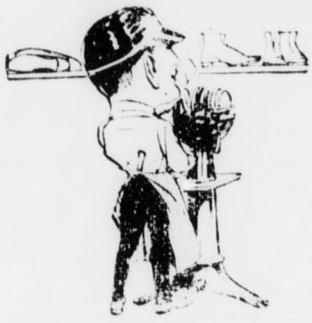


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**Widows On Pension Roll Are Increased**

Raleigh, Nov. 21.—While 688 widows have been dropped from the Confederate pension roll during the year, 1,077 have been added, Auditor Baxter Durham says, though the soldiers have fallen off much more rapidly than they have gone on. The auditor is getting out the warrants. "The annual appropriation for Confederate pensions is one million dollars, plus any unexpected balance of the former year," says the auditor. The legislature divided equally this amount, \$500,000 to the widows and \$500,000 to the soldiers. "This year there will be about 3,200 soldiers on the list. The first class will receive \$200 per year; sec-

ond class \$185; third class \$170; fourth class \$155. This is the largest increase that has ever been made without additional appropriation from the legislature. "There are about 5,300 widows on the roll. First-class widows will receive \$200, and fourth-class \$100 per year. "During the year 720 soldiers have been dropped from the roll, a great majority of these by death. There have been added during the year 294. "Widows dropped from the roll 688; added 1,077." If you wish to know a man's income, ask him what incomes should be exempt from taxation.—Associated Editors.

**THE MEANEST MAN IN THE WORLD**

Is the One Who Would Enlighten A Child As To the Identity Of Santa Claus—Going To the Extreme In Filling Stockings.

I was reared in an old-fashioned home where little was made of Christmas. Never in my whole life did I have a Christmas tree, and never do I remember getting one thing for which I have expressed a desire.

My father was a good man, but he considered it a sin to spend money for foolish things. He used to tell my brothers and me each Christmas how thankful we should be for the things we received when there were so many children in the world who hadn't even a fire or a mouthful to eat.

Heaven that I was, I didn't feel that those children were much unhappier than I was on Christmas morning. The packages by my half-filled stockings held no hidden mysteries that thrilled my nervous fingers with the unwrapping. I knew they contained those inevitable winter stockings and underwear. Each year, it seemed to me, the hurt was just as acute as the year before. My voice raised no complaint, intimated no disappointment, but the soul of me screamed, "You had to buy those clothes for me anyway. You have taken advantage of me. You've used Christmas to economize with your children!"

One dollar in foolish toys which might not have lasted the day thru would have made me infinitely happy; today it would have been worth \$100 in cherished memories. The soul of a child knows resentment, but it seldom shows retaliation.

When I became a woman I was unhappier at Christmas than any other season, primarily because I never had the money to spend on my people I wanted to spend. I wanted to heap on them at Christmas the comforts of life which I felt they had only a few more years to enjoy. And then too, if any of the things in life that make us miserable at times must happen always it seemed, to me, mine were allotted for Christmas.

However, I have lived to see the Christmas shadows disappear. For four years my husband and I have gone back to the old home for Christmas. A huge Christmas tree, fourteen feet high, filled the corner of the big room of that house my grandfather built nearly one hundred years ago. For two years a boy with laughing brown eyes has shrieked and screamed and clapped his hands around his lighted tree.

This year his sister, a young lady of two and one-half years will join him, realizing for the first time just what it means. My father who is 87 will also join the hilarious throng and he will say again just as he has said for four years, "You ought to be ashamed to spend money on these children you do in your circumstances and that, too, with the thousands of children who will have nothing."

To which I will as usual answer, "There isn't one child in a thousand who won't have a Christmas. The church and charitable institutions of this country are too well organized to miss any. I know I have spent more than I ought but my conscience doesn't hurt a bit. There's laughter in my children's eyes and if a well-filled stocking will keep it there I'll

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**For Wider Roads**

The state of Texas is anxious to set the world an example in road building and proposes to make her highways, wherever possible, 100 feet wide, and to construct all new roads that width. Don't smile at that Mr. Reader, even though it sounds like an impossibility. At the present rate there will be 50,000,000 autos in this country in 1975, just fifty years from now. Figuring that by 1975 one-half of the population will be women and children and the other half men, it will just about average one automobile for every man in the United States. And with every man owning and driving a car can you imagine how roads like we have today are going to accommodate them? Don't laugh at the Lone Star state—she is setting a fine example. The fact is you may not have to live 50 years to find that roads 100 feet wide are inadequate to take care of traffic demands.

Let us at least hope that no great men of this era will be immortalized in bronze balloon trousers.—Associated Editors.

go hungry and half-clothed cheerfully to do it."

He doesn't know, and I wouldn't hurt him by telling him that I have gone to the extreme because at Christmas when I was a child there used to be such a lump in my throat I couldn't swallow breakfast and when the miserable meal was thru I used to hide under a bed and cry until the anguish was gone from my soul.

I wish everybody in the world could be happy at Christmas. It's a time when nobody can make too many sacrifices in order to make others joyful.

The meanest man or woman in the world to me is the one who will enlighten a child as to the identity of Santa Claus.

There is one more pay-day at our house between this and Christmas. The December check isn't big enough to pull us through when we've turned over to building and loan the monthly payment and to the grocer his. January will find many of us still paying the Christmas bill. I have completed the baby's shopping. There is a doll and doll bed and they

are substantial and strong, and they cost \$1.00 each. The baby carriage is my only extravagance for it cost three dollars. There is a scooter bike for the boy and I wanted a sled but I haven't found it yet. His father says I'm foolish to buy it because some winters we don't have snow enough to use it. But there's no use arguing with a woman—I am going to have that sled for the pure joy of seeing my son take it to a hill which I once coasted in a discarded dough tray.

If I were judge in any court and a woman or man were brought before me for theft and they put up the plea, "There was nothing for the children's Christmas," they would certainly go free.

With Eddie Guest I believe in filling the children's stockings, not with the sensible things we would select for them, but with the foolish things of their liking and let them be supremely happy at Christmas anyway.—By a contributor in the Winston-Salem Journal.

Let's hope that France's new debt offer is a forward pass.—Indianapolis News.

**"LOANS AVAILABLE QUICKLY FOR FARM PURPOSES"**

Money may be borrowed for the purposes as follows:

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2. To buy implements, such as farm machinery, wagons, tools, etc., etc.
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5. To provide and repair buildings.
6. To provide improvements, such as fencing, draining, tiling, clearing, etc., etc.
7. TO PAY DEBTS.

File your application now and be ready for next appraisal of land, which will be within a reasonably short time. Applications are acceptable every day in the year, but if application is made in time to catch the next appraisal, a loan may be secured quicker.

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