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Strictly in Advance!

MARION, N. C., DEC. 21, 1916.

A Merry Christmas.

We wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and all that goes therewith calculated to produce real happiness. And in this connection we recall the beautiful thoughts of the late Isaac Erwin Avery in "Idle Comments."

"Christmas is almost here—Christmas, the saddest sweetest time of the year. It is a period for entertainment and family reunion, and a time when one remembers how old one is, how worthless, and how little he has really accomplished. Heaven here belongs to the tender world that doesn't know the truth about Santa Claus, and beyond that world happiness is feverish and fitful. To the young Christmas is a million miles away, but as one grows older time's circle moves more rapidly, and finally Christmas follows Christmas too hurriedly. The old people say that only the world is old; that man is ever young; and the mere space of yesterday is between the young heart that yearned for the filled stocking and the old feeble heart that may never throb another Christmas day.

"One wonders what Christmas means to the other fellow. To children it is Paradise transplanted, but men and women view it differently. To some it is a time for love and charity; to others a time for envy and discontent. To some it brings the jubilation that came finally to old Scrooge; to others it brings boredom.

"You see there is such a hue and cry over Christmas, and when the day comes it may easily bring unsweetness—that let-down feeling of disappointment. A few weeks beforehand life may be in placid waters, but as the time of celebration draws nigh the stream becomes a swift current and then a vortex that whirls to and fro the universal multitude clutching holiday gifts. When the storm ceases, if you are a woman and are satisfied with what you've got you are a miracle; if you are a man and can pay for what you have given you are a blessed exception. This is Christmas with the varnish off—Christmas described in remembrance of homeknit socks that didn't fit; inevitable indigestion; wet fingers that plastered pink candy, useful donations that weren't useful, and the same old snowbird on the same old white card.

"All this is intended as a bare touch of realism—kindly, though maybe a prissimistic, silhouette. The setting may be tiresome, but it will be gorgeous if you have that happy heart. The man who wants the day to give him something will find it a failure. It is a success when the individual assumes that it is his duty to bring to the day love, charity, sympathy, peace."

President Wilson has sent a check for \$2,500 to Treasurer Marsh of the Democratic National Committee, as his contribution toward meeting the deficit in the committee's campaign fund.

The Australian Ballot System.

The Progress wishes to give its approval of the Australian ballot system, which the Asheville Citizen so strongly advocates, and in fact the press generally has given approval of this system of voting. The Citizen rings clear on this subject, when it asks:

"Is it not rather a painful spectacle to see the people of a great commonwealth practically pleading for rights and privileges which are virtually granted to them under the national constitution? Is there not something pathetic in the thought that free white men of North Carolina, possessed of as much intelligence as the men of any other section of the country, should be begging for the privilege of casting a free, fair and untrammelled ballot? Is it not enough to arouse one's indignation when he considers the fact that while other states have enjoyed the blessings and advantages of the Australian system for twenty-five and thirty years, North Carolina's citizens have been voted under an obsolete and inadequate election system, while the "floater" and the vote buyer have flourished at will? Political corruption has stalked unchecked through the state at every election, and now the great majority of our citizenship, realizing that it is high time to throw off the shackles of political slavery, asks that fraud and corruption be wiped forever from the political slate.

"Our people are asking for the same rights as are enjoyed by the rank and file of American citizenship; they are asking the North Carolina legislature, supposed to do the will and bidding of the people, to give them the Australian ballot so that they may vote as free men, conscious of the fact that when their ballot is cast it shall be so counted. They are asking our senators and representatives to surround the ballot with that sacredness and secrecy which the United States constitution provides, but upon which the professional politician and the ward heeler have trampled with impunity."

The Australian system originated in the British Colonies about 1870, probably being first used in New South Wales about 1858, and subsequently in all the subdivisions of Australia. It is now in use in nearly all the countries of the world where the elective franchise is recognized, and in the United States it is used in various modified forms in all the more progressive states.

The main features are that ballots used in voting are printed at public expense, and all party candidates' names are printed on one ballot. The voter on entering the polls is supplied with one ballot, after entering the booth. There is a legal provision against electioneering near the polls, and secrecy is guaranteed by prohibiting under penalty the exhibition of the marked ballot. Separate voting booths are provided in which the voter must by himself mark and prepare his own ballot, if he is capable to do so, otherwise it may be marked at his direction by two of the judges who must belong to different parties, after which it is handed to the proper officer, by whom it is deposited in the ballot box.

The system of course cannot be expected to be a pan-a-acea for all evils connected with the ballot box, but it will do much toward eliminating the corruptness and wretched conditions that exist under the present system.

Now, all together! "Buy it at home this Christmas."

Christmas Gifts For Ladies

We have a beautiful selection of Shirt Waists. We have some pretty Organdy waists in plain white and fancy stripes at 75c and \$1.00, some China Silk waists in colors at \$1.00, some wash silk waists in beautiful candy stripes at \$2.45 and \$2.75, some real pretty crepe De Chine waists in pink, blue and white embroidered at \$3.50.

LADIES BATH ROBES and KIMONAS. We have some real pretty Kimonas made of Domet flannel at \$2.95 and \$3.50, some pretty Kimonas made of Duckling fleece at \$1.15, \$1.25, \$1.39 and \$1.50.

LADIES HAND BAGS. We have a good collection of Ladies Hand Bags and Purses priced at 50c to \$2.00; some in pretty Holly Boxes, that make nice gifts.

LADIES HANDKERCHIEFS. There is nothing that is more acceptable and appreciated as Gifts than a pretty Handkerchief. We have them by the gross, at 5c, 10c, 15c and 25c, in plain white, and dainty embroidered and hemstitched in colors at 10c, 15c, 25c, also colored Crepe De Chine at 25c. We also have a pretty lot of Handkerchiefs, 2 and 3 packed in Holly Boxes at 25c and 35c box.

We also have a pretty line of Hose in lisle and silks at 15c, 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Ladies Kid Gloves at \$1.00 and \$1.50. Parasols, Traveling Bags and Suit Cases, etc.

Useful Gifts for Men

We have Bath Robes at \$2.95 and \$3.50, Sweaters at \$1.15 to \$3.00, Half Hose at 25c to 50c packed in Holly Boxes. Men's Umbrellas at \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$2.25. Traveling Bags and Dress Suit Cases at \$2.50 to \$12.50. Men's Hats in the latest styles at \$1.50 to \$4.00. Neckwear. We have a beautiful selection of Ties, and Scarfs at 25c to 75c.

You will find in our big stock many articles suitable for gifts for the entire family.

Regular Santa Claus Tricks

We have a big display of Toys for the Children and other Seasonable Gifts for the whole family. We have Dolls, Pianos, Tea Sets, Doll Beds, Carriages, Books, Pictures, Balls, Horns, Cap Pistols, Air Rifles, Trains, Pop Guns and hundreds of articles to please the children.

Gaston & Tate, Inc.

"The Square Deal Store."

A Merry Christmas Givable Gifts.

Right now, buy one of our good Suits or Overcoats and be "prepared" for the Holiday season.

SUITS and OVERCOATS

\$10.00, \$12.50, \$15.00, \$18.50, \$20.00, \$22.50

Our stock of Gift Ideas is complete, ready for your selection. Be wise, do your Xmas shopping early.

Clothing, Hats, Caps, Shoes, Underwear, Sweaters, Silk Hose, Rain Coats, Riding Pants, Neckwear, Collar Bags, Gloves, Suspenders, Garters, Silk Shirts, Mufflers, Silk Handkerchiefs, Linen Handkerchiefs.

J. H. L. Miller Clothing Co.

THE QUALITY SHOP

Cotton Mill Rally 27th.

The cotton Mill rally at Glenwood will take place next Wednesday, December 27, instead of on the 21st as announced last week. The citizens of Glenwood are especially invited to attend the meeting.

To Citizens of McDowell County.

I take this method to extend to you my heartfelt thanks for the kind treatment that I received at your hands during the six years that I served you as your Register of Deeds, and which I shall ever look back to with the greatest pleasure. I have left all deeds and other papers on which fees are due with Mr. Millard Potrat, Treasurer, which you will please call for when in town and pay the fees due thereon to him.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, I remain
respectfully yours,
R. L. C. GIBSON.

Renew your subscription to The Progress promptly, please.

Levitt's Levitt's

Don't Forget The Pace

For late Christmas Shopping, and for Holiday purchases in general, you will be well pleased if you come here. Our prices, and the value and style of our offerings, will delight you.

Our Holiday Sale of Stylish Ladies' Suits, Coats and Dresses is attracting wide attention, and making satisfied customers throughout Western North Carolina.

To make more friends for the Store is our Aim—and your assurance of good treatment.

3 Biltmore Avenue Asheville N. C. **Levitt's**