

Entered as Second Class Matter April 3, 1914, at the Post Office at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, under Act of March 3, 1879.

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All cards of thanks, resolutions of respect, etc., etc., will be charged for at the rate of one cent per word. Cash must accompany article in all cases except where customer has a regular account. No insertions made for less than 25 cents.

All items for publication must be turned in or reach our office before THURSDAY NOON in order to insure publication in the Friday issue following. In the case of lengthy items, even more time must be allowed. No charge made for insertion of matter of purely news value.

Friday, December 18, 1914.

The cold wave must have hit us a comin and a gwine.

We are just getting in shape to appreciate the blessings of July.

Seven days remain in which to do that Christmas shopping late, with the rest of the crowd.

If Mexico or Cuba were to turn around and lick the United States, we could probably understand how Austria feels about it.

"Watchful waiting" sounds all right for Washington, but if we lived anywhere near the Mexican boundary, we'd want to move.

The question now is which will wear out first: the patience of the administration or the patience of the rest of the American people in regard to the Mexican problem.

"Sultan tells why Turkey go into European Scrap" -- headline. Doubtless very interesting, but we presume the uppermost thought in the minds of the doubtful sultan's subjects is "how is Turkey going to get out of this scrap."

While the people of the United States out of funds more slender than normal are sending the Belgian destitute what aid they can, a headline announces that steps are being taken by Germans "to collect war tax levied on Belgium". When the inevitable happens, and Germany is forced to sue for terms, on what earthly grounds may the merciless expect mercy?

Consistency thou art a jewel. An exchange comes to our desk with an editorial stating that cough and cold syrups and nostrums have killed many people. One column distant from the editorial in question appears a smoothly worded advertisement of one of the most flagrant, cough nostrums on the market to-day. Evidently the business office and the editorial department of this paper (one of the largest dailies in the State) is far, far removed.

Frank seems to have been acquitted by practically all of the ultra-Georgia papers -- but in view of the nearness of his impending doom, this fact probably does not afford him the satisfaction it would under different circumstances. The feeling of most of the newspapers throughout this section is that Frank did not get a fair trial and his execution under the circumstances is a regrettable thing for the state of Georgia, regardless of whether he is guilty of the crime he is charged with or not.

Claude Kitchin, House Leader

It looks at this writing as if Congressman Claude Kitchin will have to fight for the chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee, which carries with it the floor leadership of

the majority. Mr. Kitchin is entitled to this chairmanship as he is at present the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. He is also fully entitled to the chairmanship on the grounds of ability and fitness for the place.

We predict and sincerely hope that the fight will be a brief one and that the other aspirant to this most important place in the lower house, Mr. Finis Garrett, of Tennessee, will be snowed under when it comes to a vote. Congressman Kitchin's work on the last tariff bill was efficient and thorough; he has a comprehensive grasp of the work to be done by the Ways and Means Committee and he is fully competent to direct the Democratic majority in the House.

It is stated that Kitchin is opposed in his fight for this position by President Wilson, on the grounds of Mr. Kitchin's refusal to vote blindly for every measure advocated by President Wilson at the former session.

We are hardly inclined to believe that Mr. Wilson will attempt to interfere with the action of the House in this matter and we certainly do not believe that his influence will have much weight, if it is exerted. The House as a rule is fully able to maintain its dignity and preserve its prerogatives and any attempt at dictation by Mr. Wilson in this matter is likely to prove a boomerang.

Spugs

Great is the organization, rapidly is it growing and long may it thrive! Spugs are members of the Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving. The members pay no dues, (for being relieved of cash in unnecessary ways is abhorrent to every true member of the species.) join the society when they please and put with the same formality. The activities of this organization reach their height just before December 25.

We do not want to be understood as discouraging one of the most beautiful customs of the age -- that of giving Christmas Gifts -- nor does your genuine Spug. He is primarily and actively interested in the continuance, so far as he is concerned, in the giving of useless gifts. Trifles tied up in baby rattle, constructed in devious ways, from unsuitable materials for impossible purposes, come under his ban, as well as the mass of other junk, gewgaws, foolish, unsuitable, inappropriate useless gifts.

It is sanity first with the spug -- he, or she, gives presents that are useful first and ornamental as a matter of second importance, so people for whom the spug feels in his heart the genuine good will and Christmas charity which makes the giving in itself a pleasure.

So many Christmas gifts are not only a waste of time and money in the gifts themselves but are given people for whom the donor has very little genuine attachment -- are given in the majority of cases because the giver is afraid that the recipient will send a Christmas gift. This pressure works from both ends and the result in a large number of instances is an exchange of useless gifts, irritating to both parties and with an economic waste which in the aggregate must reach large figures.

The Spugs were organized last winter in Washington, a daughter of the President being one of the leaders of the movement. It is a movement to get back to the old fashioned, safe and sane Christmas -- and never in the recollection of the average person of to-day has this movement been more needed. It is a time for the curtailment of unnecessary expenditures in every direction, for rigid personal economy.

Spend what money you feel able to spend in the purchase of useful appropriate Christmas gifts for those who really need and will appreciate them. To the majority of mankind the Christmas of 1914 will be the saddest the world has ever known -- the greater part of humanity is in the valley of unspeakable agony. With the misery of the unemployed in this country in our own sight, and the misery of the homeless and destitute Bel-

gians being told by every newspaper, the tremendous irony of the useless Christmas gift would deter now even the most hard-hearted.

"What's the matter to get broke about your automobile?" "The owner," replied Mr. Chuggins. -- Washington Star.

"But I will always be a brother to you," he murmured. "If I had any use for a brother," she replied sweetly, "I could reach under the sofa and get one right now."

Anxious Mistress: "Jane, have you given the fish any fresh water lately?"

Jane: "No, mum, they haven't drunk the water that I gave them last month yet." -- Puck.

Grateful Patient -- By the way, I should be glad if you would send in your bill soon.

Eminent Physician -- Never mind about that, my dear madame; you must get quite strong first. -- Philadelphia Record.

What to Give?

Call and see my line of Useful Christmas Goods

Beautiful "Paris" Coat Suits at after Xmas prices
Crocery and Cutlery that will wear

Rugs and Druggets at prices that will suit your pocketbook
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Notice

By virtue of a deed of trust made by Charlie Williams and Ethel Williams, his wife, to me as trustee, dated April 13th, 1914, and recorded in the Clerk's office for Halifax county, at Halifax, N. C., in Book 23, Deed Book 23, at Page 118, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and at the request of the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness, I will on MONDAY, the 21st day of December, 1914, at the hour of 12 o'clock noon, in front of the Patterson Store Company's Store (located on Roanoke Avenue, ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.), offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for CASH the following property, to-wit: All that lot of land, with improvements thereon, lying and being situated in Roanoke Rapids township, Halifax county, state of North Carolina, and bounded and described as follows: Commencing at a stake, the Northeast corner of Lot No. 44 (Forty-Four) of plat No. 29, thence running Eastwardly fifty (50) feet to Cross Street; thence seventy-five (75) feet Southwardly along Cross Street to a stake; thence Westwardly fifty (50) feet to a stake on the line between Lots Nos. 44 and 45 (Forty-Four and Forty-Five); thence seventy-five (75) feet to the beginning. Said lot of land being one half of Lot No. 46 (Forty-Six) of the North end of same. For a more perfect description of the above described property reference is hereby made to Plot or Map No. 29 of "Patterson Town" duly recorded in Book 236 at Page 7, Register of Deeds office, Halifax, N. C. This, the 20th day of November, A. D. 1914. A. L. CLARK, Trustee. 11-20-14-64.

We are always striving for things forbidden and coveting those denied us. -- Ovid.

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