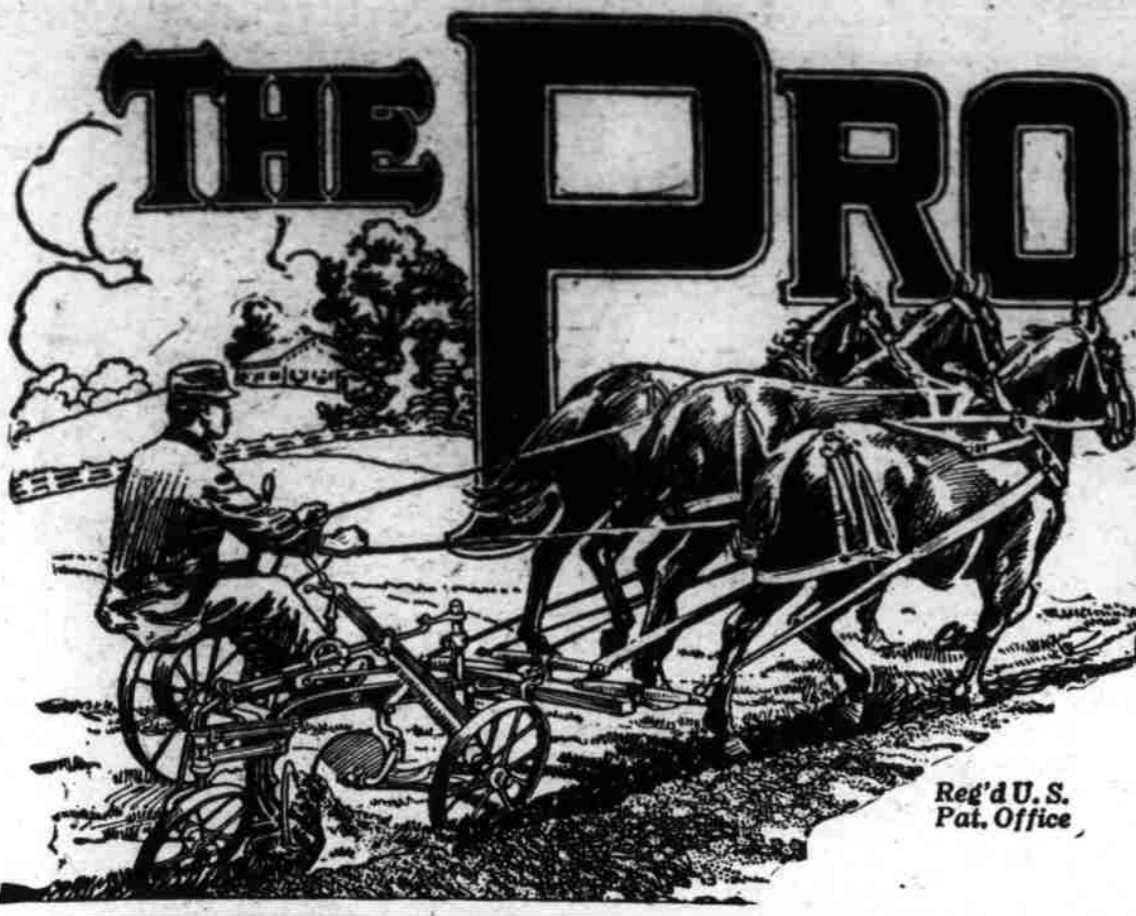


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THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS IN WAR-TIME

*"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free."*

THAT is what our soldier-sons, soldier-brothers, soldier-sisters are themselves doing beyond the seas—offering life itself to make the world free, to make it free from the menace of a nation whose only god is Power and whose success would enthrone brute force as ruler of the world. Terrible as is war, let us now thank God that America did not hesitate to accept its bloody challenge rather than lose her soul in a coward's peace. Paradoxical, it is yet true that life is worth living only when men realize that other things are of incomparably greater worth than life—when men esteem life but a little thing in comparison with honor, duty, righteousness, service; and our times are nobler because this generation, tried by this acid test, has shown its metal.

life is sacrifice, let us now make haste to consecrate our prosperity. We must give as we have never given before—to the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and all the other agencies that lend succor to our defenders. And furthermore, we must lend to the nation. No sacrifice is involved in buying "Liberty Bonds"; no sacrifice in



"The poorest twig in the elm tree
Was ridged inch-deep in pearl."

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But while our boys in uniform have thus shown their nobility of soul, what of the rest of us? Contemptible indeed will we be, if we share not their sufferings and their high purpose. The closing year has brought to most of us in the South an unusual degree of prosperity. In the spirit of Him Whose birth we celebrate and Who taught that the glory of

buying "War Savings" stamps and certificates. Each form of loan to the Government pays 4 per cent, tax free, with absolute safety insured; and yet we can serve by lending of our substance in this easy way. Surely no man will refuse who has a dollar he can spare.

The early fall brought complaints that our farmers had not bought Liberty Bonds, had not given to the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., etc., but we are confident it was because crop money had not been received or these objects were not properly presented. Now with the money from high-priced cotton, tobacco, peanuts and livestock in our pockets, let the farmers of the South, having first had the joy of prosperity, now find the yet higher joy of giving from it for the suffering at home, the brave abroad, and lending to the Government to which we have sworn allegiance. The message of a war-time Christmas is simple: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

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