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CHRISTMAS COMES

BUT ONCE A YEAR!

There Must Be Something More To Existence Than Is Apparent On Familiar Surfaces.

Where there is a great deal of smoke there must be fire. And where floods of color are spilled and bells are persistently rung and echoing legends fill the air to attest that there is a world of fairy and that the wise are always and inevitably gentle; where a continuing song in praise of kindness seems to be justified and explained by corroborative human experience longer than any individual life, there must be something more to existence than is apparent on familiar surfaces.

So the average man, touched by the sound and color of approaching Christmas, is apt to reason almost against his will. He will be aware again of many things ordinarily forgotten but too nobly believed in to be either true or false. Fairies? Well, it is astonishing to know how many wise men have believed in them. And many books have been written in their praise and filled with most convincing pictures in full color. The star and its promises? Who knows? What is it that happens to the world at a time when everybody is in a hurry only to be kind?

There has been a conspiracy of opinion to establish the notion that Christmas is a time exclusively for little children. It has been inspired by the diffidence and sensitiveness of people who, growing away from youth, have not the courage to admit their loneliness or to let even themselves know how eagerly they turn back to the land of realities from which the years have exiled them. Children, if the truth were known, are only the guides and spectators at that annual adventure. Wonderment makes all their days beautiful. The elder world is ashamed to wonder about anything until it throws off the mask about the middle of December and is led by the finger backward over a road cluttered with treasures which most people abandon in the rush for nowhere in particular and presented finally in regions of murmuring bells and laughter and a welter of things that seem unimportant until you remember that they are made of and for pure happiness of heart.

Then for a time we live again. A mechanical railway train in miniature, which landscape, signals, flagman and flag complete, breezing untroubled over bridges and through tunnels, will refresh and exalt the soul of almost any tired business man who in eleven and a half months of the year, must sternly conceal a real and passionate interest in such things. The dignity of maturity must be preserved, though whatever it is for no one knows. One who is not young may merge his identity with the identity of a crowd and snatch occasional moments of ecstasy at the windows of toy shops. Further he may not go. He may play with the fiscal policies of railroads or with their stocks or their programs of extension, but the delights of actuality are not for him until, with a lifting sense of blessed reprieve, he returns at this time of the year, trooping in the vast straggling army of perpetual refugees, to live in the world of children. They, being the wise ones of the earth, care only for things that make you glad.

The very colors of Christmas as they are revealed in the books, in the uniforms of toy armies and through the symbols of the season are the reverse of subtle. They are as bright and as honest as life itself can be at bottom. They are as stimulating to weary eyes as a trip to a far country. The pig seized and carried away by the Piper's Son lives in an environment of red and yellow and blue—colors as unmistakable and cheerful as the simple truth itself. The skies in the Christmas story books are always filled with stars. The snow is always immaculate and untrodden. Soldiers and crusaders go always upon noble errands, and the very cows and horses and the indispensable reindeer seem in the literature of the greatest of days to have the friendliest of understandings with the folk about them. You may search all through and among the books and the things that make the Christmas of children without finding anything suggestive of ugliness or cruelty or enmity or lack of fine faith. These, then, must be things that the normal mind rejects until it is forced to accept them. Since they are so prevalent in the world, it is no wonder that tired business men and tired business women are glad once a year to be led in places where they are taboo.

That may be what children are for. At Christmas they seem like the guardians of all the enduring realities, dwellers in realms from which beauty and belief have not yet been cast out. They do not know this, of course. They will not know it until after they have grown up. Then they too, will return with marveling eyes for occasional glimpses into the lost country.

Tobacco Barn Burned.

The tobacco packhouse of Mr. Frank Curran on Route 6, containing 30 barns of high grade tobacco was destroyed by fire last Sunday.

BASKET BALL—OXFORD ALL STARS VS WAKE FOREST FRIDAY 8 O'CLOCK AMBURY. Admission 50c.

NEWS IN SHORT FORM

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

The plight of farmers, due to falling prices, is taken to Congress. Organization of a \$250,000 housing corporation in...

Argentine delegate displeased; withdraws from the league of nations assembly.

Patterson cup is awarded to Miss Winifred Kirkland, by the N. C. Historical society.

Scenes colorful and dramatic mark the reception given Mrs. MacSwiney at New York.

Live hogs have returned practically to their 1913 pre-war prices in Chicago, says the packers.

State of Georgia takes steps to recover \$176,000 in taxes from the Fred D. Shepherd estate.

N. C. state board of agriculture opposes any horizontal universal reduction in cotton acreage.

A. W. McLean, of Lumberton, is appointed by Houston as assistant secretary of the U. S. treasury.

Harding is given a rousing welcome home at Hampton Roads Saturday, where he spent strenuous day.

Wake county farmer who bought \$120,000 of stock in divers stock selling companies is suing them.

Congress is expected soon to pass a resolution directing Houston to restore the war finance corporation.

In Mecklenburg court Mrs. Fred Pratt is awarded alimony of \$75 a month and custody of four-year-old child.

Baptist state convention hospital commission visits Charlotte, inspects sites and receives Charlotte's bid for the institution.

Governors' conference urges federal government to arrange or loans to foreign countries to permit export of farm products to aid farmers.

Twelve hospital sites which have been made available in Raleigh for the erection of a Baptist General hospital have been inspected by the commission appointed at the Baptist state convention.

Official reports from 45 states, representing 95 per cent of the nation's population, reveal a widespread industrial depression, in spite of which no serious or general unemployment has as yet developed.

Nine moonshiners were captured and a number of others are believed to have been killed or wounded Saturday in a battle between 30 moonshiners and 14 United States revenue officers in the southern part of Bell county, near the Tennessee border.

Judge Henry G. Connor gave L. D. Tucker a federal prohibition agent a severe reprimand for arresting Benjie Carpenter, a young white man of Warren county and taking him to Richmond and placing him in jail without an opportunity to give bond.

Judge Connor expressed himself as being highly indignant.

NO LENIENCY GIVEN FOR INCOME TAXES

Collector Bailey Says He Cannot Permit Delays After Dec. 15.

Announcement is made by Collector J. W. Bailey, in a letter to the Public Ledger that there will be no leniency shown to those who fail to pay the fourth installment of their income taxes, which will be due next Wednesday week. His notice follows:

"December 15th is the last day for the payment of the fourth installment of the income and excess profits taxes due this year. To avoid penalty, the tax must be in the offices of Collectors of Internal Revenue or branch offices by midnight of that date.

"Payment of the fourth installment may be made in cash or by money order or check. The Bureau of Internal Revenue urges that whenever possible payment be made by check or money order.

"Bills will be sent to taxpayers, but failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his obligation to pay on time."

A GENTLE REMINDER

Shop Early and Get the Pick of the Best.

Do you realize that Christmas is drawing near? Only 17 more shopping days until the annual festival will be around again.

Times may be hard, but folks are going to do some shopping for Christmas.

The merchants are displaying the goods now, and it would be a good idea to make the Christmas purchases early. Not that the storekeepers will mind being in a rush as the day draws near, but in justice to the customer, early shopping is an advantage. He has time to select what he wants and a bigger stock to select from. After things have been picked over, one must take what is left. Shop early, avoid the rush, make the best bargains, and make them in Oxford.

THE PLEASANT FAMILY IS GROWING IN NUMBERS

On Thanksgiving Day a fine boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Pleasant on Route 5. This boy brings great joy to the Pleasant family in Granville county as it was feared the name would become extinct, this child being the first birth to the family in 24 years. He weighed 13 pounds at birth, which makes up for lost time.

Your battery should have water about every two weeks. Stop at Willard Service Station.

GROCERIES HAVE NOT COME

DOWN HERE AS THEY WERE IN LARGER CITIES

Consideration of All Sellers of Goods in the County.

The New York papers tell us that sugar has been selling in that town for ten cents a pound at retail. In Cleveland bacon is selling at 35 cents. In Asheville all meats have been reduced 25 to 35 per cent. Hoes recently sold in Chicago at \$9.90 the lowest price since before the war.

And that's not all, tobacco is now selling on this market lower than ever before since the first election of Woodrow Wilson. Our whole economic system in this county hinges on the tobacco market. The payment of debts depends on the price of tobacco. The purchase of necessary supplies for living depends upon it. The consumer here, whether in country or town, cannot pay war time prices for what he has to buy while getting present prices for his products and his labor.

We are sorry to say that there has not been a reduction in prices to the consumer here which is at all commensurate with the fall in prices elsewhere. We are told that steaks now sell for practically the same prices at which they were sold at the highest peak in war times. Everybody knows that groceries have not come down here as they have in the larger cities.

The time has come for a change. The farmer is taking his losses. All producers are doing it. If a change means that others must do likewise, that will be no more than what the consumer is standing for.

The Public Ledger submits those observations for the consideration of all the sellers of goods in the county. It hopes that a change will take place at once. Profits should be cut and that without delay. We all must suffer, and let's suffer together.

QUICK LUNCH FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Miss Robertson May Be Offered Charge Of House Restaurant.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Miss Alice Robertson, newly elected congresswoman from Oklahoma probably will be given a chance to become the most popular member of congress.

For several years the "men members" have been growling about the food served in the house restaurant in the capitol. The restaurant has been under the supervision of the speaker and Speaker Gillett frankly admitted that he was unable to please the members. The growling men have been suggesting to the speaker that he hand over the direction of the restaurant to the "lady from Oklahoma," who is leaving the management of a cafeteria to come to congress.

"I believe I will ask Miss Robertson to be the house 'committee' in charge of the restaurant," said the speaker. She can turn it into a cafeteria if she wants to. But I am sure she will have more success in eliminating complaints about the food than I have had."

CREEDMOOR'S NEW METHODIST PREACHER

Rev. V. A. Royal, the new pastor of the Creedmoor Circuit, spent last Saturday and Sunday in Creedmoor, preaching in the Methodist church Sunday morning. Those who heard him were highly pleased with him.

While he is the pastor of Creedmoor, there are three other churches on the circuit, which was formed by the recent conference. The churches embraced in the circuit are: Creedmoor, Bullocks, Banks and Grove Hill. Mr. Royal will make his home in Creedmoor.—Creedmoor Times.

IKE THORPE CONVICTED OF STEALING TOBACCO

A few days ago Ike Thorpe, colored, was charged with stealing 60 pounds of good tobacco from the Banner Warehouse and selling it at the Mangum Warehouse in the name of his mother.

By a perfect checking system the little pile of tobacco was traced through all of its ramifications and exposed the scheme of one like Thorpe.

Ike came into Justice Medford's court Saturday with head erect, but when he was confronted with the tell-tale checking system his chin fell. Not being able to furnish the required bond of \$250 imposed by Justice Medford, Ike was locked up in the county jail.

PROMINENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SPEND PLEASANT NIGHT IN OXFORD

Will Put On Social Hygiene Exhibition Here Soon.

Dr. C. V. Herdlika, United States Public Health Service, and Mrs. Herdlika, on their return from the South to Washington, spent last Friday night in Oxford, and according to the statement of the doctor and Mrs. Herdlika they never fared better anywhere than they did at the Exchange hotel.

Dr. Herdlika is in charge of social hygiene exhibitions, and he stated that he would return to Oxford in a couple of weeks and put on an exhibition.

—Your battery should have water about every two weeks. Stop at Willard Service Station.

CONGRESS TO REVIVE WAR

FINANCE CORPORATION TO AID FARMERS

Resolution To That Effect Offered In Both Houses Of Congress—Senate Will Probably Act Quickly—Nebraska Governor Tells Joint Committee That Unless Farmers Are Helped Over Present Crisis They Will Leave The Farm and Go To The Cities.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Resolutions proposing the immediate re-establishment of the War Finance Corporation will be introduced in the Senate and House upon the convening of Congress Monday. Representative Byrnes, of South Carolina, will offer the measure in the House, and Senator Calder, of New York, will present it in the Senate.

Popular Measure.

Representative Byrnes, who has been attending the hearings before the Senate and House Agricultural Committees, said he was convinced that the re-establishment of the corporation was the most feasible plan of aiding the farmers in the present period of depressed prices for their products.

Proponents of the resolution in the Senate said they believed they had enough votes to insure passage of the resolution.

Tenants May Leave Farms.

Unless they are aided over the present period of price depression, thousands of tenant farmers in Nebraska will be driven from the land, Governor McKelvie, of Nebraska, declared Saturday before the joint Senate and House agricultural committee.

Farmers Should Get The Profits.

Edward D. Chassell, of Chicago, secretary of the farm mortgage bankers association of America, asserted that the crops ought to be financed now in the hands of the farmers, so the farmers instead of the speculators would get the profits. In reply to a question from Senator Norris, of Nebraska, Mr. Chassell said he believed prices would go up in next few months and that the foreign demand would increase.

Other Officials Heard.

In discussing the question before the committee, neither Secretary Houston of the Federal Reserve Board were optimistic of any specific solution of the problem of falling markets as it affects the farmer might be found. Secretary Houston expressed opinion that the establishment alone would not insure increased exports of surplus farm products to Europe unless there was an increase in the purchasing power of European countries.

OXFORD TOBACCO MARKET

The Largest Breaks In The History Of The Old Town.

There was more tobacco on the Oxford market yesterday than on any previous day in many years, and it is rolling in this morning in enormous quantities. Between 600,000 and 700,000 pounds was on the floors of the five warehouses yesterday morning when sales began at the Banner Warehouse. It was nearly dark when they reached the third warehouse and called it a good day's work.

The tone of the market was considerably better than it was at any time during the past week.

The Tobacco Board of Trade will hold a meeting some time this week and decide what date the market will close for the holidays and open in January.

FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS BET ON HORSE RACING

The Baltimore Sun says: "The stupendous sum of \$50,000,000 or more passed through the betting machines of the four Maryland race tracks during the season of 110 days just ended, according to figures obtained.

"The new state racing commission has not yet made its report to the governor on the first six months of its operation, covering only the autumn meetings, but the figures given are regarded by persons in close touch with racing affairs as being, if anything, under the real amount."

ELEVEN CHILDREN BORN IN OXFORD LAST SUNDAY

If the birth rate in Oxford every day in the year was equal to that of last Sunday we would double our population in the next twelve months. Six white and five colored children were born here last Sunday, making a total of 11 births. At that rate the total births for the year would be 4015.

STEAM HEATING PLANT INSTALLED AT THE ORPHEUM

Harris & Crews have installed a modern steam heating plant at the Orpheum theatre. The heat is now sufficient strong to permit of perfect ventilation in the coldest of weather and at the same time be comfortably warm.

Woman's Club To Meet.

The Oxford Woman's Club will meet tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 in the library. A large attendance is earnestly requested.

—Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Clark Sunday night a fine baby boy. Mrs. Clark and baby are at Brantwood Hospital.

NEW COUNTY OFFICERS

TAKE UP THEIR DUTIES

J. Ennis Davis Elected Chairman Of The New Board.

All County officers who were elected on November 2, entered upon their duties Monday, the law requiring that they be sworn in on the first Monday in December. Judge D. C. Hunt, clerk of the court administered the oath of office to the commissioners, as follows:

J. ENNIS DAVIS
THOMAS G. TAYLOR
B. F. CURRIN
C. G. DANIEL
W. L. CLARK

In addition to the above, E. D. Hunt again took the oath as sheriff, and Charles G. Powell was given the title of register of deeds, and Dr. Jack Bullock became coroner.

The New Chairman.

Mr. J. Ennis Davis was the only member of the old board elected on the new board. He was chairman of the retiring board, and he gave such universal satisfaction the new board elected him to serve in the same capacity two years longer.

County Attorneys.

Mr. A. A. Hicks, who was the very able and obliging attorney for the county in past years, was again elected, but this time it happened to be Hicks & Stem, which makes it all the better, and it costs no more.

The Public Roads.

As soon as the board was formally organized and ready for business, it devoted the balance of the day to road matters. They met again this morning and will probably be in session all day.

A CITIZENS CHANCE TO HELP IN RECONSTRUCTION

Every worth-while citizen has felt a desire to help in the readjustment process thru which our country has been passing since the close of the War. For most of us there has seemed nothing to be done. But there is a practical part, especially during this time of tight money in which everyone can take a part which will really help to adjust a difficult situation.

For some time probably you have had small unpaid accounts with different merchants of the town, which you know you can pay if you just get busy and do it. If you pay ever debt that you owe, you will feel so good about it that the next day when you get with a crowd of men, you'll naturally remark that you've paid all accounts on the first of every month. This will start other men thinking and the first thing you know they will decide to do the same thing you did. More money will be in circulation. Prices will not be so high and affairs will be more settled.

THE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION.

CHEERING NEWS FOR OWNERS OF AUTOMOBILES

Normal Conditions Seem To Be On The Way.

Crude rubber was sold in New York the other day for twenty cents a pound. The price before the war was fifty-five cents. The present low price is said to be due to lack of demand.

Normal conditions seem to be on the way, if they have not arrived. A set of new tires can be bought for a car for prices like those that prevailed in 1914. If the price of gasoline drops also, as it seems inclined to do, then the motorist can use his car again without that guilty feeling. It is cheering news for the whole industry as well.

CRACKSMEN HIDE SECURITIES IN A CORN FIELD

Was Taken From The Bank At Houston, Va., Recently.

Guy Lumpkin, a tenant on a farm in Pittsylvania county, Va., near Gretna, last week found \$300,000 while lifting cornshucks in a wagon in a field bordering the public highway. The corn standing in the field had been there nearly three months and Lumpkins had decided to garner the shucks. When he lifted one of the shocks a box fell out showing that it must have been stuffed into the corn stalks. Upon opening the box life insurance policies to the tune of \$300,000 was discovered. It was found that some of the bonds etc., had been stolen from the bank at Houston, Va., which was robbed by professional cracksmen about eight weeks ago.

It is assumed that the robbers after separating the cash from the negotiable instruments of which they probably were afraid, hid them and found the corn shock as an excellent hiding place. It is assumed that the bank robbers, after leaving Houston, took the road leading through Republican Grove and Straightstone, which carried them along the road mentioned.

NEW YORK STARTS WINTER FLY SWATTING CAMPAIGN

New York, Dec. 6.—One pair of flies effectively swatted now will avert the possible plague of 324,000,000 potential descendants next autumn, it is asserted on posters circulated today by the Merchants Association of New York City, which launched a winter fly swatting campaign. Placards were distributed throughout the city urging a concerted drive on the pests between now and Christmas.

FIRST DEGREE VERDICT IN

TWO OF WAYNE CASES

Harry Caswell and Jesse Foster Sentenced To Electric Chair.

The newspapers of the State commend in unmistakable terms the quick and positive action of Judge W. A. Devin in restoring order at Goldsboro last week. There was sufficient momentum behind the mob spirit when he called for the machine gun company to have caused the loss of many lives and limbs and much property.

The people here, there and all over the State are smarting under the too liberal use of the pardoning power exercised by the governor. The impatient mob demanded a speedy trial, and when they saw that Judge Devin was determined to uphold the law, cost what it may, sanity and order was restored in the beleaguered city.

Result Of The Trial.

The two convicted of the major offense are Harry Caswell and Jesse Foster and the other three are Frank Williams, George Pearsall and Jim Hill, all colored. Caswell and Foster were sentenced to electrocution January 7, and the others to 20 years in the penitentiary.

As soon as the trial was over all five negroes were taken to Raleigh on a special train, under guard of the Durham machine gun company. A crowd of several hundred followed the prisoners to the train, but there was no indication of any desire for summary vengeance. Nor was there at any time during the day any suggestion of the revival of the disorderly scenes of the previous night, when one man was wounded, supposedly by a member of the mob, during an attack on the courthouse.

History Of The Case.

Jones, a merchant, was called to his door and killed several weeks ago, according to the evidence, by one of the negroes, said to have been Harry Caswell, all five being present. Preceding the shooting, they had been at Jones' store and bought some things and it is said that in making change at that time the merchant displayed a large roll of money. When they came back after dark one of them called on Jones to throw up his hands. This he refused to do and Caswell shot him. They were soon captured and taken to the penitentiary at Raleigh for safe-keeping until the trial.

MR. WOLFE GOES TO RALEIGH FOR HANDSOME BRIDE

(Raleigh Times)

A simple but pretty home wedding was celebrated yesterday at noon at the home of Mrs. Irene Whitley Bagwell, 400 Polk street, when her daughter, Miss Ethel Elva Bagwell, became the bride of Mr. William Lee Wolfe of Oxford, the bride's pastor, Rev. Dr. O. W. O'Kelley, pastor of the First Baptist church, officiating.

The home was tastefully decorated for the occasion with palms and cut flowers, while a soft light from many candles was shed over the scene.

Mrs. Walter Kruse, at the piano played the "Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin as the processional, McDowell's "To a Wild Rose," while the ceremony was in progress and as the recessional, Mendelssohn's "Wedding March."

The bride was attired in a suit of tricotone with hat and gloves to match, and carried a bouquet of Bride roses, swansons and fern. Her sister, Miss Pauline Bagwell, was maid of honor and wore brown taffeta and a black picture hat with bouquet of pink Killarney roses. The groom was attended by Mr. R. M. Chamblee of Raleigh as best man. The ring ceremony was used.

After the vows had been taken the couple left for a wedding tour to Washington, Baltimore and other Northern cities after which they will be at home at 35 West Front street, Oxford.

The bride is a most attractive young woman, widely known in Raleigh and elsewhere. The groom was in military service in France for two years, and is now interested in the Crown Cafe in Oxford.

MR. J. T. SIZEMORE HAD A VERY CLOSE CALL

While returning from the Southern station last Sunday night, Mr. J. T. Sizemore, the grocery merchant on College street, was knocked down by an automobile on Penn street and sustained injuries on the hip and arms. He is resting well.

Crocker-Jones Engagement.

Mr. Nathaniel J. Jones announces the engagement of his daughter, Margaret, to Mr. Samuel Bratton Crocker, of Grover, N. C. The marriage will take place early in January.

Special Announcement.

A wave of reduction has struck Oxford unequalled in this section of the state. See the special announcements of The Long Co., Landis & Easton, Cohn & Son, Perkinson-Greene Company, Harris Mitchell Company for bargains.

—Lewis Crews of Route 6, and Mr. and Mrs. Graham Bradford of Route 2, Mrs. Sam Hicks of Route 2, Miss Maud Hobgood, Messrs. O. C. Curran, O. L. Curran and J. E. Curran of Henderson Route 5, were in Oxford Saturday.

—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ogburn, Sunday at Brantwood Hospital, a fine baby boy. Mrs. Ogburn was Miss Beatrice Parham before her marriage.