

# THE COMMONWEALTH.

VOLUME XXXIV.

TWICE-A-WEEK

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., FRIDAY, DEC. 22, 1916.

NUMBER 11.

## The Santa Claus Prizes Awarded

Marshall Cowan Selected For The Boys Prize  
Julia Boyd Smith Gets The Doll

### NAMES WERE ELIMINATED FOR JUDGING

The judges selected to decide the best Santa Claus letters displaying the real Christmas spirit had in their possession throughout yesterday the original letters of all contestants, but in order that no influence should manifest the names were eliminated from the letters, and each was numbered.

No. 13 was the number given to the letter sent in by Master Marshall Cowan, and this number was the one announced by the judges.

Number 23 was the number given to the letter sent in by little Miss Julia Boyd Smith, and it was this number that the judges handed in as the one entitled to the doll.

The letters of these winners are here given, also some others that have not been previously published.

#### Wants Rocking Chair For Sister

deare santi Clau  
I will rite you a litter pleas Bring little sistie a rocking chair and a doll little Games a Rock'g Horse I try to Be as good as I can and Pleas Bring me a tricycle seven years old I like to go to secal good By deare Santie  
MARSHALL COWAN.

#### Wants the Poor Children Remembered

Scotland Neck, N. C.  
Dec., 9th, 1916.

Dear Santa Clause:  
I am a little girl six years old. I hope you will come to see me Christmas and bring me a doll machine but if it costs too much to buy it, and it is not in your shop, don't bring it.

I would like to have the books of Peter Rabbit and Diddy Dumps and Tot and I would like a doll baby.

Please bring something to the poor little children.

I try to be good. I will go to sleep and will not peep.

Your little Girl,  
JULIA BOYD SMITH.

Scotland Neck, N. C.  
Dec. 13, 1916.

Dear Santa Clause:  
I am a little girl five years old. I want a doll baby that will open and shut her eyes, and a little trunk to put her clothes in, and lots of good things to eat, and don't forget little sister, Lucie, bring her a little doll to so she won't want mine.

But Santa my stocking is to small, I thought I would hang a bag.  
Bigsis said hang up hers But they are only rags.

URTIE BELL PARTIN.

#### A Little Dog For Brother

Scotland Neck, N. C.  
Dec. 13, 1916.

Dear Santa Clause:  
I don't want to be greedy but I will ask you for a few things. I want a cap qistol, caps to shoot about seven boxes, train and a trunk to put my new suit of clothes in, and some good things to eat don't forget me and my little baby brother because he is so sweet he wants a little dog that will bark a great big apple so big that he can hardly hold it and that will be funny. I am eight years old. I live at papa house beside Dawson Cross Roads Church.  
Good bye Santa. Your little friend  
TOMMIE PARTIN.

#### Rifle and Goat Wagon

Dear Santa Clause:  
I want you to bring me a rifle and a goat wagon. I don't want a goat yet, I'm afraid he will run away with me. I want a "scare face" so I can scare everybody that comes along. I want a little lantern so I can go outdoors in the dark, bring me some ice cream, and a svedunk, and a whistle. I want everything good to eat, and some chewing gum if you make none.

I am a little boy nearly five years old I was a good nice little boy at the hospital, and am a good boy since I got back home. I don't even cry a "spee" when mama goes off. I've wore out my shoes. I want a pair of new ones. When you come down the chimney look hanging at the end of the mantle where there is a little flag and you'll find my stocking.

Good bye, be sure to come.  
JOE RUFUS CHERRY.

#### A Bicycle and Fireworks

Scotland Neck, N. C.  
Dec. 15, 1916.

Dear Santa Clause:  
Please bring me a bicycle and some fireworks, and some old maid cards.

Yr little friend  
HA. ALLSBROOK.

State Library  
Santa Claus  
Scotland Neck,  
Dec. 15 1916.

Dear Santa Clause:  
Please bring me a pistol and some caps, and some popcrackers, some apples, oranges, candy, nigertoes, and some chewing gum, if you make any, and I want a pair of new shoes.

I am a little boy six years old, am going to school, and am trying to be a good little boy and do everything Mama tells me to do. I live on this side of Grandpa's, be sure to stop when you come along. You'll find my stocking hanging by the closet at the end of the mantle.

Good bye,  
ALBERT CHERRY.

#### Wants a Lot of Pretty Things

Scotland Neck, N. C.  
Dec. 15 1916.

Dear Santa Clause:  
I am a little girl seven years old and want you to bring me a lot of pretty things. I want you to bring me a little sewing machine, a doll cradle, a dining table for my dolls. I have some chairs. Bring me a pretty story book, and a nice box of blocks, and some confectionary's.

MARGARET E. STATON.

#### Wants Doll Crib

Scotland Neck, N. C.  
Dec. 13, 1916.

Dear Santa Clause:  
I am just six years old please bring me a doll crib sides, also a doll thats a nough for me, but please bring Lassie whats she wants for I have just rec'd her letter and I wish she could get it.

Your little frd  
FLORENCE BOWERS.

#### Silk Dress and Confectionaries

Oak City, N. C., R 1, Box 28.

Dear Santa Clause:  
As Xmas is so near hear I will write and tell you what I want you to bring me. I want you to please bring me a silk dress and lots of confectionaries. I shall hang my stocking up on the right side of the fireplace so now please fill it up as I have been smart. I am only ten years old

Well good night, Dear Old Santa Claus  
From your little girl  
FLORENCE JOHNSON.

#### Will Leave Gate Open and Tie the Dog

Scotland Neck, N. C.

Dear Santa Clause:  
I want you to bring me a air rifle, some oranges, apples, nuts and confectionaries. I also want you to bring me a pistol and plenty of caps, and automobile with lights on it. I like to forget about the fireworks, be sure to bring some of them I live where I did last year, You know, on this side of the road. I am going to leave the front gate open, and tie the dog, so there will be nothing to hurt you. I am going to be good and smart from the time I mail this letter untill you come. I am a little boy seven years old and my name is

ROBERT WILSON POPE.

#### Wants Doll With Black Hair

Palmyra, N. C., Dec., 1916.

Dear Old Santa:  
As it is almost Christmas I will write and tell you what to bring me. Will you please bring me a doll with black hair, that can open and shut her eyes. Now Santa Claus I have been a smart little girl. Please bring me a carriage to ride her in. Bring me some confectionaries. Bring little sister a cook stove, and bittlnireghtharodilnu etaoinhrduls and bring little Budy a rattle. He is one month old. Now dear old Santa Claus please don't forget me. I am nine years. Remember your little friend

RUTH NEWSOM.

### MERCHANTS WILL CLOSE TUESDAY

Agree to Give An Extra Holiday by Recommendation of Merchants Association

### ALL SIGN PETITION CHEERFULLY

The merchants are alive to the fact that their clerks have worked faithfully and well during the holiday rush, so that when the matter of closing all day Tuesday was mooted by the Retail Merchants Association they all came forward, and as one man, signed the agreement to extend the holiday another day. Following is the petition and the signatures:

We the undersigned merchants of Scotland Neck agree to close our places of business from December 24, to Wednesday December 27, 1916.

Dixie Furniture Co.  
Ray Boyette.  
Clee Vaughan.  
B. T. Whitehead Co.  
R. C. Josey and Co.  
J. W. Allsbrook.  
Edwards and Company.  
W. B. Strickland, Jr.  
W. T. Hancock Co.  
Pittman and Bishop.  
Bee Hive Department Store.  
Hardy Hardware Co.  
Scotland Neck Furniture Co.  
Burroughs-Pittman-Wheeler Co.  
N. Herring.  
M. Hoffman and Brother.  
James L. Josey.  
L. Waxman.  
M. Maggid.  
Cash Grocery Co.  
North End Drug Store.

### U. S. NOTE STIRS THE WORLD

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—The misconstruction that was placed upon the few words yesterday by Secretary Lansing, and which caused general consternation, not only in this country but also throughout Europe, was today reconstructed after an additional statement by Secretary Lansing, that the president's message urged a discussion of peace and not a threat that the United States might enter the war. The most disastrous effect of the misconstructed words of the secretary of state was the deluge on the New York Stock Exchange wherein a record sale of stocks, at broken prices, was announced for the day, and the severe drop in the cotton market, which closed 102 points under the previous days closing.

### DR. FLEXNER HONORED

Paris, Dec. 22.—Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, of New York, has been elected foreign associate member of the Academie des Sciences. The wa. It must be our single duty his wards to the allies' stern re-

### MR. McCLUER COMING

Directly after the first of the year Halifax county will have a new agricultural agent in the person of Mr. McCluer, of Lansing Michigan, who comes here very highly recommended, and promises much benefit to the farmers in view of his experience and training. For two years Mr. McCluer has been studying animal husbandry at the University of Michigan, and together with his other studies, and with considerable commonsense combined he will be a great acquisition to this section.

### Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl of seven years, I want to have a little talk with you and tell you what my Mama says. Before Thanksgiving she told me about Mr. Turkey. So I went out to give him a sociable chat, and he gobbled at me and ran away and I hope dear Santa you will not treat me in such away as this is my first I have written to you. Mama says you generally come with reindeers hooked to a sleigh with bells in a big snow. So we have had the snow and I'm sure you are not very far behind. So I want you to bring me a nice pig doll, as that is the only I care for. Now Santa do please stop at my Grandpa's house on Route No. 2 and leave this doll and not trot away from me like Mr. Turkey did on Thanksgiving day I will close now as this is all I care for and I don't wish to be greedy. Wishing you dear Santa and everybody else a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am,  
Your anxious little girl,  
JENNIE E. McNAUGHTON.

### KING GEORGE REJECTS PEACE OFFER

(By United Press)

London, Eng., Dec. 22.—In dismissing the English Parliament today until Friday, January 7th, King George added his words to the allies' stern rejection of German made peace offer. "Vigorously must we prosecute the war. It must be our single endeavor to push forward until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies, and until we are sure we have established the security of Europe on a firm foundation."

### BRITISH TAKE EL ARISH

(By United Press)

London, Eng. Dec. 22.—After two years occupation by the enemy the British forces retake El Arish reports the war office today.

### RICHMOND FIRE CAPTAIN KILLED

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Richmond, Va., Dec. 22.—Fire Captain William C. Matt lost his life today through falling from a ladder in a hundred thousand dollar fire, and Fireman Abram Odell, J. L. Buck and Z. Roseley were injured in the same catastrophe.

### BLUE RIDGE TRAIN WRECKED

(By United Press)

Pendleton, S. C., Dec. 22.—Sixteen were injured today some perhaps fatally, when the Blue Ridge train was wrecked near here. One car turned completely over, and there may be some dead under the wreckage. The first estimate is that there were thirty seven passengers aboard the train.

### BETHELEHEM PLANT GREATER THAN KRUPPS

(By United Press)

New York, Dec. 22.—Mr. Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Iron and Steel Works, of Bethlehem, Pa., stated today that in the event of the United States being involved in war the Bethlehem Steel Works was greater than the noted Krupp Works, of Germany, and he stated that he would turn over to the government this plant with a capacity of fifty million rounds of ammunition per month, and with the plant but fifty per cent efficient it would equal the Krupps plant.

### FOOLISH QUESTIONS ADOPTABLE

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 22.—During the session of the school for officers in the Thirty-second Michigan regiment the officer in charge asked for suggestions for the improvement of the Intelligence department.

"Why couldn't we cross-breed carrier pigeons with parrots and tell them the message instead of tying it to them," asked one of the pupils.

Another suggested the government might train sword fishes to torpedo enemy submarines and woodpeckers to puncture enemy aeroplanes.

### FAMOUS GERMAN INDUSTRIAL LEADER DEAD

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 22.—Advices received here from Berlin say that Prince Henckel on Donnersmark, one of the German industrial and financial leaders, and reputed one of the richest land owners in Germany, is dead. He was 87 years old. The Prince was successful in many branches of trade, including the armament, paper making, coal and iron industries, and also in colonial enterprises.

### MARION HARLAND IS 85 YEARS OLD TODAY—"DON'T STOP WORK" SHE SAYS

New York, Dec. 22.—Marion Harland, (Mrs. Edward Payson Terhune), celebrated her 85th, birthday at her home here today by working. She is the author of more than 40 books. "A sense of humor and plenty of work keep you young," said she today. "I would go to the graveyard or the insane asylum in three months if I quit working. Also learn your gastronomic limitations and stay with them; that's my advice."

## Waterworks Bonds Bring \$82,632.00

Five Per Cent Town Securities Net Over 3 Per Cent Premium

### TOLEDO BANK THE PURCHASERS

#### CONGRESS QUITS WORK FOR THE HOLIDAYS

(By United Press)

Washington, Dec. 22.—Congress will quit work for today and go home for Christmas.

In anticipation of the adjournment many of the solons departed several days ago. But the big crowd leaves today.

The President was not much in favor of the idea, nor was Speaker Clark, because there is much legislation for the thoroughly Democratic present congress to finish before it dies March 4 and is replaced by one not quite so democratic.

However, President Wilson did not "disapprove" of this adjournment according to Democratic leader Kitchin. To make up the time thus lost both Houses will convene between ten and eleven o'clock for the remainder of the session. Kitchin said all appropriation bills would be passed and there will be special sessions.

#### DEATH OF GERMAN GENERAL IS ANNOUNCED

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 22.—The Berlin Lokal Anzeiger announces the death of Major General Ernest Von Zieten, commander of the seventeenth reserve division. General Zieten died at Dantzig as the result of an operation.

#### APPOINTED STATE JUDGE

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 22.—Governor Craig has issued a communication to Captain Albert L. Cox, now doing Mexican border service with the North preme Carolina National Guard, to be the Superior Court judge for this the Seventh, Judicial District. He succeeds Judge Charles M. Cooke, of Louisburg, who resigned a few weeks ago on account of an advanced age and failing health. Captain Cox accepted the judgeship and will resign from the National Guard. He is now in Raleigh on a thirty days furlough.

#### NORTH CAROLINA DAY PROGRAM GIVEN BY 5th, GRADE

Last Friday morning the fifth grade offered the following entertainment to the school.

It was opened with the singing of "Ho: For Carolina" in which the entire school took part. The 23 psalm and the Lords Prayer was repeated aloud. The origin and purpose of North Carolina day was told by Elizabeth Edwards. There was a song following this entitled, "I love thee Carolina." Next on the program was the imitation of some of North Carolina's greatest men: Sir Walter Raleigh, Bate Kitchin Wm. R. Davie, Carl Fitzpatrick Wm. Alexander Graham, Dennis Madry Zebulon B. Vance, Walter O'Neal C. Duncan McIver, Landon Whitehead.

The biographical sketch of Archibald D. Murphy was told by Roberta Temple. Next was the reading by Gesta Kitchin on Educational conditions when Murphy was a boy. Then there was given a few extracts of Murphy's.

A song was then given by Charles Herring entitled, "The Postillion" which was received with enthusiasm.

Next a few of the boys and girls of this class offering small speeches and representing some of the most important men of today.

Joseph Daniels, Thurston Madry Claude Kitchin, Charles Malone F. M. Simmons, Henry Purvis.

The next number on the program was the reading of, "What Great Men Are doing," by Charles Herring.

The last number on the program was a song by the school "I'm A Tar Heel Born." The program was carried out splendidly and it was a surprise to the other grades for so fine a program to be gotten out by the fifth grade.

The more we read of the war the less we believe of what we read. It has produced some stubborn fighters and some ungodly liars.

The Scotland Neck Waterworks and Sewerage Bonds, of the authorized issue of \$80,000, were purchased today by Mr. F. C. Hechler, manager of the Security Savings and Trust Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for a premium of \$2,632.00, which shows the standing of this town.

These bonds carry interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, and are payable in three periodical payments, the last being thirty years after date. Immediately after receiving the bid the commissioners held a meeting this morning and voted to accept the bid and issue the bonds as soon as same could be prepared.

#### TO LOCATE FARM LOAN BANKS SHORTLY

Washington, Dec. 22.—The Federal farm loan board expects to announce within a few days the location of the twelve farm loan banks. It was said that some districts and locations were still undetermined.

#### THIS IS NEW YEAR'S DAY FOR THE TEWA INDIANS

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Santa Fe, N. M. Dec. 22.—This may be just December Twenty first to some folks, but it's New Year's day to the Tewa Indians.

There are only about 1200 of the Tewas in five villages: San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Nambe and Tesuque. They hold ancient beliefs deduced by themselves from things as they are.

The Tewas six cardinal directions are North, South, East, West, etc., and below. Each direction is colored and has an animal to signify it. North is green and personified by a lion.

The Tewas believe the Sky is the Husband of the Earth. They believe the Sun is a man who walks across the sky behind a yellow shield in summer, clad in white deerskins ornamented with beads. In the winter he is green. Their year begins today and their New Year's Day is founded upon the belief that the sun stands still in the sky to mark a new 12 month.

#### MR. W. P. DARDEN HURT

Meagre information from Spring Hill over the phone stated that Mr. W. P. Darden while holding a cow this morning got entangled in the chain, and got rather badly hurt.

Up to the time of going to press further information could not be obtained.

#### JEW TO RAISE TEN MILLION DOLLARS FOR RUSSIAN RELIEF

(BY UNITED PRESS)

New York, Dec. 22.—How to get Ten Million Dollars to save Five Million Jews from perishing in German occupied portions of Russia is the task of a conference of prominent Jews from all over the United States at Carnegie Hall here today.

The decision to raise this amount in addition to the \$6,000,000 already sent to relieve the suffering Jews in Russia was made following the report of Dr. Judah L. Magnes, who went there from New York to investigate.

Theodore Marburg, Louis Marshall, Nathan and Oscar S. Straus, Jacob H. Schiff, Henry Morgenthau, Dr. Cyrus Adler and others will be present today.

#### COLORADO TO HELP ITS LAWMAKERS DRAFT THEIR MEASURES

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Denver, Colo., Dec. 22.—Members of the legislature who convenes here in January will use the first state bill-drafting department in the United States. Attorney General-elect Leslie E. Hubbard has set aside part of his office staff for the use of legislators desiring to draft bills but unfamiliar with technical language. This service is free. Legislators today are taking advantage of the bureau.

When peace is declared those American "war brides" will resemble a bunch of old hens.