

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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Let Us Give To Those Who Need

"... And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh."

THUS was born the spirit of Christmas giving, when the Wise Men followed the star to Bethlehem and bowed to worship the new-born Savior.

The custom of Christmas giving has come down to us through the ages since that first Christmas, but today there are many who give only because they hope to receive in greater measure, and to those the sweeter joy of the giving is lost.

The real meaning of Christmas and the joy of the holy season comes only to those who give where gifts cannot come in return. The ill, the unfortunate, the mentally limited, and mayhap even those whose own shiftlessness has held them down—all should have reason to rejoice during the holiest and gladdest season of the year.

Let us remember our neighbors who are less fortunate, and give them reason to rejoice with us. A little gift and a Christmas greeting may light again before despairing eyes the gladdening gleam of Hope's celestial star and start them on the upward way.

And, above all else, let us remember the children, for Christmas is the children's happiest time, or saddest time, as the case may be, for Santa Claus sometime misses. That very real old gentleman who loves and laughs and gives, does not always find his way into every home, and grown-ups can never know the agony that comes to the little fellow whose faith is pinned to Santa, as the little fellow creeps across the floor on Christmas morning to find an empty stocking.

God forbid that there should be an empty stocking in Macon county at this Christmas time.

The Letter or the Spirit?

WHILE we have no doubt that the aim of the city fathers of Highlands in enforcing a rule of "pay by the 10th or else" is for the purpose of making collections and paying debts, there are several points made and questions asked in a letter printed in this issue from "A Citizen" that are deserving of comment.

Having no knowledge of our neighbors' troubles beyond the statements contained in the letter, and hoping that all may be adjusted and confidence restored, it is interesting to note how quickly this citizen—and other citizens, no doubt—react to the slightest autocratic act on the part of a monopoly, be it public or private. So ingrained in the mind of our people is the humanitarian objective that the letter of the law is discounted unless the spirit is preserved inviolate. That law exists to serve man, and not man to serve the law is an axiom of the democratic ideal; and there are still fair places in this troubled world where incipient dictatorship need beware.

At this time when our theme should be "Peace and Good Will"—and at any time when the kindly act of placing human values first should be forgotten—it is not only the right, but the duty of citizens to ask questions. We believe it is up to "the highest town east of the Rockies" to answer them.

A Splendid Platform

THE address of Mr. Lamont du Pont before the National Association of Manufacturers a few days ago showed a spirit of progressiveness that is most hopeful in this time of business recession.

Mr. du Pont is rated as one of the "economic royalists", but there never has been reason for accusing the du Ponts of being reactionary. They are

Orphan Is Lamb-Raising Champ



Boyd Maryhew, age fourteen, of Belleville, Ill., an orphan, was the first of 2,000 boys and girls to win a championship at the national 4-H club congress in connection with the International Livestock show in Chicago recently. Boyd is shown with his yearling Southdown-Shropshire lambs which were awarded the blue ribbon.

of ancient lineage and aristocrats to their fingertips, but they are sane, solid, progressive and constructive, and the people of the world are indebted to them for hundreds of the comforts and conveniences which are enjoyed today.

Mr. du Pont's address was followed by the adoption of an eight-point platform by the Association of Manufacturers for 1938 which should go a long way toward solving the problems which now face the business interests of the United States.

The platform adopted is as follows:

1. Encouragement of private initiative—the basis of competitive American industry.
2. Maintenance and extension of sound industrial practices by industry.
3. Equitable employment relations throughout industry.
4. Creation of new and broader markets.
5. Constructive efforts to alleviate depression effects.
6. Sound government policies.
7. Cooperation with agriculture.
8. Peace.

The Asheville Citizen of Tuesday contained the following editorial comment concerning the platform:

"Though some of these points may be familiar, they are not meaningless abstractions. 'Equitable employment relations,' for instance, embody in their amplification not only for the 'right to bargain individually,' but also as the second point in this credo: 'The right of employes to bargain collectively, either directly or through voluntarily chosen representatives, and to determine the form of their own organization for collective bargaining.'

"Broader markets, the manufacturers believe, may be attained by the formula: 'The key to improved American living standards is an increasing flow of products to consumers. More desires—more demand—more goods—more employment.' The awareness of future responsibility is contained in the far-sighted policy that 'American industry recognizes the obligation of all economic groups to study recurring booms and depressions in an effort to reduce their harmful effects. The National Association of Manufacturers is engaged in such a long-term study. It urges other groups to join in this constructive effort.'

"The dependency of industry and agriculture upon one another is recognized in the program for the farm, made all the more significant by the assertion that 'owner-operated farms' are essential to 'promote the national welfare.' The interrelation is stressed in the simple economic fact that 'pay rolls are approximately the same as gross farm income. They rise and fall together.' Therefore, 'prosperity for the farm and prosperity for the factory go hand in hand.'

"Industry intends to be a strong force working for peace. Frankly: 'It is opposed to war.' The impetus is not selfish. 'People sometimes say that industry prospers through wars. This is not true. In addition to the moral issues involved, American manufacturers realize that the losses in human lives and injuries are irreparable.'

"The manufacturers' platform for 1938 well deserves to be a public document, freely circulated. Its tone is frankly cooperative, its basis broad enough to win the support of groups suffering from misconceptions, for its statement of purpose creates a common ground of action for the public weal."

Letter-Press

HIGHLANDS CITIZEN STATES GRIEVANCES

(The following letter was not sent through the regular correspondent or with her knowledge. The columns of the Franklin Press and Highlands Maconian are always open to communications representing all sides of local or general interest.—The Editor.)

To the Editor of the Franklin Press and Highlands Maconian:

Sir: Since your paper is the only means we have of reaching the community as a whole, may your columns be used to state certain grievances which affect many in Highlands at this time?

Last Saturday, with a temperature of three degrees below zero, a number of homes—we understand about 18—had water and lights cut off because their occupants had not paid their bills on Friday the 10th. Many of us believe that there are times when human sympathy should overrule ordinances, and that a hard and fast rule should be suspended which deprives poor and helpless people of lights and water in sub-zero weather.

Would this have happened if the community did not hold the monopoly on these necessities? No merchant would serve a customer in such a way, if for no other reason but the selfish one of losing trade to a competitor. Is it not against the law of the land to rob a person of drinking water for any cause, and thereby endangering life and health?

Again, in the matter of electricity, we feel that the present board is not dealing fairly with us. It is the belief of many that the current we are now using is far beyond the voltage necessary, thus not only increasing bills but causing undue wear and tear on home electrical equipment. Surely these things should be looked into and a square deal given to residents. This is a time when money is scarce in Highlands, and many have heard a lot about being a good neighbor, and we think this action should begin right at home. A little charity on the part of those in authority would not be abused but would be good business.

A Citizen.

Highlands, N. C.
Dec. 14, 1937.

Muse's Corner

THE GREATEST GIFT

What will you give to Jesus
Upon this Christmas day?
He has given more to you
Than you ever can repay.

Oh, he left his home in glory
And to this earth he came,
That he might redeem poor fallen
men

From a life of sin and shame.
Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
With a manger for a bed,
His only pillow was the hay
On which to lay his head.

There were shepherds with their
flocks
Upon the lonely hill,
'Twas there they heard the angels
sing:
On earth peace, to men good
will.

There were wise men in the east
Who saw his star overhead,
And followed it until it stopped
Right over the Christ child's
bed.

The costliest gifts they gave to
Him,
For He deserves the best.
'Tis the manner in which we give
That love is put to test.

G. L. McIntyre,
Kannapolis, N. C.

Increased Use of Milk Means Better Health

A short time ago National Milk Week was observed throughout the country. The week involved two significant factors.

First, no food is more essential to the preservation of health than dairy products. Second, dairy products constitute our principal cultural crop, and the source of farm cash income.

Thus, an increase in consumption of milk, cheaper than any other means a higher living for all the people, a healthful race, and, at the same time, is of the utmost importance to agriculture.