

LET US GIVE THANKS

With the close of a year's harvest, and as we start upon the winter months, when that which we have garnered must stand us in good stead, it is but fitting that we pause for a few moments on the day set aside for that purpose and give thanks to the One who has made our harvest abundant.

Vass people will not lose sight of the fact that while our country has passed through a year more or less distressing insofar as labor is concerned, we have yet been smiled upon beneficently, and sunshine and rain have been afforded us in sufficient quantities and in proper proportions to make successful the efforts of those whose duties keeps them close to the soil. For those who have been idle through no choice of their own, those who have labored are sharing their harvest. And as the clouds roll away and the workers are once again on a normal basis, it will be returned in kind. We should be thankful that drought and tempest has not destroyed, and that we live in a land big enough, and broad enough and brainy enough to keep going even when a part of its people are forced into unemployment.

All over the land there is something to be thankful for, and here at home we have much. From across the seas come the same sad stories of suffering which were being wafted to us one year ago. True, conditions show an improvement since arms were laid aside, since swords were beaten back into plowshares. And for this we are thankful. But even when we compare conditions there with our harvest at home, we still have cause for thankfulness. Living always in the hope of a brighter tomorrow, America has gone forward through the year and today finds herself not only at peace with every other nation, but the center of a great conference out of which may come some suggestion which will do away with wars for all time. Let us be thankful that whatever good may come from such a gathering America is to have the fullest measure of credit, since it was suggested by an American and is being staged on American shores.

So, all in all, one thing measured against another, we have much to be thankful for. Let us, therefore, give those thanks in an appropriate way—and let us not forget to continue strong in our hope that the year to come will bring to our sister nations across the sea even more cause for thankfulness than they, too, have ever had.

Passing Comment

HOG-KILLING TIME

Now that Jack Frost has given the air a snappy tang, that the leaves have fallen and overcoats have been hauled down from their place in the attic, merchants are having calls for salt, pepper, sage and lard cans, at special prices and in large quantities.

To the man or woman reared in our large cities and who seldom if ever leave there, this means little or nothing. But to residents of towns like Vass it means one of the most interesting seasons of the year—"hog-killing time." Almost any day now the kettles are being brought out, fires built, knives sharpened and all the men and women folk turn out for the slaughter. It is an event, a sort of institution, in most of our rural sections, and while there is much work connected with it, there is also considerable sport, since it serves to bring together the men and women of the neighborhood, and they lighten the work by their laughter, their joking and good-natured fun.

There are a good many things city-born and city-bred people never have an opportunity to enjoy—and hog-killing time is to be numbered among them. They do not appreciate, either, the other side of the occasion. They do not realize that hog-killing time means a time of stocking up the lard-

er for the cold winter months, and a certain protection against hunger and worry over a sudden jump in the price of pork or lard.

IN THE NAME OF CHARITY

Some pretty mean things are done in this country in the name of charity. We heard of an instance the other day. It occurred in a city not very many miles from here, and developments show that the party at the head of a "drive" to raise funds for a worthy cause was receiving a per centage of all money subscribed. Every one who gave a dollar did so believing that every cent of it would go to the cause for which it was solicited. None of them realized at the time they were giving that they were being imposed upon.

Thus it is in many of the so-called charity solicitations—someone is mean enough and mercenary enough to turn the affair to their own account. We have had no such instances right here in Vass but that does not mean that we should take it for granted that every movement which comes up wearing the garb of charity is as honest as the ones that have gone before. We do not believe any one here has ever solicited a dollar for charity and then kept any part of it. But there is never any harm, especially in view of incidents in other sections, in asking exactly how the money solicited is going to be spent, and who is going to spend it. The party who solicits for charity should be in position to

show a clean bill, for in the past few years many new and clever fakes have been sprung, and no one can afford to ask for donations for something they are not thoroughly familiar with. The present-day sharper doesn't draw the line when it comes to picking people to solicit funds, and he isn't the kind to feel badly if he sends out some perfectly honest person to solicit for a fund or scheme that is not honest.

REFLECT ON THIS

We want residents of Vass and vicinity to read the following from the editorial column of the State Journal, printed at Columbus, O., and then we want them to sit down and reflect upon it for a few moments:

"There is no more important force for good in the community than the newspaper. In the smaller communities the weekly paper has a relation to the public that is very close and important. In that community there is no other agency that contributes more, year after year, than the weekly paper, no other agency more faithful in the proper discharge of that duty, even at the sacrifice of material, advantage and important income. It is the historian of the community, the friend of all, a supporter of the right and an active opponent of the wrong. It applies the wholesomeness of light and publicity to public affairs and represents the best thought of the public. It has a claim on the community, a claim despite the fact that often it may not be recognized. It should be in every home, every week. It can be made a stronger force for good just in proportion to the support it has from the public."

Land posters for sale at The Pilot office; 25c per dozen

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CHICAGO

A TRIP W

By J. V. S.

We now leave Roanoke next stop off is at the in Va., where we reach the seven wonders of the claim it is 300 feet ravine, which is called up to the arch of the is rock all the way, is about as high on top which the public road on either side. If one night they would not were crossing on a bridge over the edge from large trees look like far down at the bottom curiosity is just above the hill side where a gushes out, runs a few goes back in a hole; Lost River and runs no one knows where.

We now take No. 1 train the Norfolk and erates, and continue West. We have passed Blue Ridge Mountain way has been considered in the distance ghany Mountains, which the Blue Ridge mountains. As we approach the border of West Virginia ahead as the engine is curves and we see a mountain, seemingly we wonder how we will but the engine is on lows up a ravine all miles we follow a little one side and then certain side is most serious us and if a rock should top it would smash told that they keep track in wet spells land slide comes down.

As we pass on another ing ceases entirely, pass a small cabin on mountain with the house on the ground enough under the fro horseback. Possibly seen a half acre of house on the side of steep one could pite the chimney. What to live in, possibly next neighbor, who about the same way small station occasionally come to Bluefield, is crowded in between sides, and here we and next pass through fields of W. Va.

(Continued)

DODGING T

Another reason why so often to miscarry this country is the good and useful citizen jury duty. Men of on our juries can more money at the the state is able to length of time served a result too many sit in judgment get cause men of better to serve. So we have dicta in many instances jury duty. Serving possible for you to duty as paying you what you can to the of the community. state, the country