

DO BIG BUSINESS

Christmas Shoppers in Topeka Are Buying Liberally. That is Report Made by the Big Stores.

FIRST PEACE HOLIDAY IN 3 YRS.

Nothing Too Good for Celebration is the Spirit.

Useful Presents, However, More in Demand Than Luxuries.

Saint Nicholas never up-ended his purse more gleefully than he has this year in Topeka. Department store managers, viewing the swarm of shoppers that, since the flu ban was lifted, have rapidly deluged the stores, said today that the biggest Christmas business in years is being experienced.

Victory and the lifting of the flu ban, which practically eliminated buying earlier in the season, are given as the reasons for the crowds. Many dealers report that buying is not only the greatest in years, but that it is in their experience in this city. The demand, it is apparent, is chiefly for high grade goods, irrespective of the price. After two years of war economy the lid has been lifted. Nothing seems too good for a gift to commemorate the first "peace" Christmas in three years.

Buy Useful Gifts. And, altho the demand is for high grade goods, the buying is chiefly confined to useful gifts instead of luxuries. Some stores are finding trouble in meeting the demand for expensive articles of this sort.

Probably the buying in many stores is from 50 to 100 per cent greater over last year. One department store manager asserted today that he has already done 50 per cent more business this season than he did in the same books a week after Christmas last year.

Christmas mail is also heavy, according to records of the post office, considerably heavier than before the war despite high postage, and the high cost of presents.

CAPTURING A CAMP ENEMY

A Lesson in Conservation at Right Time.

BY V. A. LAMBERT.

Once upon a time there was a bad milk bottle. The dairy product might have been good but that has nothing to do with the story; all that we are interested in is the bottle. The reason it was a bad bottle lay in the fact that one day it bounced out of its container, rolled off the back of a milk truck, struck the macadam road at a precarious point in camp and broke.

It was when the bottle broke that the milk was spilled, or, figuratively speaking in army terms, "the beans were split," which resulted in this story. It was worse than a diplomatic break. The bottom of the bottle lay with an upturned sharp, jagged edge that seemed to defy any and all forces. It was in a position to oppose, being in the middle of the road, where all heavy traffic passed. It really yawned with hunger to obstruct the progress of the traffic.

It almost lost its heart when a passing soldier gave it a sharp kick, sending it to one side, but being an American, it made the best of it and rolled to its high morale and rallied for action. With a couple of short turns it whirled and stopped in place, glaring at the sun, its head tilted back, as if the owner of the big healthy shoes. However, the husky pair of shoes passed on without even noticing the challenge of the rough, sharp, jagged edge of the American made bottle.

It was quivering for action. Even the mud and water on the road were having fallen during the night, covering the ground with pools of water and forming a good, greasy mud to travel through. There was a general air of silence. In the distance could be heard the regular explosions of the engine of a truck. Nearer and nearer it came.

"Boom! Swiss-a-s-h!" There was a clamping of brakes, a grinding of gears followed by a crashing of glass, the cracking of timber, the rattle of sheet metal, all ending with a dull, sickening plump at the side of the road in a ditch five feet below.

It is needless to go into details about the truck—it was wrecked. It was filled with supplies, and the essential articles being eggs, sugar, flour and bread. The truck was broken, cans and bread were strewn around the broken overturned machine. There was a wreckage and a loss of valuable foodstuffs.

The broken bottom bottom laughed with glee over the success in overthrowing its adversary. It was a Finnish chuckle, as it had destroyed and sunk the foodstuffs, wrecked a truck which would take time, labor and money to repair. It had also impeded the life of the driver. It was a complete victory.

Now for the next victim! But its selfish rejoicing was suddenly interrupted. It was picked up bodily and hurled thru the air, landing in a box filled with broken bottles. It was a salvage truck and had a deposit for the salvage yards. One man in the crowd that had gathered to see the accident saw the glass bottom of the bottle in the road, had picked it up and thrown it into the salvage truck. It was a good act to do even if it was too late, as this should have been done at the time that husky pair of shoes had first kicked it.

Now that's all there is to this story but the lesson to be gained from it is that there is no need of neglecting the conservation of articles especially when they are in a precarious place. If the big husky shoes had picked up the glass bottom instead of giving it a kick, there would have been a greater saving not only in glass but in time, labor, material and food.

WILL REPRESENT BRITISH OVERSEAS DOMINIONS AT PEACE CONFERENCE

Left to right, above: Premiers W. F. Massey and W. M. Hughes. Below: Premiers R. L. Borden and Louis Botha.

MANY WILL COME PNEUMONIA VICTIM

Immigrants Will Flood to U. S. From Europe As Soon as the Floodgates Are Opened.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Immigrant laborers from Europe will come pouring into American ports the minute the floodgates are opened. This is the forecast today of officials and diplomats who have given study to the problem.

Even with the war-sealed lid, over 110,000 immigrants slipped into the United States last year, official figures show.

At the bureau of immigration a rush, exceeding anything previously known is expected—largely from southern European countries. Ship passage will be hard to get for some time and this will operate as a check—but within six months, unless legislative restrictions are imposed, or unless foreign governments take measures to hold their people, inbound steerages will be packed with immigrants, officials believe.

Overcrowding of the labor market and reduced wages will follow any such inflow of laborers, labor men say. Demobilization of America's army will add to this difficulty.

Rome dispatches state 20,000 Italians have already applied for passage to America in order to get home. Jugo-Slavs and Czechs from the former Austria-Hungarian empire will not come in appreciable number, however, representatives say. Overthrow of the monarchy, achievement of self-government give better chances for the masses will check materially the exodus to America which otherwise would be natural. Jugo-Slavs in America are trying to get back home. This is true of Russians also. Thousands of Russians in America will go back, Russian officials here predict.

Opportunities will be offered in America if order is restored, it is said.

ASK AID FOR IRELAND

St. Mary's College Students Urge President to Intercede for Celts.

St. Marys, Kan., Dec. 21.—An enthusiastic mass meeting was held by the students of St. Mary's college a few hours before their departure for the Christmas vacation, their object being the adoption of resolutions regarding self-determination for Ireland. The president of the college, the Rev. W. E. Cogley, S. J., addressed the meeting, touching on the solidarity of Ireland's claims, and basing his appeal on the preponderance of Irish names on the student roster. He was vigorously applauded. After the meeting the following telegram was sent to Secretary Joseph P. Tumulty.

"The president and faculty of St. Mary's college, together with the student body in mass meeting assembled, beg to urge upon the president of the United States, the Hon. Mr. Woodrow Wilson, the propriety of bringing before the peace conference the claims of Ireland to the right which all nations have of determining the form of government under which they shall live."

"We are persuaded that a failure on the part of our representatives to explicitly demand for the Irish people the same rights of self-determination which President Wilson has so eloquently accorded to other peoples would cast suspicion on the sincerity of the professions we have made in entering and bringing to a victorious conclusion the war against the autocracy and despotism of the central powers."

Card of Thanks. We wish to express our thanks to the kind relations and friends and for the sympathy and beautiful floral offerings during the death of our daughter and wife.

MR. and MRS. ANDERSON AND FAMILY. W. A. BARNETT.

Apex theater opens Monday.—Adv.

WOOD WILL SPEAK

Funston Commander on Agricultural Program Here. He Will Address State Convention on January 9.

BIG MEETING IS PLANNED

Readjustment of Peace Farming Conditions a Problem.

This Will Be One of Important Subjects Discussed.

Agricultural conditions and interests under peace conditions instead of under war conditions, will concern the men and women who attend the annual agricultural convention in Topeka January 8-10. Plans for readjustment of farming conditions to meet the coming peace will be discussed by a number of prominent speakers who are on the program for the convention.

Texas will also be one of the problems for consideration. Secretary J. C. Mohler today stated that much consideration would be given the question of assessment and taxation affecting livestock, crops and farm interests generally.

Farmers Show Interest. In view of the general raise in real estate valuations in the state this year, hundreds of farmers have shown new and keener interest in the tax question. Samuel T. How, chairman of the state tax commission, will discuss taxation and needed reforms in the taxing system.

Horse and breeding industry will be considered and the problems and profits of the livestock industry will be discussed in speeches by Wayne Dinmore, secretary of the Percheron Horse Society of America, and by Dr. D. F. Luckey, state veterinarian of Missouri.

Leonard A. Wood will be one of the top line speakers at the agricultural convention and will speak the evening of January 9. "Arms and Ammunition" will be the subject of his address.

Indiana Woman to Speak

"The Privileged Woman" is the subject of an address by Mrs. Virginia C. Merdith, of Indiana, a national character among farm women. Dr. D. Romson, editor of the Short Horn in America, will tell Kansas stockmen of "Stardusts and Permanency in the Beef Making Industry," while Frank Coverdale, a pioneer sweet clover advocate, will talk of "Sweet Clover and Cattle Raising."

During the silo, and sorghums are other subjects. New conditions facing the farmer with the coming of peace, however, will be given consideration by practically all speakers. The program for the coming convention is regarded as one of the strongest ever presented by the agricultural organization in this state. In consequence, a record attendance is expected.

PRICES WILL ADVANCE

Government Control of Stock Feed Prices Removed in Kansas.

Wichita, Kan., Dec. 21.—Flour mills and stock feed concerns have been released from most of the regulations controlling them by the food administration, it was announced today. Food Administrator Innes today.

Prices of shorts and bran are no longer under control except that maximum of profits is made. The price of shorts and bran are still limited on a basis of a maximum of \$3 to \$4 a ton.

Control of prices of oil cake and other stocks lifted. The fixing of the price of shorts and bran was put in effect at the request of the Bank of Topeka, where her husband was an officer. In 1901 she went into the abstracting business with Van Kirk, and in 1904, when Van Kirk died, she conducted the business for a number of years. Mr. Thurston after serving many years in the Bank of Topeka, became president of the Farmers National Bank.

During the years of Mrs. Thurston's residence in Topeka, she was active in public affairs, but worked as treasurer of the State W. C. T. U.; she was an active treasurer of the Temperance society, was the first president of the Kansas Equal Suffrage society for a number of years, and she was a member of the Federation of Clubs.

She took an active part in the Women's Club of Topeka, having served in its Forestry department and as head of the peace officers of the city and justice. She was also parliamentarian for the Shawnee County Political club.

Left Here Recently. Mr. and Mrs. Thurston left Topeka a little more than a year ago to return to their home at Gloucester, Mrs. Thurston's sister, who lives here, principally on her account. It was family left this city for a residence in Gloucester. Mr. and Mrs. Thurston built the house which is now the home of Mrs. Paul Walker, and later occupied the David Palmer residence. They then built a large residence in Lane street, which was their home until they left Topeka.

BATTERY A COMING?

Ed Rooney Hears Topeka Organization Will Be Home Feb. 9.

Topeka's own Battery A, of the 130 field artillery, will be home about February 9, according to advice received today from France by Edward Rooney, a local attorney, who has a brother, Arthur Rooney, and a brother-in-law, Arthur Henry, in the service here.

It was further stated that the battery took part in the battle of the Argonne, and that the first of the first sixteen shots fired fifteen were direct hits on the German trenches. So far as is known, not a man has been lost out of the organization. The guns went into position on August 17 and the first shot was fired August 20.

MENOHER AFTER RYAN

Commander of Rainbow Division New Head of Air Service.

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TRENCH & CAMP

Published weekly at the National Camps and Cantonments for the soldiers of the United States.

AMERICA'S PART IN THE WORLD WAR

WHEN the Spanish War was won, some detractors of the country said it was an opera bouffe affair and that America had little to be proud of in defeating a nation so little able to resist.

The fighting was of such short duration; the casualties so slight; the expenditure of material and money so inconsiderable that the country scarcely had time to organize as for war.

This time conditions have been quite different. The whole country has felt the pinch of war. Billion dollar Congresses that once scandalized the country were forgotten in the frugers of our war budgets. Nearly a quarter of the total population, men, women and children all considered, subscribed to one of the war loans.

Practically four millions of men were withdrawn from industries and sent to camps or to fields of battle or to ships of war and activities related to the war. They were replaced by women on a scale that fires the imagination. In a space of less than two years the whole life of the country was revolutionized.

Now comes the casualty list: On the fields of France and Flanders, and elsewhere, 53,000 of our men lie dead. More than thirty thousand were killed in battle. Others gave their lives less gloriously, but no less greatly. The total casualty list exceeds 236,000.

America's was no minor part in this titanic struggle. If she was not called upon to do more and to give more, it was only because it was seen that she was prepared to do and to give. In the solemn words of the President, "It was a fearful thing to lead this great peace-loving people into war"—fearful for the apostles of German militarism.

A comparison of the figures is not out of the way. In money alone, America gave more than France and Italy combined. Some of this will be returned—but who shall say when?

Although America was a peace loving nation at the outbreak of the war in 1914 and was separated from the scene of conflict by 3,000 miles of water, within eighteen months this country put under arms 3,764,700 men, which was more than the aggregate of the entire armies of five warring nations—Bulgaria, Turkey, Serbia, Roumania and Belgium—their total combined strength being but 3,750,000 men.

In the number of lives lost, America contributed more to the cause of liberty than Belgium, and our casualties were considerably in excess of the Bulgarian Army's.

Statistics on total casualties show that America suffered heavier losses than Serbia or Bulgaria and almost as heavily as either Belgium or Roumania.

Here is a compilation of statistics on "The Blood Shed and the Treasure Spent" by the various nations during the war:

Table with columns: Country, Men in Arms, Lives Lost, Casualties, Cost in Dollars. Includes data for United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, Roumania, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria.

AFTER DEMOBILIZATION, WHAT?

Just what does the return to civil life mean to the soldier? This question is being asked daily in camps and cantonments throughout the country. The thought of soldiers overseas are turned again to home and industry. For months they have been living the relatively care-free life of the army—care-free because there has been no worry about creature comforts. Shelter, subsistence, clothing and medical attention have been provided. The discipline that seemed so rigorous and so restraining became a habit of mind.

As the soldiers contemplate their present situation, are they giving serious thought to the days after demobilization? They are eagerly awaiting discharge from the army. But what then? They were taken from productive

business, some unwillingly, some eagerly, some gladly. What plans have they made for the resumption of peace-time pursuits? Many employers have announced their readiness to restore the discharged soldiers' positions to them. Others find economic conditions to be such that re-employment will be impossible.

The return to the pursuits of peace will necessitate purchases by discharged soldiers that had not been contemplated for some time. One estimate the other day was \$370,000,000 for clothing alone—and that does not mean anything more than a scant outfitting.

Fortunately the government, in its wisdom, has prepared many of the men for the days of peace and will turn them back to civil life with savings. When the base pay of the soldier was increased a plan was adopted that made saving compulsory for the men without dependents. They grum-

bled a great deal when half of their base pay was deducted every month. But the army at least has done this for them. It has given them object lessons in thrift, in conservation and in the team work that makes for success in any line of endeavor.

What of the future? Uncle Sam is turning back better men than he received.

THE MASONRY OF SERVICE

One of the leading newspapers of the country said recently it was becoming more apparent daily that there would be two classes of discharged soldiers—those that had been Over There, and those that had not.

This does not imply any reproach to those that did not have opportunity to test their mettle on the battlefields. They were not responsible. They were ready—this was all that the government asked. More than that; it was all that the government ordered, and the men in the military and naval service were subject to orders. If they had been given the freedom of their choice, the great majority would have gone overseas.

It is not to be assumed that the men who actually served abroad, who dared death and who, perhaps, bear honored scars, will belittle the efforts of those that were left behind, the men that were ready, had the government needed them, to back them with their own lives.

RECEIVE THEM SENSIBLY

By WINFRED VAN DUZER

The idea is to keep our feet on the ground, specially our feminine feet. Of course, we shall joy in welcoming them; we shall glory in the medals on their chests. They are our own, come back to us from danger and death, and ours is the gratitude; ours the pride.

There is no reason for hiding our light of greeting under a bushel. We shall not. We shall be frank, quite hilariously frank, maybe, in letting them know how we feel. They will like to know, and we shall like to tell them.

But time will come when they will wish quietly to settle back in the places they left. It is in the very nature of things that tumult and destruction must give place to order; that the war and all its moans must be forgotten and the business of life carried on as it was in days ago.

They are coming back to take up the business of life. They have had their day of adventure; of sacrifice; of glory. But the war is over. They will not live in the past. Human nature forgets; it moves backward only when it is decadent or diseased; it cannot remain stationary; forward it

must go. They will forget; if for no reason than their training of the past year and a half they cannot move backward; they will take up their business of life and press forward. Let us not retard them by morbidly attempting to make the past an institution of the present. Let us not weigh their shoulders with superfluous acclaim or enervate them with excessive hero-worship. Deep feeling is not flaunted in the face of its object; deep feeling suppresses even signs of its existence.

Many of them are heroes by accident. Circumstances and combination of circumstances draw them into the way of performing acts of bravery for which they justly are honored. Others, just as noble, were prevented by the same circumstances from doing deeds which might have won recognition.

They are peculiarly on the same status now; they all have served; all have done their best for their country and the cause of right; all have shared the vacuum cleaner that stood behind the dining room door back home.

Then, one radiant shining hour, he drew a pass. It permitted his premier visit home. Mother, forgiving her value and her secret glad, met him at the station. He kissed them both—even taking a chance on father's mustache. Joyfully he raced into the house and gathered the kiddie on his knees before the grate. Not once, during those golden thirty-six hours of leave, did he leave the old domo. He stuck around completely.

When he prepared to leave it was with a low heart. He disliked the return. But as he stood at the door with the family grouped around, he told his mother that he had learned her value and he told his dad that he liked him much. He kissed the kiddies goodbye, one by one, and wrung his pater's hand, and then as he draped an arm over his mother's shoulders and looked down into her tear-dimmed eyes, he declared that, at last, he was convinced that the author of "Home, Sweet Home" was gifted with infinite wisdom and an absolute knowledge of the application of truth.

HOME, SWEET HOME

Not so very long ago there was a made his bunk without taking a preliminary sight. A week on K. P. gave him an extensive knowledge of gullinary operations and when he policed the barracks he remembered the vacuum cleaner that stood behind the dining room door back home.

FOR CHRISTMAS?

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