

# New Things of the New Year



By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

OVER my cabin on Twin Sisters' slope  
In the Rocky Mountain National Park  
Rides the December moon in blue-  
black sky  
To light the Old Year out, the New  
Year in.  
Tahosa—"Valley in the Mountain  
Tops—"  
All rimmed about with lofty snow-  
capped peaks,  
Is dazzling with new-fallen snow; its  
cup  
Brims over with the silvery radiance.  
Across Tahosa Valley looms Longs Peak,  
"King of the Rockies," with its towering crown  
Atop its monstrous, dark, grim precipice  
A-glimmer in the flood of silver light.  
Behind me rise The Twins to timberline,  
Recumbent in silhouette as if carved  
By the chisel of the Master Sculptor—  
A part and parcel of a perfect whole  
Planned by the Master Architect himself.  
Perfected through the ages by His will—  
That, with sheer beauty makes the heart to ache.

The hours pass on. The moon sinks and is gone.  
Myriad stars that blaze like beacon fires  
Take up the watch the weary moon has quit.  
The Old Year passes out; comes in the New  
Without a sound, a token or a sign.  
There is no hint of life. Can it be true  
The sun will shine again and day come back  
And life leap in the glad green spring once more  
And Time grant unto us another year?

And now is staged with ceremonious pomp  
The recurrent miracle of the dawn  
In setting worthy of the Master's art.  
With glories worthy of the glad New Year:  
Behind The Sisters grows a pearly glow;  
The King's o'erlooming crown glows ruby red;  
Low-lying clouds in The Pass to the south  
Are shot with gold; the sky-line of the pines  
Against their glory stands raggedly out.  
The rim of a great golden disk thrusts up  
Above the silhouetted Sisters' crest.  
Dear, Mendow, Meeker, Lady Washington,  
Battle, Lily and Estes Come change white  
For rose tints. Wooded slopes doff black for  
green.

The Sisters, as the sun mounts in the sky,  
Call back their shadows from the valley floor.  
A breeze wakes up and dances forth to help  
The trees shake off their burd'ning robes of white.  
A crested jay flits in a whet'ring pine.  
A snowshoe rabbit goes sedately past  
And makes the first mark on the untracked snow.  
Across Tahosa Valley smoke goes up—  
Blue chimney-smoke that tells of kindled hearth,  
With family astrir and life and love!  
And there stands Longs—unchanged, unchange-  
able!

Now I know glad spring shall come again,  
Summer time, harvest time, another year.  
And so is born to us this glad, New Year,  
Nineteen Twenty-three Anno Domini—  
"In the Year of Our Lord, the Son of God,  
Who taught man, "Do as ye would be done by,"  
Who died upon the cross to save mankind.

There is an old saying and wise: "Let the dead  
past bury its dead!" Its wisdom, however, lies  
largely in what it really means rather than in what  
it actually says. For burial does not mean both  
burying and forgetting. And it should not. What  
the adage means is this:

"Let's turn over a new leaf on New Year's day,  
1923, and try to make a better looking page than  
we did in 1922!"

There is said to be "no new thing under the  
sun." Certain it is that we are digging up records  
nowadays that show human nature to have been  
about the same in 4,000 B. C. that it is now. So  
doubtless man has been making New Year's resolu-  
tions ever since there was any New Year's day.  
And doubtless he has been breaking them just as  
regularly. And doubtless the cynics and the pes-  
simists and the professional jokers have been  
laughing over the performance through the ages.

Nevertheless, this recurring New Year's per-  
formance is a lot more than merely the material  
for a jest. In fact, it is one of the things that  
keeps alive the faith in human nature and the  
hope that the world is progressing year by year  
toward better things.

There are, of course, many foolish people who  
live only to eat, drink and be merry. And there  
are the predatory ones, who take what they want  
—if they can get it. But most people believe in  
a future life and are always trying, often vaguely  
and half-unconsciously, to live the kind of a life  
that seems to them fit to survive. Hence their  
New Year's resolutions. Many a man in his heart  
on New Year's day would be, with Robert Brown-  
ing,

One who never turned his back but marched breast  
forward,  
Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong  
would triumph,  
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,  
Sleep to wake.

The poet speaks truth. Providence has so cre-  
ated man—or evolution has so shaped him, if you  
prefer to put it that way—that there is no greater  
spur to his soul than the incentive of the un-  
achieved. Always the unaccomplished that seems  
worth while challenges his ambition, his courage,  
his determination.

Man has already accomplished much on this  
earth—so much that he has now a vision of what  
his goal should be—so much that he is now able  
to see how far he has fallen short of reaching that  
goal. And no age has been so well equipped to  
move on to that goal as this present age. Never  
has the incentive to the achievement of that goal  
been so strong. For man cannot stand still. He  
must press onward to the goal or fall back and  
lose much that he has gained. Failure to reach  
that goal emphasizes the incompleteness of all  
that has been accomplished. And this shining  
goal is nothing less than the message of the sea-  
son:

"Peace on earth, good will to men."  
Practically this means the reformation of human  
nature. And the reformation of human nature  
means nothing less than the world-wide applica-  
tion of precepts of Christianity to the affairs of  
mankind.

Christianity was blamed for not preventing the  
great war. It has since been blamed for not  
preventing the industrial strife and the economic ills  
and other evils that have afflicted the world. Per-  
haps the best answer in brief to this charge is the  
utterance credited to George Bernard Shaw:  
"Christianity has not yet been tried."

It is a noteworthy fact that during the last year  
men of affairs, speaking from the viewpoint of  
business and not that of religion, have publicly  
declared that in the application of the teachings  
of the Gospel lies the one cure for the industrial  
ills growing out of world-wide economic warfare.  
Some of them have gone so far as to declare that  
nothing but a sincere acceptance of Christianity  
can save society from utter ruin and civilization  
from a complete collapse.

It is not contended by them that Christianity  
contains a panacea that will at once cure all in-  
dustrial and economic ills. They know that no  
such panacea exists. They admit that Christian-  
ity does not teach economics; does not instruct as  
to production and distribution; does not, in short,  
set forth a system of industry in any form or  
shape. They start from a different basis and  
their reasoning is about like this:

Christianity, however, does set forth a moral  
formula that can be applied at all times to all  
systems. This moral formula is an active solvent  
of wrongs under any system. Its application can  
cure the defects of any system, not so much by  
changing the system as by changing the attitude  
of men toward one another.

Practical Christianity would not tolerate injus-  
tice of any kind. With injustice of all kinds ban-  
ished from the affairs of men and nations existing  
economic and industrial systems would either re-  
model themselves or would be cast aside. In short,  
economic regeneration would come about as a by-  
product in connection with the larger moral re-  
generation of mankind through the acceptance of  
Christianity. For in the last analysis the faults  
of systems have their source in the hearts of men.

A stupendous undertaking? An impossible  
vision? Well, they ask, what other course is there?  
The converse of the proposition has been tried to  
the uttermost. And where is the world? Appar-  
ently civilization in this Twentieth century is fac-  
ing the great crisis.

George Washington, 133 years ago, as America's  
first president, proclaimed America's first national  
Thanksgiving day. And his preamble declares:  
"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge

the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will,  
to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to im-  
plore His protection and favor."

As everybody knows, George Washington was  
no liar. So that when he wrote these words he  
wrote them because he believed them.

In short, the United States of America was con-  
ceived and established in exactly the spirit set  
forth in Washington's words. The nation of his  
time was a Christian nation. Its sense of depen-  
dence upon God was very real because of realiza-  
tion of perils past and difficulties to come. It  
saw the guiding and protecting hand of Providence  
in the past. It hoped for a continuance of guid-  
ance and protection of Providence in overcoming  
the problems and difficulties of the future. For  
America was then a child among the nations and  
its way to maturity looked long and perilous.

America has now come to that maturity. And  
he is a dullard who cannot see the hand of Provi-  
dence in our national history since the beginning.

In the 133 years since George Washington's first  
Thanksgiving proclamation America has accom-  
plished much. It has made its maturity rich and  
powerful. Today America stands the wealthiest  
and most favored nation of the globe—so rich and  
so favored that a pre-war prediction has come  
true: America has emerged victorious and un-  
harmful from the Great War and without a friend  
among the nations of the earth. America is too  
wealthy, too powerful, too resourceful, too well  
able to move on toward its destiny without "en-  
tangling alliances" to please the rest of the world.

America is so favored that it must have a care  
lest in its complacency it thanks God it is not  
as other nations are.

It is true America is not as the Turk, who is  
pounding on the gates of Europe, with all the as-  
surance of a victor who asserts that he has wiped  
out past defeat by present victory and demands  
new opportunities for crimes against civilization.  
It is true America is not as the Bolsheviks in  
Russia, who apparently are growing rather  
stronger than weaker, seeming to gain strength  
from the ruin they have wrought, and parade their  
Red Army as an object lesson to the nations of  
earth.

Yet America sadly needs to take heed of the  
Eleventh commandment, "Love one another." And  
it needs a Twelfth commandment, "Thou shalt  
not profiteer." For the profiteer, it has been said,  
"takes the Eighth commandment by the throat,  
knocks the Tenth commandment on the head and  
treads the golden rule under foot." And as for the  
Ten commandments handed down from God at  
Mount Sinai—it is increasingly evident that it is  
the task of the good citizen and the church and  
the press to build up the moral manhood and  
womanhood that is suffering alarming deteriora-  
tion.

There are many who believe that in acceptance  
and practice of practical Christianity lie Amer-  
ica's only hope of emergence from the greed and  
lawlessness of 1923, Anno Domini.

In this connection the progress of a movement  
begun in the United States by "Christian Business  
Men" will doubtless be watched with interest by  
the nation.

In some American city—probably Detroit—will  
be held early in 1923 the first convention of the  
Federation of Christian Business Men's clubs.  
Probably 100 clubs in the principal cities of the  
country will be represented. "To search out and  
apply the laws of God in all commercial relations  
between ourselves and all men" is the stated pur-  
pose of the federation. All members agree to make  
the golden rule fundamental in their commercial  
dealings. The clubs reserve at all meetings a chair  
for Jesus Christ, "the unseen Guest," whom the  
members acknowledge to be their "directive head." At  
a recent conference in Kansas City, Mo., dele-  
gates were present representing clubs in Kansas  
City, New York, Philadelphia, Lincoln, Neb., Tulsa,  
Okla., St. Louis, Wheeling, W. Va., Chicago,  
Rochester, N. Y., Cincinnati, Columbus, O., St.  
Paul, Minn., Jacksonville, Fla., Columbia, Mo., and  
Detroit.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

### BLIND MAN MEETS OLD BUDDY

British Hero, Here to Attend Inter-  
allied Veterans' Convention, Recog-  
nizes Voice of Former Comrade.

Although he is totally blind, Capt. William Appleby of Great Britain was one of the most cheerful delegates to the Interallied Veterans' association convention which met in New Orleans in conjunction with the American Legion national gathering. Captain Appleby was especially happy when the delegation of war heroes stopped in Indianapolis on the way from New Orleans, for only a few minutes before his arrival there he had met, by strange coincidence, a man whom he had not seen nor heard of for twenty-two years, but who was in his regiment, Lancashire Fusiliers in 1900, and who was born only ten miles from him in England. Captain Appleby recognized him by his voice.

As Alfred Ernest Evans, an Indian-  
apolis engineer, walked through the  
train as a member of the Indianapolis  
committee to welcome the heroes, he  
was stopped by an Englishman who  
asked his name.

"My name, sir, is Evans," he replied.  
"Alfred Ernest, of the Lancashire  
Fusiliers?" he was asked.  
"Yes, sir. Who are you?"  
"Captain William Appleby, your  
former regimental commander."

And then they began, busily recall-  
ing incidents of the South African  
battles they fought together in 1900.  
"I recognized Mr. Evans' voice the  
minute I heard it," the English hero  
said.

Captain Appleby lost his sight in the  
second battle of Ypres. He has also  
been wounded 29 times. His pretty  
nineteen-year-old daughter Olga, his  
constant companion and his "eyes,"  
since he lost his sight, accompanied  
him on the American trip.

### GUIDE IS AN EXPERT OARSMAN

Washington (D. C.) Legionnaire, Car-  
ries Off Junior, Intermediate and  
Association Prizes.

It takes years to produce a good  
oarman, rowing experts claim, but  
Granville Gude, a  
Washington, D. C.,  
member of the  
American Legion,  
won one of the big-  
gest national con-  
tests after he had  
been rowing only  
six weeks, thereby  
establishing a pre-  
cedent in the sport-  
ing world.

Gude won the  
junior, intermediate  
and association  
events in one after-  
noon with only  
short intervals of rest between races  
at the Middle States' regatta.

The Washington Legionnaire is at his  
best in the sculling races and is ex-  
pected by his buddies to win a national  
championship one of these days.

### RADIO OUTFIT FOR HOSPITAL

Government Institution at Colfax, Ia.,  
Equipped With Set Provided by  
Members of Auxiliaries.

Patients in the United States Govern-  
ment hospital 75, at Colfax, Ia., are  
enjoying daily, and nightly, all the  
good things which come through the  
air from many broadcasting stations,  
with a large radio outfit women of the  
American Legion auxiliaries have  
presented them. And disabled veterans  
who are at the Bellevue Vocational  
school near Omaha, Neb., are taking  
delight in a saxophone, a set of balls,  
a trombone and a cornet, presented by  
the same auxiliary—the Department of  
Nebraska—to complete their orchestra.

In the Iowa hospital, in which there  
are many Nebraska boys, each bed has  
been fitted with a receiver, so the pa-  
tients may listen in at any time, and a  
magna vox has been installed in each  
corridor so that all in the rooms off  
the corridor can hear all the programs.

The Nebraska women also have sent  
boxes to the disabled veterans in hos-  
pitals in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and  
Missouri, and at Denver, Colo., and  
Fort Bayard, N. M.

### Gave Funds for Playgrounds.

After spending two years in acquir-  
ing funds for a clubhouse, the Amer-  
ican Legion post at Mangum, Okla., de-  
cided the children of the town needed  
a playground worse than the former  
service men did a clubhouse. Accord-  
ingly, the Legionnaires obtained an  
eight-year lease on a plot of ground  
and used the fund they had been so  
long in collecting to purchase play-  
ground equipment.

### BEST INFORMED LEGION MAN

Columbia (S. C.) Committeeman Up  
on All Hospitalization and  
Rehabilitation Questions.

"The best informed American Leg-  
ion member in this country on all ques-  
tions dealing with  
hospitalization and  
rehabilitation," is  
the way Alvin  
Owsley, Legion  
commander, de-  
scribes Joe Sparks,  
of Columbia, S. C.,  
a newly-appointed  
chairman of the  
Legion's national  
rehabilitation com-  
mittee.



The ability of Mr. Sparks to co-operate with the United States Veterans' Bureau was also named by Mr. Owsley as one of his strongest recommendations. Mr. Sparks' work as Legion liaison representative at the headquarters of the Fifth United States Veterans' bureau has drawn national attention to such an extent that Legion headquarters has received a flood of telegrams from the North and West urging his appointment since the Legion convention.

During Mr. Sparks' term the Fifth  
district was rated more than 92 per  
cent efficient, the highest of all 14 dis-  
tricts. Out of a total of 2,000 patients  
in ex-service hospitals, 2,100 veterans  
have been rated total temporary dis-  
ability and 499 claims are being adju-  
dicated.

Although Mr. Sparks was well over  
the draft age, he served as a "buck  
private" in the Fifty-seventh and Third  
Pioneers during the World war. Mr.  
Sparks was born in Laurence county,  
S. C., thirty-seven years ago. Later  
he went to Columbia, where he got a  
job as a newspaper reporter. He was  
city editor of the Columbia State, one  
of the most influential newspapers in  
the South, when he enlisted.

Returning from the army, Mr. Sparks  
became connected with a large New  
York life insurance company. His  
work with the Legion has been in At-  
lanta and in New York.

### THAT WELCOME COOKIE JAR

Recent Addition to Hospitals, Provided  
by the American Legion Auxiliary,  
Is Welcomed by Veterans.

If you imagine for a minute that the  
veterans in the military hospitals  
throughout the country don't appre-  
ciate the cookie jars which the Ameri-  
can Legion Auxiliary established re-



The Hospital Cookie Jar.

cently, just note the expressions on the  
faces of these three ex-soldiers.

These veterans are from the Govern-  
ment hospital at Kansas City and the  
National Military home at Leaven-  
worth. At the present rate of con-  
sumption, patients from these two hos-  
pitals will have eaten in the course of  
a year cookies which if placed side by  
side would extend 12 miles. Some  
cookies!

### NEED OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Director of Legion's Americanization  
Commission Cites Reasons Why  
Many Were Disqualified.

Most of the physical defects which  
disqualified almost a quarter of the men  
examined in the army draft could have  
been prevented by adequate physical  
education programs, according to Gar-  
land W. Powell, director of the Ameri-  
can Legion's Americanization commission.  
A prominent medical authority  
makes the following statements on the  
subject of draft disqualification, ac-  
cording to Mr. Powell:

"1. Heart disease could be prevented  
by proper strengthening of the heart  
through physical activities, removal of  
physical defects such as bad tonsils  
and infected teeth. 2. Malformation  
of the limbs may be prevented to some  
extent by proper physical activities.  
3. Defective vision oftentimes could be  
prevented by exercise. 4. Underage  
would not exist in many cases if there  
were physical activity and proper in-  
struction in food and nutrition, prepa-  
ration of food and the like. 5. Hernia  
undoubtedly in the majority of cases  
would be prevented by the development  
of abdominal muscles. 6. Instruction  
in care of the feet and selection of  
shoes will prevent a large proportion  
of flat feet."

### A Little Hint

Actor—What are the rates at this  
hotel?  
Clerk—Three dollars up. In your  
case three dollars down.—American  
Legion Weekly.