

What of the Checks?



Let me entreat one thing of thee and I will adventure to promise thee a good year. The request is in itself reasonable and may to thee be eternally profitable. It is only this, duly to prize and diligently to improve time for the blessed end it was given for and is yet graciously continued unto thee by eternal God.—REV. JOHN SHERMAN (1613-1685).

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

WHAT of the checks that you and I are going to draw on the Bank of Time in 1922—if we keep on drawing checks through the year?

"There's nothing new under the sun," according to a very old saying. It's true, too, in a sense. But in another sense it most certainly isn't true. For there is something new every time New Year's day comes around.

There are several things that are new at New Year's beside the New Year. There's a new chance. There's a new responsibility. There's a new balance in the Bank of Time. There's a new bank book. So, what will the check stubs show at the end of the year?

Rev. John Sherman had a right to make his "reasonable request," if practicing what one preaches gives that right. His "three score and ten" were busy years. He was born at Dedham, Essex, England, and before he was twenty-one he was an A. B. and A. M. of Trinity college, Cambridge, a minister of the Church of England and a Puritan on his way across the Atlantic to the Massachusetts Bay colony. There was no church for him, since the only three in existence—Boston, Salem and Watertown—had efficient ministers. So he was one of the "original planters" of Wethersfield, Conn., and a "watcher," 1634-40. Then he was one of the founders of Milford, New Haven plantation. Next he was a magistrate representing Milford in the New Haven colony and also charged with the duty of dividing land. Meanwhile he preached wherever opportunity offered.

In 1647 he became the minister of the Watertown church. There he preached till his death in 1685. Church and state were pretty much the same thing in those days, so the village affairs kept him a busy man. He found time, however, to publish for many years an almanac, for which he made all the astronomical calculations and wrote the text. He was also the first fellow and overseer of Harvard university. Incidentally he also found time to marry twice. Cotton Mather in his "Magnalia Christi Americana," says he had 26 children; this is a misstatement, but he did have 16. His epitaph in Latin on the tombstone in East Waltham, Mass., thus sums up his life:

"Sacred to the memory of John Sherman, a man distinguished for piety, character and truth; a profound theologian; as a preacher a veritable Chrysostom; unsurpassed in his knowledge of the liberal arts, particularly mathematics; a faithful pastor of the Church of Watertown in New England; an overseer and fellow of Harvard college. After a life of faithful service to Christ in the church for upwards of 45 years in the fullness of time he passed away and received from Christ the palm of victory. In the seventy-second year of his age, August 8, A. D. 1685."

Let us hope that the "reasonable request" that this early Puritan put to himself was to him "eternally profitable." In any event, he stands forth as a fine sample of a sturdy American pioneer family that has given four immortals to the nation—Roger Sherman, one of the framers of the Declaration of Independence; General W. T. Sherman; Secretary of State John Sherman; Vice President James S. Sherman.

Certainly his request is one that is always reasonable. And it is one that was never more reasonable than now. The year 1922 is a year when every good American should endeavor "duly to prize and diligently to improve time." It is a year with a challenge. It is a year with a promise.

Though in folly and in blindness
And in sorrow still we grope,
Yet in man's increasing kindness
Lies the world's stupendous hope.

And it is a reasonable request to every red-blooded, thinking, patriotic American. Such a man knows that nobody can stand still; that he has either to progress or fall back. The progressive man accepts responsibilities as the measure of his capabilities. He never shirks them, for he recognizes in them the price he must pay for advancement.

Competition is going to be keen this year. The dollar is going to be hard to get. Men who have been getting twice what they were before and have had lots of money to spend are going to feel the pinch. It looks as if everybody who works for a living will have to work a little harder. It may be that life will seem hard. But what of it? Life has always been hard—perhaps it was meant to be. Anyway, it is something that has got to be lived and mastered. It's the business of men to greet the unseen with a cheer and to advance on chaos and the dark.

Of course all of us cannot have a hand in the big things that must be done in meeting the challenge of 1922. But if all of us do the little things we may, 1922 will indeed be the "Happy New Year" of our greetings.

To save a little money,
To praise a little more;
To smile when days are sunny
And when the tempests pour,
To pay less heed to sinning
And more to kindly thought;
To see beyond the winning
Just how the fight was fought;
To be a little kinder,
A little braver, too,
To be a little blinder
To trivial things men do,
To give my hand to labor,
Nor whimper that I must;
To be a better neighbor
And worthier of a trust,
To play the man, whatever
The prize at stake;
God grant that I shall never
These New Year pledges break.

Anyone looking for something to do in the way of helping along can help bolster up the morals of his community. The war has done what all wars do. And the leeches on society are always active at such times. Just now we are facing all sorts of loose living and the public at large apparently feels little concern. Any man or woman can at least help by setting a good example.

FEAST DAY FOR RUSSIAN CHILDREN

In the country towns of Russia New Year's is the great feast day for the children. Boys fill their pockets with dried peas and wheat and go in bands from house to house. People they

A good American can help just now by putting his respect for the law strongly in evidence. For the law is the law. If it is a poor law, it should be changed. But until it is changed, it should be obeyed—whether it relates to the shooting of game birds or to the use of liquor or to the speed of automobiles or to murder or to anarchy. Many people who would hotly resent the charge that they are anarchists take delight in evading the laws and in making sport of the laws.

Every thinking man must realize that this Twentieth century civilization is too complex to be sane, safe and sober. Medical philosophers are unanimous in declaring that we Americans live too hard and too fast; that our rapid ways are harmful both to the individual and to the race; that we should slow up. We are, to use the homely old phrase, burning the candle at both ends. Men try to succeed in business, to rule in politics, to be social leaders—all at the same time. To crowd dissimilar things together has become a national characteristic. Our avocations are often as wearing as our vocations; we play even harder than we work. Thus to crowd two or more lives into one is to borrow of nature. She is a hard creditor and she always exacts payment.

One cannot, of course, indict a whole people. There are still millions of sane, safe and sober people in America. But a society that demands or even countenances such recklessness is in need of reformation. It would be interesting—and startling—to know how many men and women put themselves in an early grave by going the pace that kills.

"Of all sounds of all bells, most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the old year. I never hear it without a gathering up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelve-month; all I have done or suffered, performed or neglected, in that regretted time. I begin to know its worth as when a person dies. It takes a personal color; nor was it a poetical flight in a contemporary poet when he exclaimed: 'I saw the skirts of the departing year.'

"Every first of January that we arrive at, is an imaginary milestone on the turnpike track of human life; at once a resting place for thought and meditation, and a starting place for fresh exertion in the performance of our journey. The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must be either very good or very bad indeed. And only to propose to be better is something; if nothing else, it is an acknowledgment of our need to be so, which is the first step towards amendment. But, in fact, to propose to oneself to do well is in some sort to do well, positively; for there is no such thing as a stationary point in human endeavors; he who is not worse today than he was yesterday, is better; and he who is not better, is worse."

So wrote Charles Lamb. Therefore let us make New Year resolutions "duly to prize and diligently to improve time for the blessed end it was given for"—even if we break them.

have any grudge against are doused with the peas, while they shower the wheat upon their friends. A curious custom also is festooning the handsomest horse and leading him to the house of a nobleman. The pea and wheat shooters follow in droves. Both guests and horse are admitted to the parlor of the lord and the guests receive presents.

Berlin is to erect Europe's first skyscraper along American lines, a building 22 stories high.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS FOR FOWLS INCREASE PRODUCTION OF EGGS



The Use of Artificial Light Has Produced Satisfactory Results in Egg Production of Flocks in a Number of States.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Artificial lights properly operated will materially increase the winter egg production of pullets, the United States Department of Agriculture believes. The use of lights may also slightly increase the yearly egg production of individual hens, though not to any marked extent. The opinion of the department's poultry division is fully corroborated by many of the state experiment stations, particularly those in California, Indiana, Kansas, Washington, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New York and New Jersey. County agents working in New York and New Jersey report considerable activity in this project, in which the Department of Agriculture usually cooperates with the state agricultural college through the county agent.

Lighting as a Feeding Measure.
It should be well understood that artificial lighting is intended primarily as a means of getting the hens to feed longer than they otherwise would during the short days of fall and winter. An extra feeding of scratch grain should be provided, so that the flock is induced to eat not only enough for maintenance but an amount comparable to what is eaten in the more active laying seasons.

Lights are used soon after September 1 in New Jersey, but in most localities they are started November 1 and continued to April 1. Conditions vary in different states. What may be good practice in New Jersey may not work in Kansas. In the latter state electricity is considered the only practicable kind of light, while in other states kerosene lamps and gasoline mantles are sometimes used. Electricity is the most practical method to use wherever it is available.

How to Use Artificial Light.
The total daylight, real and artificial, should be about fourteen hours. There are three ways of increasing the apparent length of the day—by turning on lights very early in the morning, or by keeping them going several hours at night, or by using them both morning and night. While all three methods have given good results, the first is usually found most convenient, because the lights merge into daylight and no ill effects result if they are not turned off promptly.

In using the second method some dimming device is needed with electric lights to lower the illumination gradually. The hens do not get to their roosts if the light is suddenly extinguished. Gasoline and kerosene lamps have to be turned down.

Artificial lighting can be abused, with disastrous effects on the flock. If they are run for too long a day, the hens may produce well for a short time and then begin to moult. If the laying passes 60 per cent, or, in the opinion of some poultry authorities, 50 per cent, there is danger of moulting and consequent cessation of laying. In the spring the lights should never be stopped abruptly. The length of time they are run should be shortened about ten minutes a day until they can be entirely abandoned.

Other Points With Lights.
Fresh water should be given the flock the first thing in the morning when the lights are turned on. Birds of different ages should not be housed together or lighted in the same way. They should be properly graded and flocked according to age. Lighting makes it possible to carry February-hatched pullets through the first fall and winter producing period with less moulting. Yearlings and two-year-old hens are better if started with artificial lights in January, and the method is not as profitable as with pullets. It is considered a questionable practice to turn lights on cullled hens to stimulate egg production. In New Jersey, where the largest amount of work has been done with artificial lighting, it is thought better to sell the culls and buy good birds.

Artificial lights should be suspended from the ceiling so that the entire floor space is lighted. If the roosting closet partition casts a shadow on the roosts, the chickens will go to sleep in the shadow.

Results in New Jersey show that in general the use of lights nearly doubles production during the period of high prices of eggs and greatly increases the usual net return over the cost of lights and feed in the lighted pens. The lighted flock showed better health than the unlighted ones, and the subsequent laying was as good among the birds which had had winter lights as with any of the birds.

A record was kept of 14 New Jersey flocks for five months. The birds averaged 3,802 in number and laid 290,511 eggs altogether. This was a 41 per cent production, whereas a 22 per cent production was usual before the experiment. This meant an increase of 127,158 eggs.

An experiment was made at the agricultural experiment station, New Brunswick, N. J., in which 600 unlighted pullets made a profit of \$3.20 per bird, but 500 lighted birds cleared \$5.07 each. The lights were turned on in the morning. Where an evening lunch was given to 100 pullets the profit per bird was \$5.48. The fuel and operating cost for 1,100 birds was 4.4 cents per bird. An increase of a single egg per bird pays this cost.

AFFECT FARM VALUES BY CHANGES IN TYPE

Certain Crops Have Ceased to Be Profitable.

Farmer in Making New Selection Will Do Well to Look Back and Follow Economic Changes That Have Occurred.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Many farmers, before buying a farm, have saved themselves future losses by looking well into the matter of a probable change in the type of farming practiced in the region they have under consideration. Certain crops may cease to be profitable owing to the development of other regions more favorably situated for their production and marketing. Some crops may have to be abandoned because of disease, insect pests or other causes. The United States Department of Agriculture suggests the test question: Is the farm selected adapted to such possible changes?

For instance, the farm selected may now be growing beans, potatoes, corn, oats, clover and hay, with the prospect that beans and potatoes will soon cease to be profitable. The question then arises—can some other crop or crops be found to replace them? Very few regions have a wide range of crops, especially in general farming, and adaptability to new crops is a very important consideration.

Can the beef-cattle farm be made over into a dairy farm? Can the dairy farm be made into a sheep farm? Can the fruit farm be made into a hay, grain or live stock farm? In many instances it will be found that the farm in question demands a type of farming that cannot be easily changed to meet the needs of changing conditions.

When making a selection, look back and follow the local economic changes that have occurred in the last 30 years, and then judge for yourself whether the farm you have under consideration has the adaptability necessary for meeting the changes that are bound to come in the future.

BEST CABBAGE FOR STORING

Should Be Carefully Grown and of Variety Well Adapted to Keeping, Say Experts.

Cabbage for storing should be carefully grown and handled and of a variety well adapted to keeping, say the vegetable specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. The heads should be solid and all loose leaves removed and practically free from injuries caused by insects and diseases. They should be placed in a storage house so constructed and arranged as to prevent drip from the structure striking the stored heads. It is also essential that moisture and ventilation be so controlled as to prevent the condensation of moisture on the cabbage while in storage. The temperature maintained in common storage houses may vary from 32 to 45 or 50 degrees Fahrenheit, depending on outdoor conditions. In no case should the cabbage be allowed to freeze.

The usual type of construction employed in commercial storage houses is that of a broad, low house with an alley sufficiently wide to admit a team and wagon through the center, and with the storage bins or shelves arranged on either side. The cabbage is placed on shelves in layers, one to three layers deep, or in crates or ventilated bins. Banks, pits and cellars are also largely used for the keeping of the crop.

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OLD SAYING PROVED UNTRUE

For Once, at Least, a Physician Was Willing to Take His Own Medicine.

"They say," remarked George Fallon, the noted aeronaut, of Aquitania, "that doctors never try their own medicine, and in my mind I believe that lie."
"Once, however, I made a stormy passage across the Atlantic and got frightfully seasick. The doctor, a genial young chap, prescribed champagne for me, a half bottle a day, and say, I wish you could see the perfect and unflinching composure with which that young fellow dropped in at the appointed hour and joined me in carrying out his prescription."

No interference. "Didn't you see Jimmy?" dem Mrs. Jones.

"I did," said Mr. Jones. "He playing ball, and when I saw it was on second base."

"Well, why didn't you bring home?"

"My dear, I wasn't in the game was up to the batter to bring home."—Chicago Herald.

As long as you refrain from anything you keep the other guessing.



New Year Gifts

As to the New Year's gift custom, it is supposed to have been derived from the Romans, but is probably much older. Suetonius and Tacitus mention it. Claudius issued a decree forbidding the demanding of presents except on New Year's day. The Roman colonists in Britain found that the Saxons kept New Year's in the same fashion. Starting as a pleasant, friendly custom, it rapidly became an

abuse and a nuisance. The kings and feudal nobility of the Middle Ages practically levied on their dependents for gifts. The presents varied according to sex and rank.