

THE BIG STONE GAP POST.
 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, 1917
 Published Every Wednesday by the
WISE PRINTING COMPANY,
 Incorporated.
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 LINDSEY J. HORTON, Ass't Editor

One Year, - - - \$1.00
 Six Months, - - - .50
 Three Months, - - - .25

Entered according to postal regulations at the post-office at Big Stone Gap as second-class matter.

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"The Prince Of Peace."

And He said, "I came not to bring peace, but a sword."

What a strange contradiction, and how shall we reconcile it?

Again the season is with us when the hearts of Christendom turn to that wonderful Personality and dwell with feelings of awe and wonder on the words that fell from his lips. Again we commemorate the birth of him who shall make us free indeed. But now we came with hearts bowed down under a world sorrow and minds clouded by a veil through which it would seem impossible to pierce. When we would sing acclaim the Prince of Peace, we look out over a world drenched in war and blood. We see on every hand misery and suffering, human conditions which he gave his life to alleviate. And it has been so long since he made the sacrifice, that hope almost turns to despair.

Can we by any means glean one ray of comfort from that cryptic remark which we quote above? Was the omniscient mind projecting itself into the future and seeing the mighty struggles through which his Word must adventure o'er it reached enthronement in the hearts of mankind?

We cannot but believe that such was the case. Too well he knew the awful depravity of the unregenerate heart of man; too well he knew the fearful lust of pride and power against which men must battle and under which they must be ground to powder; too well he knew by what slow degrees the world would be brought to a realization of the fact that but one human attribute can ever be taken into the great beyond—love.

It was said of him that "he was in the world and the world knew him not." If the world, then, knew him not, how much less shall it know his teachings without diligent study and search?

It would be well for the American people, as they approach the anniversary of the Messianic Birth, to again fortify themselves with the teachings of the Son of Man. We should look into the national heart and see that in the momentous conflict before us, we harbor no unworthy motives by which we may help to defer the consummation of his benediction, "Peace on earth, good will to men." It would be well that we again assure our own hearts that we desire but the everlasting Right of Truth.

Having, then, assured our hearts of these things, let us revert to just one incident in his life. Let us recall that when he found the temple of God profaned, with a scourge of cords he drove the profaners from its precincts. Wonderful man! For his own safety he would not contend, but for the honor of his Father, yes!

Was it a divine pointing of

the way for his followers all down the ages? Surely it could not have been a trivial incident of no particular significance to man. Such incidents had no place in his life.

Assured, then, that peace loving, mercy loving, truth loving America has but one aim, the preserving of the sanctity of the Father's temple—that temple which is the great heart of humanity—we can approach this beginning season with hearts attuned to its significance—the anniversary of earth's advent of the Prince of Peace. Coming in this spirit, we, like the shepherds of old on the Judean hills, may catch a glimpse of that light that shall dispell the darkness of ignorance and avarice and shall make of all men followers and champions of the Right.

And as we approach that day let it be with hearts that can feel for all peoples everywhere. Let it be with a fervent hope that soon the clouds that now encompass us may be rifted and dispersed, and the beneficent sun of world-wide righteousness may shine thenceforth forever. Let it be with a faith that the eternal principles of Justice and Right for which we stand will ultimately rule the earth, and man see his fellow man for that which he is—his brother.

RED CROSS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The local chapter of the American Red Cross has answered the appeal that came from the National headquarters in regard to the Christmas membership campaign, and the work of enrolling new members is now well under way. Booths are stationed at the Amuzu Theatre, Kelly Drug Store, The Monte Vista Hotel, Goodloe Bros. Store and the Post Office and are under the management of the following ladies, respectively: Misses Margaret Miller and Louise Goodloe; Miss Minnie Fox, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. W. T. Goodloe, Mrs. R. E. Taggart and Mrs. Hinkel and daughters; Mrs. Otis Mouser, Mrs. Ed Mouser, Mrs. Markle and Mrs. H. E. Fox. It is up to the ladies to see that their respective booths are opened every afternoon from 2 until 5 o'clock, and every member of the Red Cross Society will be called upon to serve her time at this noble work. The Campaign Committee feels confident that busy as all the ladies will be this week, there will not be one who will not gladly and willingly do her part when called upon. Surely any one could spend one hour in these booths.

Saturday, Dec. 22nd, will be Boy Scouts' Day in every corner of the land, at which time our bustling little band of these workers will canvass the town and give every man, woman and child an opportunity to join the Red Cross and thereby add a little comfort and cheer to the lives of our fighting men. So let every body answer the appeal with a crisp, new dollar and a determination to add his weight to this great and growing factor in the fight against the Kaiser, misery and death!

On Sunday every minister in town will have for his text the good that this organization is doing throughout the world, and we hope every one will hear their addresses.

The Red Cross Society in your town has come to stay, so join it now, to-day, without shirking your part of the fight a moment longer. This is all that many men and most women can do to aid their country in her hour of trial, so get busy, pay your dollar, and if you have any time to spare, come around to the work room, roll up your sleeves, and pitch in. Who knows?—your dollar may feed a starving child; your bandage may save a soldier's life. Isn't it worth while to risk it—let's every body try and see.

Under the terms of a decision by Secretary McAdoo, the business of all insurance companies incorporated under the laws of enemy or ally of enemy countries is to be liquidated, with the exception of life insurance companies, which are allowed to continue existing contracts.

J. E. HORSMAN, Florist
 DOOLEY, VA.

Telephone 1030 Norton, Va.
 Another reminder not to forget us when in need of flowers for any occasion. Roses, Violets, Sweet Peas, Orchids, Carnations, Chrysanthemums and Potted Plants. Corsage work and Floral Designs a Specialty. Out of town orders filled promptly by Parcel Post, Special Delivery, Express or Telegraph.

Red Cross

Work Grows in Europe and the United States

The Red Cross has arranged to buy material for surgical dressings, hospital garments, and knitted articles, to be sold at substantially cost prices to the chapters throughout the country to be made up by the women of America. The cost will be \$3,457,200.

To meet conditions arising from Italian reverses the Red Cross dispatched immediately from Paris supplies including 2,000 mattresses, 8,000 blankets, and 10,000 pairs of socks.

The children of Belgium, thousands of whom are orphans are objects of special care. Food and clothing alone have been purchased by the Red Cross for the Belgians at a cost of \$173,000. Many of the children in free Belgium are exposed to shell fire, and in order to save them asylums are being organized in France and Switzerland, where they can be taken to safety.

In Minnesota a special war body has been organized, known as the Minnesota Motor Reserve. Its several hundred members, all automobile owners are pledged to furnish their cars with drivers to transport representatives of the Government who require such service.

Between August 1 and December 1 the railroads transported 1,500,000 men to the training camps and embarkation points. To insure the safety of the men in transit the railroads have adopted an average speed of 25 miles an hour except when freight cars needed for transportation of equipment are included in the trains. The speed is then reduced to 20 miles.

The organization of a Cuban aviation unit to be offered France with complete equipment has been announced in Habana. Probably the Escadrille Cubane, as the flying unit is called, will be the first body of fighting men from Cuba to serve on French soil.

Keep Well
 Do not allow the poisons of undigested food to accumulate in your bowels, where they are absorbed into your system. Indigestion, constipation, headache, bad blood, and numerous other troubles are bound to follow. Keep your system clean, as thousands of others do, by taking an occasional dose of the old, reliable, vegetable, family liver medicine.

Thedford's Black-Draught
 Mrs. W. F. Pickle, of Rising Fawn, Ga., writes: "We have used Thedford's Black-Draught as a family medicine. My mother-in-law could not take calomel as it seemed too strong for her, so she used Black-Draught as a mild laxative and liver regulator. . . . We use it in the family and believe it is the best medicine for the liver made." Try it. Insist on the genuine—Thedford's. 25c a package. E-75

Birthday Party

Master John Bullitt Chalkley entertained a few of his little friends at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Chalkley, on Poplar Hill, last Saturday afternoon from three to six o'clock very delightfully in honor of his ninth birthday.

Little Miss Margaret Baker received the girls' prize for guessing nearest the number of beans in a jar and Master Frank Sayers the boys' prize.

After playing numerous other interesting games the little guests were invited into the dining room, where they were served delicious brick ice cream, cake, candies, apples and oranges at the large dining table. The center piece for the table being the white birthday cake, on which was burning nine small red, white and blue candles, each little guest received a rubber balloon as a favor of the occasion.

Beginning January 1, 1918, I shall endeavor to operate as near as possible my grocery business according to the administration's ideas in regard to war time conditions, and with the co-operation of my patrons I will give them the benefit of all possible saving in unnecessary expenses.

E. F. BURGESS,
 Big Stone Gap, Va.

Navy League Notes.

During the past week we sent a set of knitted garments to four of our home boys; namely, to Edens and Willis of the Navy and Bradley and John of the Aviation Corps.

The Masonic Lodge of town gave a benefit for the Navy League, Tuesday night, December 11. A delightful program was rendered, delicious refreshments served and a free will offering lifted. This offering amounted to \$37.69 which will be used for yarn for knitted garments for home boys only. We extend our vote of thanks to the Masons for their material furthering our work.

A new supply of yarn has been received, and we solicit the service of more knitters. Novices will be cheerfully taught to knit and thus help to keep our boys warm.

NOTICE

Our Mr. Moore will be with our Bristol store during December, and will be glad to see all his friends and patrons. Prompt attention paid to all mail orders, transportation charges paid on same. We have moved into our new store, 409 State Street and now have the handsomest store, as well as the largest and most elegant stock in Southwest Virginia.

D. B. RYLAND & Company,
 The Jewelers.

The port of New York is under military control, the waterfronts being guarded by the Regular Army. Fully armed guards prohibit the passage of any person, alien or citizen, who can not establish a business reason for access to the waterfront areas. The same military control will be established at all other American ports and may include factories engaged in war work.

Red Cross relief shipments to Europe average over 10,000 tons a month. In one shipment was a consignment of 559 soccer footballs and 250 rugby footballs for American soldiers, purchased with funds raised by Harvard graduates.

According to Secretary Daniels, there was turkey for the Thanksgiving dinner of every man in the Navy. A naval supply ship arrived in European waters in time to furnish the men on the submarine-hunting destroyers with the traditional Thanksgiving fare.

Applications for war risk insurance are now far past the billion-dollar mark. All soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses in active service may buy insurance from the Government at the rate of from 65 cents a month at the age of 21 to \$1 21 a month at the age of 51 for each \$1,000.

WANTED—Highest cash prices paid for fat cattle.
 E. A. HARNER,
 Big Stone Gap, Va.

We have lots of nice useful things for **CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.**

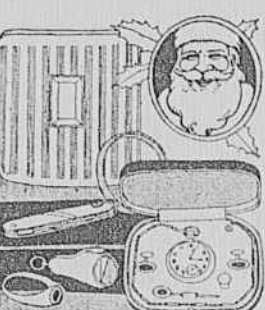


NO USE OF "THROWING YOUR MONEY AWAY" WHEN YOU BUY CHRISTMAS GIFTS. WHEN YOU CAN COME TO OUR HARDWARE STORE AND BUY SOME "USEFUL" PRESENT WHICH WILL BE MORE APPRECIATED BY THE ONE WHO RECEIVES IT THAN SOME NO-ACCOUNT "TRINKET."

AND THEN, IN OUR HARDWARE STORE A LITTLE MONEY WILL BUY LOTS OF PRESENTS. COME IN AND SEE; AND—OUR HARDWARE'S THE BEST; IT STANDS THE TEST.

Hamblen Brothers
 Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Jewelry is the Ideal Xmas Gift



Select your gifts from our up-to-date offerings in Jewelry. We have made extensive preparations for the Christmas trade so that we could merit the patronage of yourself and friends by giving equal and better value for the money than can be had elsewhere. We offer you a complete and wide stock of

Unusual Values in Jewelry Gifts
 from as low as 50c, \$1.00, \$2.00 and up

in worthy and dependable articles, priced at the lowest figure possible, including:

Watches	Diamonds	Rings	Silverware
Chains; Charms	Necklaces	Birthmonth Jewelry	Clocks
Scarf Pins	Toilet Sets	Crosses and Rosaries	Bar Pins
Silver Novelties	Fobs, Brooches	Hair Ornaments	Lavalliers

Witt & Booher
 BIG STONE GAP, VA.

Dinner Sets
Odd Pieces in Fine China
Pyrex Baking Ware
Aluminum Ware
Community Silver
Flash Lights--

Well, the Post wont allow us space in which to tell you of the many items in our stock which are useful and much appreciated as Christmas Gifts.

GET 'EM AT

SMITH'S

RADFORD STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
 Students can enter at the beginning of the second quarter early in January or the beginning of the third quarter in March and find all the courses they will possibly wish. Free State Scholarships, very moderate expenses, and courses suitable for all kin's of teachers and prospective teachers.
 For Catalogue, Booklet of Views, and Full Information write.
 John Preston McConnell, President. East Radford, Va.