

PASTOR NAMES BLESSINGS FOR WHICH AMERICA IS GRATEFUL

Prosperity, Peace, Growth of Humanity and Advancement of Religion Are Some of Reasons for Thankfulness, Says Rev. W. O. Shank.

Pa. 114—Offer Unto God Thanksgiving.

BY REV. W. O. SHANK, Pastor East Side Baptist Church.

THE season of Thanksgiving is upon us. Our President has designated November 26 as a National holiday. Let us observe it in offering our thanks to God for the many blessings we have received in the past year.

Perhaps never since our Pilgrim fathers first offered their thanks as a token of appreciation of divine providence has there been a more auspicious occasion for observation of Thanksgiving day.

When we think of the ominous clouds that hung heavily over us during the past year, threatening to plunge us into war, dissension and starvation, but now see those same clouds rapidly dissipating, we heartily offer our sincere thanks to God who so mercifully spared us.

America more than any other Nation has great reasons for being thankful.

When we survey our present conditions and compare them with our sister nations we find that we really have many things to be thankful for. Let us name some of them.

The past year has been a wonderful one in point of production and wealth accumulation. Our harvests are abundant, our granaries overflowing, our warehouses crowded and our banks filled with gold and silver.

Our country is rich in grain, in vegetables, in fruit, in minerals, in wool, in lumber, in cattle and manufactured goods that we cannot get freight cars, steamboats and other conveyances sufficient to remove these products.

Our Portland banks report an increase in deposits from September 2, 1915, to September 2, 1916, of \$7,151,293.32.

The banks of the state of Oregon have had a large increase in deposits during the past year. On September 12, 1916, the total resources of all banks and trust companies in the state were \$17,561,227.35, an increase of \$1,621,751.71, as compared with September 2, 1915, a gain of \$1,067,711.29 over the combined resources two months ago.

The total deposits, including the amount due banks and bankers on September 12, last, were \$149,942.62, an increase of \$17,704,752.27, as compared with September 2, 1915.

Louis and discounts on September 12 amounted to \$97,542,575, a gain of \$10,437,236.16, as compared with September 2, 1915.

Per Capita Wealth is \$2000. In 1890 the wealth of the United States was \$61,459,000,000. At one time we could have purchased Russia, Turkey, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Australia, South Africa and South America.

We are told that America now is estimated to be worth 200,000,000,000 expressed in land, ores, lumber, banks,

factories and the like. This divided by the 100,000,000 people in America would give each man, woman and child the neat sum of \$2000 each. It is estimated that America's income this year is \$25,000,000,000. This would mean an average of \$1250 to each family were it to be equally divided.

America is not only rich in natural resources, but she has no National debt of any consequence. For this unusual prosperity the American people should be thankful.

There have been times in the history of peoples, when rabid diseases swept over the country leaving millions of dead. In the years 1334 to 1351 the bubonic plague spread over China, India, Persia, Russia, Germany, Italy, France, England and Norway, causing the death of millions of people.

In the 16th century typhus fever broke out in France, Italy and Hungary, and in the early part of the 17th century it spread over all Europe, killing thousands upon thousands of people.

In the 17th century yellow fever started in Central America, doing much harm.

In the 18th century smallpox became epidemic in France, Prussia and Russia. It is estimated that 10,000,000 deaths resulted.

Smallpox is prevalent even now and is uncontrolled by vaccination in parts of Asia and Central Africa.

From 1817 to 1847 cholera broke out in Europe and millions of people suffered and died from this fearful disease.

It is said that owing to the splendid hygienic conditions in the European trenches there is little likelihood of epidemic disease, peculiar to war, breaking out.

In America infantile paralysis appeared, but fortunately our medical fraternity succeeded in stamping it out.

There are at the present time 1,000,000 people in America suffering with tuberculosis. This is a dreaded disease. It kills 200,000 persons each year in America, or one every three minutes.

But the percentage of deaths in proportion to the increased population is decreasing. With the present war being waged by the medical fraternity, such as building adequate hospitals, dispensaries, sanatoriums, open air institutions and hygienic schools of instruction, together with lectures, sermons and the dissemination of literature, we will eventually conquer this awful disease.

It is fair to presume that with the advanced methods of coping with functional and organic diseases, together with right living and faith in God, all manner of human ailments will be entirely eliminated.

Honor Necessary to Peace. The word peace was never more significant to the American people than now. Look at Mexico, torn to tatters with strife. Look at China, with her internal dissensions. Look at continental Europe in that awful conflict. How beautiful is the word peace. How terrible is war.

Much has been said of late regarding peace. Some have said that America may have international peace by patiently waiting. This means peace at any price.

Others maintain that peace may be secured with world powers by demanding our rights and forcing an observance of international agreements, such as the Monroe Doctrine and other

agreements. But where there is no regard for national honor there can be no hope of peace.

Still others believe that the only way to obtain peace is by war. Thus all Europe is plunged in the throes of war. But this is demanding peace by brute force.

The only true way to have permanent, universal peace is to observe the golden rule. "All things, therefore, whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them." Not until men emulate the life of Jesus Christ can we hope for abiding peace. This means more than the acceptance of Christianity; it means we must express it and live it in our daily lives. When all nations are willing to be ruled by love, love that comes from the Father above, then the dove of peace will sit serenely above the portals of every nation.

Let us all pray for a peace that will make us friends, not enemies; that will cause us to love, not hate; that will inspire us to extend the glad hand of brotherhood, not the sword. Such a peace will make "the whole world kin."

We have been kept from the ravages of war. Thank God for this fact. Millions of American people are saying this with me. Students of the recent European war marvel at the fact that America has escaped being drawn into war. And truly, does not America owe something to our sister nations across the seas?

When America was struggling in 1776 for national liberty did not France send us Lafayette with his soldiers and the French admiral with his ships? Do we not owe France something?

During the Spanish-American war in 1898—did not England place her navy at our command? Twice she lent a helping hand? Do we not owe England something?

During our own civil war over the slavery question it looked as though Great Britain and Europe were going to recognize the Southern Confederacy and maintain slavery, but just at the crucial moment did not Russia send a battleship to our shores and drop anchor in New York harbor? Do we not owe Russia something? These nations are asking the question, why America's war attitude in the present war.

War Evaded Despite Disputes. Now, on the other hand, in the present European war we have had our troubles with England, forcing her to remove her embargo from American shipped goods. We have had trouble with Germany, demanding that she cease sinking unarmed vessels upon which American people travel. We have had our troubles with Mexico, requiring her to protect American property and life within her borders. We have antagonized Germany by furnishing arms and ammunition to warring nations.

Yet, in the midst of all these perplexing problems, what a marvel we have evaded war. And what a blessing! Look at the devastating work of war! Homes are gone; property is destroyed; families are scattered; men are crippled; literary, industrial and financial progress is retarded; famine and disease are rampant; hatred engendered, and a heavy debt incurred, running into billions of dollars, which will hang like a millstone around the necks of the people. Again, let us all say, thank

God that we have been kept out of war. We have no Czar to rule with an iron hand. We have no King as a mere figurehead in government. We have our beloved Presidents, chosen by the people. And what a glorious line of men they are! Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, McKinley, and last, but not least, Wilson.

There are two evils in the political world which mean ruin to any nation. One is authority invested in the hands of a few; the other is democracy run to excess. The solution of a happy medium will insure a successful form of government for any people.

But I would not have you think, friends, that our country is ruled altogether by man power; it is not. God has a large place in our governmental affairs. Our Constitution provides a place for him. We date all our court records from the birth of his son.

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Following is a table taken from the World's Almanac, giving a few countries where the percentage of illiteracy is highest:

Table with columns: Country, Year, Per. Cent. Includes entries for Armenia, Austria, Cuba, India, Mexico, Russia, Serbia.

In America there are 5,500,000 over 16 years of age who cannot read or write. This means 10.7 per cent.

But America has the best system of schools of any nation in the world. We have our public schools, our high schools, our academies, our colleges, universities, seminaries; we have our polytechnic, our law, our medical and business institutions. Surely no one need want for a place and opportunity to fit himself for the duties of life.

Home is Unit of Government. What a wonderful institution is the home! The home is sanctioned by God, legalized by the state, and honored by man.

The home is the unit of power in a government. No state, no republic, where the voice of the people rules, can have greater power than emanates from the home.

When fond recollection presents the orchard, the meadows, the deep, tangled woodlot, and every loved spot that my infancy knew.

Spirit of Brotherhood Growing. There is a growing consciousness on the part of our American people that it is a grand thing to play the part of a big brother.

Statistics show that the greater percent of lawbreakers and criminals come from that class. How necessary it is for parents to govern their children from babyhood up, that they may be law-abiding men and women.

The home is the standard of the moral and social life of a community. Not one single home, but the aggregate. How much time, money and energy are wasted on moral and social reforms? The state is compelled to do what the home neglects to do in these matters.

What a transformation there would be in our moral and social life if there were higher ideals and finer principles taught in the home!

But, alas! the American home is in jeopardy today. No other institution is being undermined like it. Birth control, free love, divorce and other evil forces are working indulously to break down the home.

Note the following table, which shows an alarming increase in divorces in Multnomah County. These figures were compiled in the Multnomah County Clerk's office:

Table with columns: Year, Divorces, Per. Cent. Includes entries for 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915.

Lessons on Marriage Suggested. What can be done to stop this encroaching evil? Teach the religious sanctity of marriage vows to children. Encourage church and home weddings.

Empower the minister only to perform marriages. Require a rigid examination mentally, morally, physically and financially of both the contracting parties. Enact stringent laws making it impossible to divorce except for reasons given on Biblical grounds.

Forbidden remarriage, at least one year from the time of the divorce. If such laws, and more, were made, there would be more homes preserved, fewer children thrown out upon the mercy of the state and a lesser number of broken-hearted wives and disappointed husbands.

The home is a haven of rest to many weary souls. Many a tired husband, many a disappointed boy, many a heart-broken daughter, many a sad mother has been cheered, encouraged and blessed by the comforts, sympathy and love that abound in the home.

How beautiful for members of the family to gather around the fireside and tell each other their secrets, their sorrows, their ambitions and their joys. The sweet memories of early home life abide forever.

Friends, let us all stop for a moment on Thanksgiving day and give thanks to God for our American homes that we love so dearly. Let us remember there is some dear mother there, some kind-hearted father, a brother or sister whose love and sympathy throughout all these years has not wavered.

How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood. When fond recollection presents the orchard, the meadows, the deep, tangled woodlot, and every loved spot that my infancy knew.

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quartz to obtain the precious metal. It is not necessary to break the honey comb to partake of the sweet honey; it is not the perfume of a rose enhanced when the flower is crushed under the heel? Does not the sandal bush kiss the blade that cuts into its fibers? Are not the finer, grander traits of man portrayed in times of crises?

The world is not growing worse, it is growing better. Man's conception of wrongdoing may be more highly developed and magnified, until sin looks blacker than it formerly did, but the sin itself is no more heinous. The more powerful the searchlight the plainer we can see objects in the distance. So the nearer man approaches the great, divine light of God the more hideous sin appears to him.

May the searchlight of man's soul be so powerfully magnified by the Holy Spirit that he can discern the good in humanity from the bad and having once seen it devote his strength of manhood to the development and nurture of that good, until the universal spirit of brotherhood has come to stay.

Church Has Greater Place. Next to the home the church is the greatest institution. It has a permanent place in the affairs of men. The history of the church shows man's varied experiences in his relations to it. The church stands in greater favor with man today than ever before. Witness the large sums of money given to its support. Note the men's missionary movement which has gripped millions of men in America.

Hear what the great statesman says. Let us say regarding the influence of the church in favoring republics: "No man can study the movement of modern civilization from an utterly impartial standpoint and not realize that Christianity and the spirit of Christianity is the only basis for the hope of modern civilization and the growth of popular self government." It is to be guided by whom? It is to be guided by the young Christian students and scholars, who exercise influence at the head of their government.

Japan is calling for our Christian educated missionaries to mold the moral, educational and governmental concepts of her people.

India is begging for our missionaries to tell her people more about the Christ.

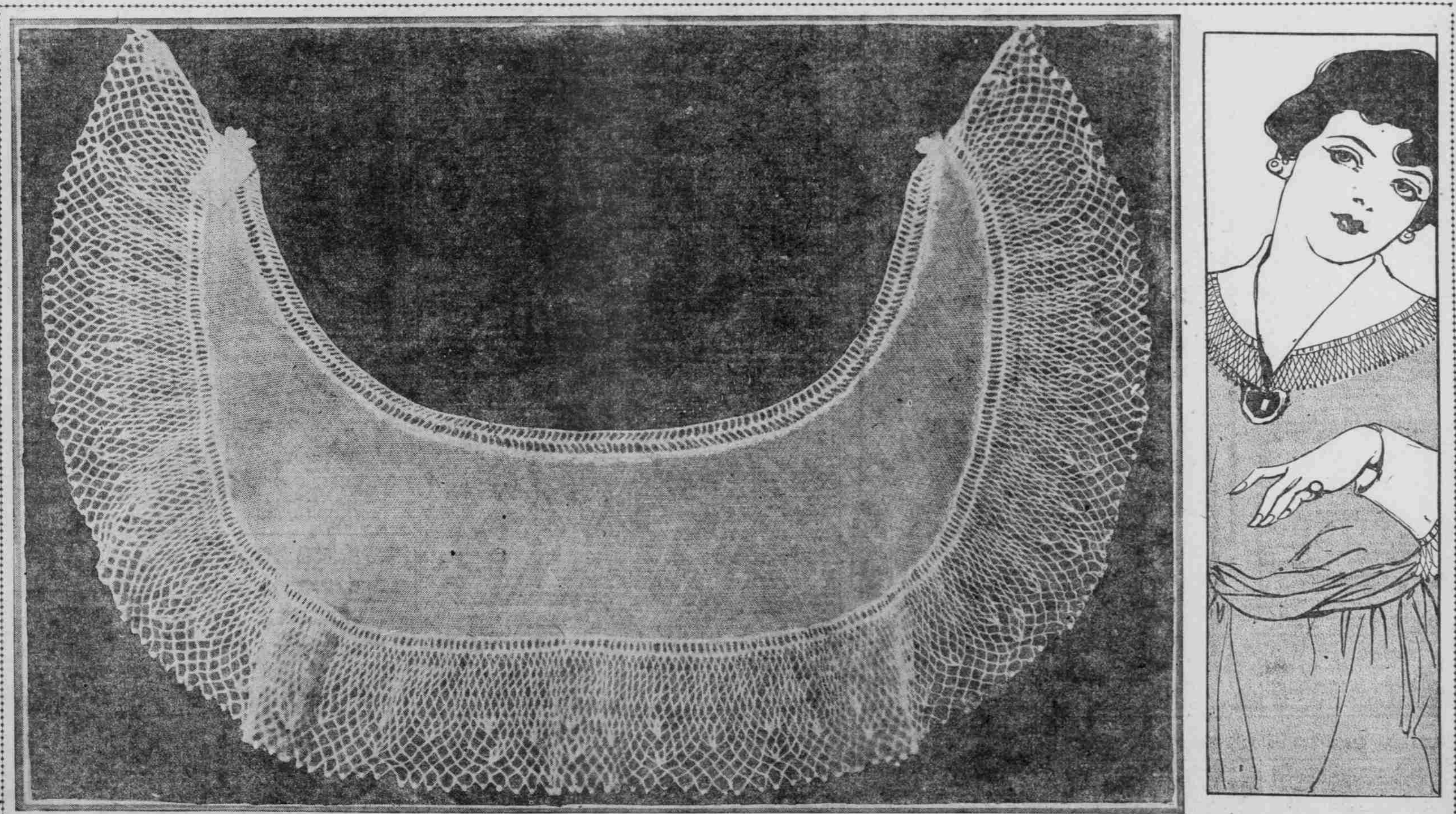
The soldier boys in the trenches are eager for the Bible; they read it in preference to any other work.

Soon the world will honor the Church of Jesus Christ.

Words cannot tell the wonderful influence the Christian church has had on American life. But, above all, it disseminates love, truth, honor, purity and Godliness. How we love the church in her mission of mercy!

Thanksgiving day! What does it mean? It means that the American people should thank God for the privileges of life, for the opening of the storehouses of his riches for our good; for his benign love and favor; for the divine hand that overrules and protects; for the provision of man's redemption from sin and death, and for the star of immortal hope which he has set in human hearts. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

COLLAR WITH EDGING OF MALTESE LACE AND NETTING



Use Barbour's linen thread No. 100 or Collingbourne's pure silk, Art. 1148; long eyed sewing needle, or 1/2 inch staple, smallest mesh stick, medium netting needle.

right hand prong of staple (leaving loop loose enough to bring the knot into center of hairpin), holding staple in left hand, place thread over fingers of left hand as in other crocheting, turn staple so as to make a loop around the second prong, which now is at the right hand

side. Put hook into left hand loop, draw thread through, making a loop on hook. * turn staple making a loop on other prong, make a chain stitch by drawing thread through loop on hook. Put hook into left hand loop (always picking up the top or front loop), and make

a double crochet. Repeat directions from *. Make one row plain hairpin lace for around top of collar.

Make lace edging for lower edge of collar as follows: Make one row plain hairpin lace for the upper edge of lace, into the net six rows plain over smallest mesh stick.

Seventh row—Net ten loops plain, then ten three loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row.

Eighth row—Net plain. Ninth row—Net 8 loops, then net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * across.

Tenth row—Net plain. Eleventh row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time just below the first cluster of 3 loops of seventh row.

Twelfth row—Net plain. Thirteenth row—Now, instead of using netting needle, use a long eyed sewing needle, using as long a thread as you can work with, so the net will have to join on any more thread lengths than necessary. Pick up on needle one bead each time before making a mesh. Repeat across the lower edge of lace edging.

Fourteenth row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row. Fifteenth row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row.

Sixteenth row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row. Seventeenth row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row.

Eighteenth row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row. Nineteenth row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row.

Twentieth row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row. Twenty-first row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row.

Twenty-second row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row. Twenty-third row—Net 2 loops over mesh stick at one time, repeat from * to end of row.