

**THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS**

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SPRINGFIELD, DECEMBER 20, 1923

**IS THE COUNTRY PROSPEROUS?**

While there is a depression in the agricultural product market the country as a whole is very prosperous. What's more it is a stable prosperity and not the kind enjoyed immediately following the close of the war. Julius H. Barnes, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, in a speech recently reflected the condition of the country as a whole when he said:

- "Our largest cotton consumption;
  - "Our largest pig iron production;
  - "Our largest steel ingot production;
  - "Our largest crude oil production;
  - "Our largest automobile and truck production;
  - "Our largest residential construction;
  - "Our largest production of locomotives;
  - "Our largest volume of retail sales;
  - "Our largest volume of railroad car loadings."
- Then speaking particularly of the American growth since the pre-war year of 1913, he made these statements:
- "The population has increased 14 millions of people, with their enlarged requirements.
  - "The annual national income has increased from 34 billion to 50 billion dollars.
  - "The aggregate savings deposits have increased from 6 million to 14 billion dollars.
  - "The aggregate deposits in national banks have increased from 6 million to 17 billion dollars."

One ship brought into New York harbor 5,000 tons of German toys. It is evident that the German people like us again and are soon to read the trade marks, "made in Germany."

Beware of the salesman who slanders his competitor's product. Usually he is sending out a

smoke screen.

While there are a lot of calamity howlers things are not so bad. A lot of the complaints come from paid agitators and others who wish to keep in the limelight. The people who are really doing something worth while are not complaining.

American women spend 150 million dollars a year on hair nets. There is where some of the net profits are going.

**Editorial Comment**

**USE OF CHRISTMAS TREES APPROVED**

Large quantities of young Douglas firs were reported to have been shipped from this state to California and Hawaii to be used as Christmas trees. Oregon's firs will thus help to make it seem like Christmas in balmy Honolulu. In the United States 5 million Christmas trees are used each year, and in the eastern States with their relatively dense population, trees suitable for use at Christmas are becoming scarce. This year the New England crop was shut off on account of a quarantine against the spread of the gipsy moth. On the Atlantic Coast it is reported that it is becoming profitable to grow Christmas trees. Some day we may do that in the Northwest.

Does the age-long custom of cutting Christmas trees at the holiday season constitute a wasteful use of forest material? This is a question often asked of Government and state forest officials. Along in December each year the U. S. Forest Service expects to receive letters protesting against the cutting of young trees for Christmas. It is usually pointed out that several million trees are used each year which if left to grow to maturity would produce a considerable quantity of lumber. Is it not, therefore, an economic waste to use them as Christmas trees?

The Forest Service believes that the use of young trees as Christmas trees is entirely justified. To what higher use can trees be put than to bring joy and happiness to little children. The greatest caution, however, should be urged against the indiscriminate cutting of trees with no regard to the number or condition of those left. Nature is often very bounteous in the number of young trees which spring up on old cut-over areas or burns. Frequently there are so many that growth is retarded. Under such conditions, it is a well recognized principle of forestry practice that a portion of the trees should be removed to afford room for the remainder to make their best growth. In stands of young second growth of this kind, the cutting of Christmas trees can be made to serve as an actual

benefit if made in the nature of thinning rather than a clean cutting.

It is too often the practice for city folks to drive out into the country and to cut a half-dozen young trees along the highway, selecting one out of the lot, leaving the re-

mainder. If you must do this, at least do not cut them along the highways, and get permission from the owner to the land. Automobiles and good roads are contributing too heavily to the despoiling of the shrubbery along our routes of travel.—Forest Service Bulletin.



the knowing-how in milling

Many mills even today are putting out inferior flour because they don't know how to make good flour. Years of experience and study taught us how to make—



**FEATHERFLAKE FLOUR**

That's why it makes bread "light as a feather."

"It's a joy to sell Featherflake," grocers say.

**Springfield Mill & Grain Co.**

**Our Christmas Thoughts**

**I**F HUMAN NATURE is the combination of self-seeking, ambition and greed which some materialistic philosophers assert it is; if life is a contest in which all finer sentiments are subordinated to self-advancement and success at any price, how is it that the spirit of Christmas has not only endured but grown in power during nearly 2,000 years? If the pessimists are right, it would seem that the light would have been extinguished long since and with it the spirit would have departed.

Were history and our daily lives not replete with evidences—noble evidences too—of the unselfishness in men's hearts, we might be impressed with the teachings of the sordid and the carplings of the morbid. Christmas is the symbol and a celebration of love—love which is synonymous with charity and which our purest teaching tells us is the finest attribute of the soul. We, who during the past few weeks have watched the Yuletide preparations, are prepared to say that they represent a beautiful manifestation of that attribute.

We have noted the working girl taking home at night her parcels; contributions wrung from the dole of her necessities, in order that she may testify to her love and bring a measure of cheer to some child, some relative, some friend. Tired from her daily toil mayhap, but in her eyes that something which transcends all fatigue; transcends, in fact, everything else in the world and comparable only to that which shone from a mother's eyes upon the Babe in Bethlehem. Friends, in the face of these and so many other manifestations which we are all witnessing during this season, what right has one of us to say that the Light of the World grows dimmer?

Our hearts tell us there is no dimming. Let us be thankful for the extra radiance of Christmas. Let us seek to carry it into our daily lives. Our wish is, that this occasion, at least, will help all of us to forget our tribulations and sorrows, our complaints and animosities, and that it will be to all a day of cheer and everything which Yuletide typifies. The words of Tiny Tim have never been improved upon and we here invoke them: "God bless us all!"

THE PUBLISHERS

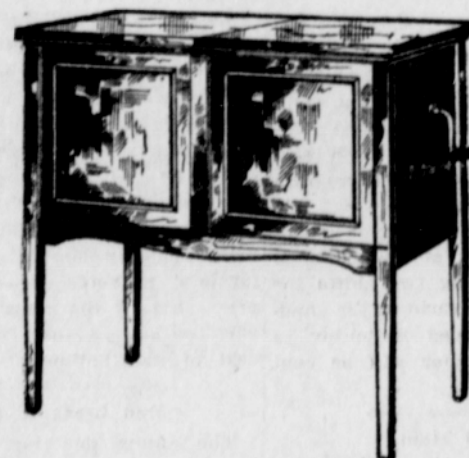
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10 Double 75c Records Free With Each Instrument

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Why not take advantage of this offer and have one of these models set aside for Christmas delivery?

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