

# Christmas

## Edition

### More Useful Gifts Attract Shoppers This Christmas

Contrary to stories of hard times and scarce money, Springfield merchants, as a whole, think there is just as much money being spent on Christmas presents this year as last. The difference lies in the practicality of the presents bought, they say.

"It's the first year I ever saw so many people buying sensible presents," declared S. C. Wright of the Wright and Sons Hardware company. Many of these presents are for the home, or are the kind that can be enjoyed by the whole family he continued. His store has sold, especially large lots of furniture, dishes, floor lamps, plate glass mirrors, and, for children, tricycles, kiddie cars, and little table and chair sets. Several of these sets have had to be made to order to fill the demand, Mr. Wright said.

"Of course, we do not handle small toys," Mr. Wright explained, "but it does seem that people are spending their money on more useful things."

After the first of December, to the tenth or fifteenth of the month, there is always a slump in Springfield buying, Mr. Wright said. This, he explained, is because mill workers hesitate to spend money until they know if the mills will resume work after Christmas. Once assured that they will, they do their usual Christmas buying. This happens every year, Mr. Wright said, and this year does not differ from the rest.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Turner of the Turner Novelty store, have also noticed the difference in buying this year. "Last year we sold so many little things," Mrs. Turner explained, "but it seems they're buying better things this year. We have a much bigger stock than last year, and many of our most expensive things, such as doll carriages, toilet sets, dishes and rugs are sold out."

The difference lies in the class of goods purchased, Mr. Turner explained. Although the amount of money spent is about equal to that spent last year, more people are buying useful things, and not so much bric-a-brac. "Some people seem to be downhearted about business," Mr. Turner concluded, "but we're expecting a bigger year than before. Already we have had to send in many orders to re-stock our store."

Radios are now popular Christmas gifts and much interest along this line is reported by W. H. Adrian, local Atwater Kent, Crosley and Zenith agent.

Many people will take Ford car enrollments for Christmas. Following the showing of the new car the first time in Springfield Monday, E. R. Danner, local dealer, reports a score of orders on the books.

Grocery stores and meat markets expect to do an exceptional good business at this Christmas time.

Mrs. Doan Head G. A. R. Ladies  
Mrs. Bert Doane was elected president of the Ladies of the G. A. R. at a meeting at the home of the retiring president, Mrs. C. F. Eggimann, Friday afternoon.

Other officers elected were: Mrs. Walter Laxton, senior vice-president; Mrs. Mary Platt, junior vice-president; Mrs. C. F. Eggimann, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Pearl Metcalf, musician; Mrs. Nettie Metcalf, patriotic instructor; and Mrs. Mary C. Magill, chaplain.

Merry Christmas—and a Happy New Year to each customer, without extra charge.

If your radio doesn't work well, let us fix it. Fix-It Shop, South Fifth Phone 172. J-12.

### - and Worshipped Him -



**"AND when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell, and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

Mathew 2:11

### Religion

DR. ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, world-famous scientist, in an address on the subject of Evolution, declared that religion was one of the most striking examples of evolution. This was not in the way of controversy or heresy, but was merely emphasizing what was already taught in every important theological school if importance in the United States.

Scholars have been pointing out that there was a progression of doctrine in the Bible, the God of the Old Testament not having the ideals presented in the new.

There is no doubt but that religion has advanced greatly from the days of Moses until the days of Christ.

Christ Jesus is said to have come "in the fullness of time"; that is, he came when the development of mankind and its stage of progress warranted him.

Since his day there has been a great progress made. Formerly, religious denominations were cruel. It was common to have fierce fighting among sects and both Protestants and Catholics were guilty of things of which they would not nowadays be guilty. The idea of God has undergone considerable variations. God may be the same "yesterday, today and forever," but our understanding and apprehension of Him progress.

By Dr. Frank Crane

We have rejected the old tribal gods, the god of wrath and vengeance, and have substituted the god of Love.

As the progress of men's minds has broadened, as their understanding and sympathy have deepened their conception of God has improved, and no one can look at the activities of churches today and compare them with those of yesterday and not see that there has been a great advance.

The missionaries in foreign countries are not so much interested in making converts to their beliefs as they are in doing good to the people.

The recent activities of the churches have all been in the line of helping humanity rather than of fighting certain beliefs.

In other words, there has been a definite evolution of religion from merely belief in certain tenets to practical helpfulness of mankind. Religion means nothing more than a devotion to the general good. Whatever there is of God nowadays is a God who inhabits all of the people and whatever makes for the welfare of all mankind is pleasing to Him.

Religion, like everything else, must be tested by its results. Its triumph is not due to its wanting all people to believe in certain things so much as it is in improving our well being.

Christ—whose birthday we now observe—knew all of this—and to practice "PEACE ON EARTH."

### Do Your Share; Catch the True Christmas Spirit]

By EMMA FLO WILSON  
At Christmas Play, and make good cheer,  
For Christmas comes, but once a year.

These lines were written four hundred years ago, by an almost forgotten poet, Thomas Tusser.

And can't you picture the Christmas celebration of his day—the enormous Yule-log brought into the great hall from the forest, to all warmth and light, the wreaths of holly and mistletoe, Christmas candles alight, minstrel singers, merry feasting at the rough banquet table! And withal—the glorious spirit of good fellowship and the sacred interpretation put upon the words, "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men!"

That spirit is no less in evidence today—and the Christmas star is still one of joy and love!

Once a year comes the opportunity to each person to be born anew. No matter how weary, how self-centered, how narrow, how shriveled or how engrossed we have become in the twelve months pursuit of money, glory or success, the chance comes at Christmas for all of us to become new men and women.

Selfish gain may dominate our lives for eleven months and two weeks, but for the fortnight before Christmas at least unselfish love should be the triumphant note.

The king of the Christmas season is the child.

How much happier we all would be if we could grasp his carefree spirit and give our love as unstintingly!

The child puts his heart into the Christmas and therefore he takes a heart full of love with him when the day is done.

Christmas is the time to remember all the big and little kindness which have been bestowed upon us throughout the entire year, and however you remember it—whether with an expensive Christmas present or with a greeting card—remember it with love, with this in mind your gifts will not be coarsened by any desire for display or to receive something in return, and it will be far better to send the simple Christmas greeting than a showy gift that lacks the Christmas spirit.

For no matter how much money you spend, you can give no more than your friendship or love with each gift.

The rich, happy beyond their deserts, should not let this day pass without making happier some of those for whom life has been less easy. You need not go far today to find a child with sorrowful, longing eyes, or perhaps an outstretched hand. Don't leave that hand empty.

You will find easily some man or woman, old, cold and poor. Don't pass without putting at least a moment's brightness into the tired faces and faded eyes. The kindness of the individual makes life possible in a world that is hard for so many. Do your share—big or little—give happiness to many if you can—to one or two at least.

And do not forget—all you who will eat, drink, and make merry, that Christmas is, after all, Christ's mass, and it does not mean squandering, folly, gluttony—but a holy and beautiful thing!

Then yours will be indeed "A Merry Christmas."

For general plumbing and repair work call the Fix-It Shop, phone 172, South Fifth Street. J-12.

