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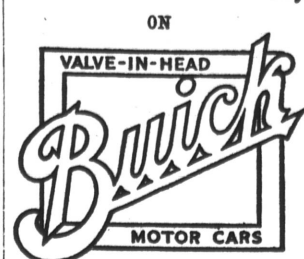
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To You and Yours--Merry Christmas

To the good people of this community, we extend the season's greetings, and hope down deep in our hearts that this may be the Merriest Christmas you have yet had.

It is a custom as ancient as the hills, and yet as beautiful as it is ancient, to turn with a warm heart at this period of the year to those about us, and to feel again the spirit felt by those away back in early days when the brightest star of all hovered over Bethlehem. We seem to catch the anxious yearning that stirred the three wise men as they followed that star, and we seem to feel in our own hearts the peace which fell upon them and about them as they knelt about the manger which cradled the object of their fondest hopes. Our hearts warm toward each other anew, and we feel again the majesty of the One whose birth we have come to celebrate.

Blessed with good health, good homes and good neighbors; surrounded by a bountiful harvest of that which will sustain us through another year; enjoying the peace which was promised two thousand years ago and the good-will of our fellow-men, this then, should be the Merriest Christmas of them all. Passing safely through twelve months of prosperity, unmarked by strife or pestilence, we come to the season of good cheer and light hearts happy in the privilege of having near us those whom we love and who love us, those who bear us no malice, those who bring us, with joyous smiles and steadfast hands the palm leaf of friendship and fraternalism.

Never before have we had more cause to thank the One whose birth we celebrate for having led us safely to this season. And at no time have we had more reason to lay aside the spirit of ill-will. Truly it is the season of rejoicing. Truly it is a time for pledging anew our devotion to the nation, the state and the community, and all the people who live therein.

We bring you at this Christmas time the greeting of good cheer, out of a heart that feels and knows the goodness of your own. We offer to you and yours again the wish that the same Providence who guided safely in the past may do so through many more years to come. We wish for you all that goes to make your life move along like a song. And may the peace and contentment, the love and the happiness which now hovers about you as a benediction continue with you and yours all the days of your life.

MAIL ORDER HOUSES

Here is an editorial from the Emporia Gazette, published by William Aline White.

A doctor in a small town purchased an item or two from one of the large mail order houses—enough to get his name on their mailing list. Later on when he failed to order more goods the catalog house's follow up man got busy and in one of his letters asked a number of stereotyped questions as to why the former no longer patronized his house. The following is the sensible and hard headed doctor's reply:

"Your letter of recent date asking why I had not traded with you for a long time, received and as you ask me to tell you frankly why, I will give you a few reasons.

"First—I am in business in this community, with its varied industries for my support. I cannot ask the merchants of the town for their support if I do not give them mine.

"Second—In looking over my books I fail to find either Mr.—, Mr.— or other of the company's names, which reminds me that neither of these gentlemen have ever given me a penny's patronage. Why is this? Am I too far away, or have neither of them needed a physician, or are they afraid of the mail order plan when it comes to the practice of medicine? I can certainly give as good satisfaction by mail as your house can and will appreciate a call from either of them when in need of medical service.

"Third—In looking over the subscription lists for improving our streets and public highways, I have failed to find the name of either member of your firm down for one penny to assist in the work. Also I have failed to find your name on any charity lists where help has been rendered to our poor; in other words, you are not down as a contributor to our Helping Hand Society. In fact in all the movements for the betterment of our conditions, where our community has needed the united efforts of her public spirited citizens, I have failed to find your name among the list of our contributors. Your name is not on our city tax books, nor do I find where you have paid a city license to do a mercantile business in competition with our home merchants.

"These are a few answers to your questions and I trust you will see the justice in them."

That the prosperity of a town may properly be gauged by the prosperity of its merchants needs no arguments. If the people of the town spend their money out of town—send it to Chicago catalogue houses—the merchants get just that much less and the town loses that much trade and that much money, loss inasmuch as that money would eventually go toward bettering conditions in that town and in fact building up the town itself."

It isn't always the man who talks loudest that does the most good. The copper cent makes more noise when it hits the contribution box than does a dollar bill.

It is almost impossible for the average citizen to keep his temper when he knows he's in the wrong.

TENTING TONIGHT

By Walt Mason

Oh, I cannot pay the rent that the profiteers demand, so I'm living in a tent on some waste vacant land. In the winter-time the snow will be packed around me deep, and the bitter blasts will blow through my whiskers while I sleep. And the tent is old and brown, and it sags against its poles, and the rain comes slopping down through a roof that's full of holes. To extremities I'm brought in this golden age, by George! 'Twas for this my fathers fought through the snow at Valley Forge. And at Gettysburg my dad gave a leg and collarbone, little thinking that his lad would be tenting here alone; tenting in a canvas shack, far from cheerful mart and street, water running down his back, and his sideboards full of sleet. And my uncle, when he went to oppose the hosts of Spain, had no vision of this tent where I'm sitting in the rain. And the rain comes in a flood, with a flourish and a rush, and my ears are full of mud, and my shoes are full of slush. Driven by the profiteers from the cottages and flats, here I sit and wag my ears, and my dome is full of bats. Here I sit and eat my prunes—there are thousands fixed, like me—in this land of precious boons, in this country of the free.

And here we are right around to the time when most men decide to swear off smoking, and stick to it for almost a week.

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