

HOLIDAY SUGGESTIONS

USEFUL PRESENTS

Let us help make your shopping a pleasure

For Girls

Bed Room Slippers
Sweaters
Coats
Shoes
Handkerchiefs
Silk Hose
Spats
Fancy Boots

For Boys

Wagons
Air Guns
Parlor Rifles
Knives
Sweaters
Suits
Mackinew Coats
Shoes
Soldier Hats
Bed Room Slippers
Ties
Handkerchiefs
Gloves
Watches
Cuff Buttons
Fobs
Chains

For Men

Suits
Overcoats
Shoes
Suit Cases
Hand Bags
Gloves
Linen Handkerchiefs
Silk Handkerchiefs
Bed Room Slippers
Ties
Silk Socks
Cuff Buttons
Sweaters
Shirts
Hunting Coats
Shot Guns
Rifles

For Women

Boots
Silk Hose
Bed Room Slippers
Handkerchiefs
Coat Suits
Coats
Skirts
Suit Cases
Hand Bags
Sweaters

There are lots of other

things suitable for Home

use:

Blankets

Spreads

Towels

Clocks

Rugs, Etc.

FOR YOUR SOLDIER BOY

Army Sweaters, Hats, Shoes. Officers Coats and Uniforms, made by Hart, Schaffner and Marx. Place your order early for these goods.

Department Stores

THE ROSENBERG MERCANTILE COMPANY

Abbeville, S. C.

Merry Christmas

TO THE BUSINESS MEN OF AMERICA: "QUIT YOU LIKE MEN" BE STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE.

The Manufacturers Record. From a leading business man there comes to The Manufacturers Record a letter which says:

"Now that the text of the war-tax bill has reached the men of business and its full meaning has had time to sink in, I find a great spirit of pessimism. The tax bill is so beyond anything which living men have known that they are aghast. They ask where they can get enough money in a lump sum. The Government can do it once, but not twice, as there will be nothing left, etc. Can't you write a reassuring editorial? The Lord tempers the wind to the shorn lamb. The wool will grow again, anyhow. The things which have made American wealth will in 1918 be as productive as in 1917. There is a feeling that the Government intends to strangle enterprise, to make profitable business impossible, and to embarrass and badger business until life won't be worth living. I know this is the view of many. When they take their sober second thought perhaps they will be able to see a rift through the war-tax cloud of gloom. But I think you possibly can make the rift."

We can readily understand the spirit of pessimism that swept over the land during much of the unwise agitation in Congress and the denunciation by Congress and in many publications of the business interests of the nation. Men for a time were staggered by these criticisms and by the uncertainty as to the outcome of the war taxation. Uncertainty is nearly always worse than facing the reality. We dread the troubles which we anticipate, but when we actually face them we rise to the emergency and meet them, and many a load is lighter after the trouble has actually been faced than during the anticipation of it.

The nation for the time being has been staggered by the enormous taxation which Congress has placed upon individuals and business interests. Every man has had to face the

problem and seek to find a solution for the heavy burden of taxation which he individually, or the business concerns which he controls, must meet. And so pessimism has been rampant. Industrial leaders have been afraid to go ahead. New enterprises have necessarily been held back. Men have been afraid to invest in Liberty Bonds because they could not see far ahead as to how to meet the heavy taxation which Congress has put upon them.

But the time has come for the nation to right itself and for men to take new courage, or, stated in Biblical language, "Be strong and of a good courage." Be strong, and quit you like men."

The people of this nation are too virile, too energetic, too all powerful in their business activities and in their mental equipment to permit pessimism to dominate them. Even amid the conditions which we confront, supreme optimism as to abounding business prosperity and as to a definite assurance of victory, and overwhelming victory, in the war should rule the land.

He who doubts is damned. Pessimism achieves nothing of importance. The pessimist is a lumberer of the ground. He has no place in this land, no place in its business activities or in its constructive work, or even in the war.

The optimist, or the man who dares to see beyond the clouds, the man who turns the clouds wrongside out to see the silver lining, is the only man worth while in this hour.

We may face the awful tragedy of Europe's war, we may look squarely at the fact that our own nation shall have to pour out its life-blood to save itself, and we may be staggered at this fearful sacrifice of life and the awful agony that it will bring to many of us, but let us look at the other side. Let us think of the superb heroism that is being created. Let us think of the millions of young men who are to set a standard for all time to come, of men who are ready to consecrate their lives to the highest and the sublimest, though the most difficult and dangerous, work to which human beings have ever dedicated their lives.

In the presence of these men let

us stand with heads uncovered and thank God that there are millions of men who are ready, if need be, to die to save others.

Let us think of the millions of men and women who, though they cannot stand on the firing line, are dedicating their lives to the moral and physical welfare of these men, and who day and night are at work to add to their comfort and their happiness. Let us think of the millions and tens of millions of men and women who daily are sending up to Heaven their prayers for the physical and moral and spiritual welfare of these men.

A new light has been kindled in the eyes and in hearts which were growing dull, and they are being quickened into a fire of heavenly brightness. We were in danger of becoming sordid, of having our lives concentrated upon money-making or ease or pleasure. The war has called us to a sudden halt, and now it is the duty of every man and woman to make money, not for the pleasure which money brings, but to make money in order to add to the comfort of our soldiers and sailors; to minister to the living and dying in Europe, to think of others and not of ourselves.

These are some of the things to which we should turn our thoughts as we contemplate the side of suffering and of loss of men, and before this side all questions of business sink into utter insignificance, and one hates to write of business, of prosperity or poverty or anything else when standing before the men who are offering their lives on the altar of the nation's life and protection of womanhood. But when we turn to the business side there comes the realization that the great interests of the nation in agriculture, in manufacture, in shipbuilding, in railroad activities will be pushed to the utmost limit of every ounce of human energy. Up to the last notch of American strength in manhood, in potentiality of brain and brawn and money, the business interests of the nation will be crowded.

It is true that the nation is incurring a vast indebtedness, but so far as the money side of it is concerned we venture the assertion

that the higher efficiency developed by the war, the new inventions for man's betterment and the enlargement of business operations created by the mental activity brought about by the war, will within the next decade or two entirely offset the total cost of the war when measured in dollars and leave a good credit to the nation's profit side. This will come from the tremendous stimulation of mental and physical virility, but especially from the mental activities and achievements which will be wrought in science. It will come also because millions of people who have heretofore never found it necessary to work will become producers to a large extent taking the place of the men called into the army. We shall have a nation of workers rather than a nation made up, as heretofore, of workers and drones. No man or woman physically or mentally able to work will be idle, where millions have lived in the idleness which was the devil's workshop.

As we face this side of the situation, how triflingly small seems the pessimistic spirit produced because of high taxation! What boots it if we pay to the Government the last surplus dollar of income if, in doing so, we are contributing to the highest development of mankind and doing our share to save this nation and the world's civilization?

This is no time for the pessimist. This is the hour for the optimist. "Be strong and of a good courage." "Be strong, and quit you like men." are the Divine messages which should strike a responsive chord in every human heart in this great land of ours. Let us rejoice that our nation—no longer recant to its responsibilities, no longer hiding behind the battle fleets and the armies of the Allies, no longer a cringing coward to be spurned through the centuries to come by all civilization—stands today, head erect, its banners floating, ready to do its part and carry its burden in this the most stupendous struggle which mankind has ever known.

Let us as individuals and as a nation thank God and take courage!

IRISH SHOW LOYALTY TO UNITED STATES

Strongest Chicago Organization Declares Effort to Embarrass Allies Must Not Be Tolerated.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—A declaration upholding the Irish parliamentary party and charging that any Irishman or organization who seeks to embarrass any of the allied powers in the conduct of the war is committing an act of open hostility to the United States and is adopted tonight by the Irish Fellowship Club here, the largest Irish organization in the city. It was directed to John E. Redmond and announced the forwarding of \$10,000 as the first installment of a fund to be collected in America in support of the party.

The declaration of principles will be submitted to all Irish organizations of the United States and is expected ultimately to be forwarded to Ireland as the concrete expression of support of the people of Irish blood in America of the war.

"There is not a single honest and genuine Irish-American who does not stand behind the president and the American government in its policy.

"The Irish people have now to choose between the enmity and the friendship of the United States and loyal as we have always been to the cause of Irish liberty, we must tell the Irish people that we will not, we can not retain sympathy for an Ireland that makes war on our beloved country and our sons."

MANY INVESTIGATIONS STARTED BY CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 18.—Congress closed down today for a holiday vacation, leaving behind a series of investigations to proceed during the recess. Both houses adjourned until Thursday January 3, when war legislation is to take the forefront of the calendar.

In the last day's business, the senate took final action toward submission to the states of a national prohibition amendment to the constitution, ordered two new investigations—into railroad legislation and the merchant shipbuilding situation—and arranged for disposal of

the coal and oil land leasing bill on January 7. The house passed the resolution to remove doubt as to application of the new war-excess profits taxes to congressmen, and arranged for renewal of the battle for woman suffrage on January 10.

Efforts to rush through legislation authorizing the treasury to buy \$100,000,000 of farm loan bonds before adjournment failed. The senate passed the bill today, but it was held up in the house to be considered when congress re-assembles.

During the recess a half dozen of investigations into war activities will be in progress. Heading the list is the railroad inquiry.

Other investigations in addition to those of railroad problems and the shipbuilding situation, deal with army and navy war operations, the sugar and fuel shortages and the alleged disloyal St. Paul speech of Senator LaFollette.

Some of the congressional committees will work during the holidays on the enormous appropriation bills and other legislation.

ITALIANS REPULSE AUSTRIAN ATTACKS

Rome, Dec. 18.—Vigorous attacks by the Austro-Germans on the Monte Solarolo salient were repulsed today, according to the announcement of the war office.

100 ENGINES SENT EAST.

Springfield, Mo., Dec. 18.—The St. Louis and San Francisco railroad's quota of 100 locomotives ordered released by western railroads for use on railroads in the east were started from here today. They will go to the Pennsylvania lines.

BACK FROM EUROPE, HOUSE VISITS WILSON

Washington, Dec. 18.—Colonel E. M. House, back from Europe, where he attended the inter-allied war conference as head of the American mission, came to Washington late Monday and drove directly to the White House to make a personal report to President Wilson.