

which you children have experienced so far in life is the happiest time the children 'over there' have had in the last three years.

"The United States is now at war," the Colonel continued. "We were shamefully unprepared, but we are now making up for it. Let us all be on Uncle Sam's team and back up the men at the front. Taxes this year are high; next year they will be higher. If the taxes had been higher this nation would have had more money and have been prepared. It would have been a warning to other nations. Germany despises us for our unready strength. If we had been prepared Germany would never have gone to war with us; never invited war by her persistence of murder. We were led to keep unprepared. If you have any wisdom left in you, you will see that we are prepared next time.

"A year hence we will feel little inclination to have a Christmas gathering, for many homes here will be darkened. Next year will be one of trial, and each man, woman, and child has a part to perform, and that is to help our country and comfort others."

COLONEL LAUDS CHILDREN.

Compliments Them for Sacrifices in
Remembering Little Belgians.

Special to The New York Times.

OYSTER BAY, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt at the Christmas festival of the Sunday school of Christ Episcopal Church tonight talked on the war and urged every one to take an active part. He complimented the children for giving up presents in order to send money to Belgium, where the church has adopted three children.

"I believe in every one having a good time," said Colonel Roosevelt, "unless by giving up that good time you will help some one else. The worst time