

### Is There a Santa Claus?

The following letter, now becoming a classic in our Christmas literature was written some years ago by the late Francis P. Church, Editorial writer on the New York Sun. It was in reply to a letter received by the Sun from one of its very young readers who wrote, "My little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Father says if the Sun says there is, it's true. Please tell me the truth."

"Dear Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible to their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be like a dreary, as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We would have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your mind to hire men to water all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? No one sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah! Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding! No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives, and he lives forever; a thousand years from now Virginia—may, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

### Guide-Advocate

WATFORD, ONTARIO  
Member of Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association.  
W. C. Aylesworth, Publisher.  
Average Circulation for year ending December 31, 1923..... 1,565  
(Covering East Lambton)  
ADVERTISING RATES  
Display ads., set, transient, 25c inch.  
Display, yearly contract, set, 18c in.  
Display Ad., all plate..... 18c in.  
Special Position... 5c per inch extra.  
Theatrical Advt. with reader or cut..... 35c per inch  
Business Locals, front page 10c per line; inside pages 5c per line.  
Classified Ads., One Cent per word each insertion. Minimum 25c.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1925

### "Squibographs"

Florida is charged with attempting to entice the moving picture industry away from California. If successful, it would mean "The End" of Hollywood.  
Scientists have discovered that crocodiles can hear. If they listen to what the real estate agents down in Florida are saying they will get an earful.  
Thriftily eastern housewives believe that the way to economize is to start at the root. Owing to the high cost of potatoes they are substituting turnips for the de luxe vegetable.  
Preparations for the opening of the season at Ottawa are being made. Preparations are also under way to end the season at the first available opportunity.  
The foreign aviators attached to the French air service in Morocco are returning to their homes. The result of their adventure produced more deuces than "aces."  
Collectors are said to be paying fancy prices for the wooden Indians that formerly decorated the entrance to hot-eco shops. Most of them went in to smoke years ago.  
Premier King was an interested visitor to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. The absence of worry displayed by the prize cows contentedly receiving their cuts would be a soothing sight.  
The modern small boy is from Missouri. Suspicious of the telegrams purporting to record the progress of Santa Claus from the Arctic on his Christmas trip, he is looking up the places mentioned to see if any telegraph offices are located there.

The Oriental magnate who purchased a hundred dogs during his recent trip to England, can consider that his trip has been a howling success.

Nine million persons from the United States visited Canada during the past summer and spent \$150,000,000 here. More than 2,000,000 automobiles crossed the line.

If burglars have any of the sentiment that prevails during the holiday season they would not molest a safe bearing the seasonable sign: "Do not open until Christmas."

Pullman porters are organizing to demand fair compensation for their services. They complain that tips are decreasing in number and value. Travellers are willing to "let George do it" without any visible token of appreciation. The proceeds of an ordinary "run" do not provide lunch money.

### To Mr. Santa Claus!

Oh goodie! He's coming—O ho! O ho! He said so over my radio.  
His pack is ready He's on his way!  
O Santa! Dear Santa! Hurray!  
Hurrah!  
I'm going to get my pen and write a letter to Santa this very night.  
O daddy! Tell me, what should I say?  
How shall I start? I know. This way:  
Dear Santa: Please bring a mamma doll.  
A pair of skates and a big red ball.  
I don't know if I shall want much more.  
'Cause I have the toys that you left before!  
O Santa! I wish that you were here—I'm loving you more and more each year.  
I'm leaving some cents in my stocking toe.  
A little present for you, you know.  
I want to ask you, Santa Claus dear, if you have an extra dolly to spare?  
'Cause Mary—a girl across the street—  
In awful sick, with crippled feet,  
And she hasn't any nice things at all,  
And I think she would love a mamma doll.  
But, if you haven't got one to spare,  
I wish—please Santa—you'd leave mine there.  
'Cause I can do with the skates, you know.  
There's heaps of fun on the ice and snow.  
'N.I. I just laugh when I slip and fall.  
Please do leave Mary the big, red ball.  
'Cause she can play with that in bed,  
And 'sides she's extremely fond of red!  
I'm glad you're staying a while in town.  
Big hugs and kisses, from Betty Brown.  
CHEERFUL JANE.

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Governor "Ma" Ferguson has discovered that her high heels are not a bed of roses. Caetius thorns are replacing the quest of flowers. Members of the Legislature threaten to impeach the chief executive, and she may meet the fate of her husband who was ousted by the impeachment process.

During the excitement caused by the war someone coined the phrase, "we'll win the war if it takes the last dollar and the last man." We won the war alright, 60,000 men lie in France and Flanders, and we're still paying through the nose, and are likely to continue doing so for many years to come. No wonder the nations are tired of war. It doesn't pay.

From all accounts there appears to be an organization of the Ku Klux Klan in Glencoe. Three weeks ago their cross was burned on the old McAlpine hotel site, and some citizens who were up and about town at a late hour on Wednesday night say there was a parade of the hooded knights, participated in by numbers variously estimated at thirty to fifty.

The 12th annual convention of City Managers was held last week in Grand Rapids. The mere fact that it was the twelfth annual convention is interesting. These managers are doing pioneer work that will sooner or later bear fruit in thousands of municipalities, where many consider the present mayor and council system obsolete. Towns like Petrolia, whose revenue, with the exception of a few thousand dollars, is all placed before it is collected, would get better value for its money under the manager system, and would be placed on a much firmer basis.—Petrolia Topic.

Has the Stock Salesman Called?  
A sure-fire test of unknown securities offered you for investment is to inquire at a bank whether the stock would be acceptable as collateral on a loan. If an investment ranks high, a bank will lend anywhere from 75 to 80 per cent. of its market value. If it is uncertain, then it has little or no value as collateral. The glowing accounts of a salesman do not establish the value of a stock on hand. The property and earning power of the company or corporation determine that. Ask the bank. If they don't want a security, it is dead sure you don't.

The law in England with regard to artificial aids to beauty and women's wiles are not so strict now as they were in the reign of Charles II. In the year 1670 this curious Act of Parliament was passed:—"That all women, of whatever age, rank, profession or degree, whether virgins, maids or widows, that shall, from after the passing of this Act, impose upon and betray into matrimony any of His Majesty's male subjects, by gents, paints, cosmetics, washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron staves, hoops, high heeled shoes or bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft, sorcery and such like misdemeanors, and that the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and void.

While at work in Wm. Pickell's cooperage, Forest, early in the summer, Basil Dew, one of the barrel-makers, wrote his name and address on the inside of an apple barrel lid, with a request that the person who opened the barrel would send him a reply. On Saturday last he received a picture card from John McMahon, Redgate, Elmrick, Ireland, stating that he had opened the barrel and found it to contain some of the best apples he had ever seen. The apples were shipped ago.

At the 100th Fair in Toronto, Ont., held at the Exhibition, White swine and was awarded eight 1st prizes, four 2nd prizes, three 3rd prizes, two reserve championships, three championships, and two grand championships for the best boar and sow of any age. He made a large number of sales, as there is great demand for the large type Chester Whites.

Securities	39,937,880.00
British Securities	53,529,236.05
Government Securities	890,979.17
Other Securities	278,640,868.05
Letters of Credit	12,150,000.00
Other Liabilities	13,897,942.46
Total	\$755,147,876.00
Liabilities to Public	\$46,761,184.50
Other Liabilities	631,454,428.77
Total	13,897,942.46
Other Liabilities	1,095,769.89
Total	\$693,209,325.62
Other Liabilities to	\$61,938,550.38

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We want you to support your local industry and help it grow.  
Ask your storekeeper for Elarton Salt, or come to the Works yourself and get it.  
The Salt is right—the price right.  
Get it yourself—NOW.  
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