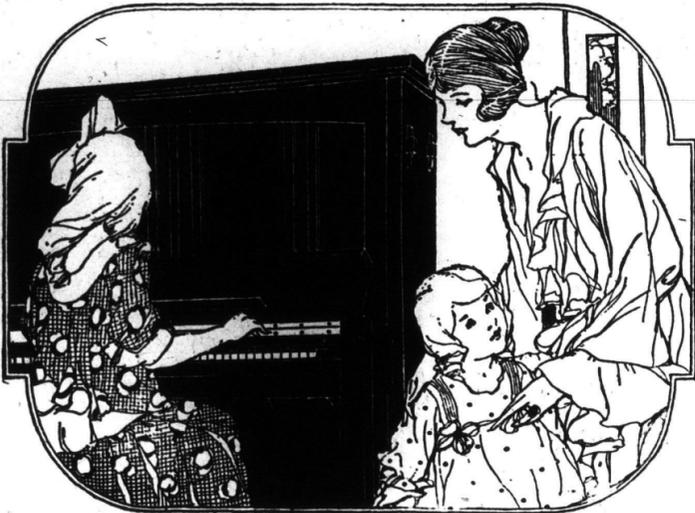


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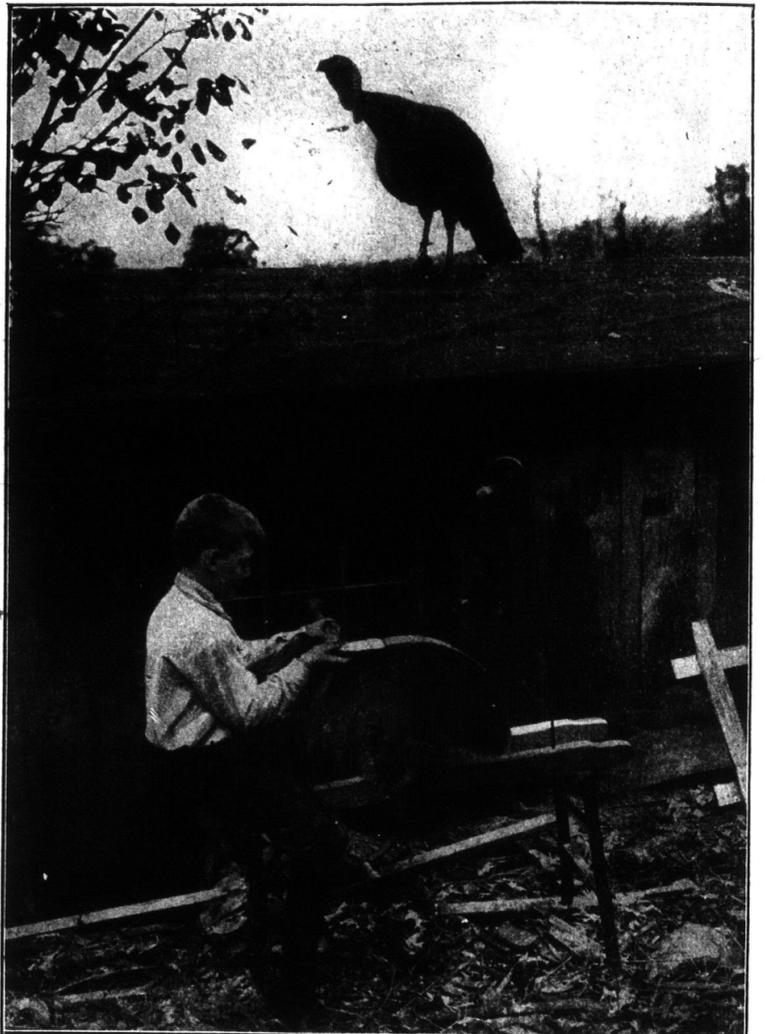
A Christmas Story

By EDWIN C. CUMING

AS Dick Coleman looked out from the one small window of his prairie shack into the heart of the storm which had risen with the break of the day, he came to two great conclusions. The fact that the day was Christmas Day with its world-wide tradition of festivity and personal associations, led him to realise that it would be for him at least, the loneliest of all the experiences since he came to the great plains of the North-West, and accepting the inevitable, he

for a red-blooded white man to attempt to do so was nothing short of insanity. The first opportunity, therefore, that would present itself, would see him moving on, for he congratulated himself upon a fair normality; the last thing in the world that he desired was to be a party to the continuance of the said error.

Coleman had sprung from one of the great English families; whose name was known wherever the former dwellers of the island were to be found, but unfor-



By RYLEY COOPER

Remember, Mister Gobbler, how mean y' uster be,
How you'd gobble, gobble, gobble, and fuss around at me?
How you'd scare me and harass me, fill my road of life with tacks,
But you sure got tame and meek-like since I sharpened up the axe.

Remember how you'd gobble, how you'd run at me an' such,
How you'd make me wish that gobblers couldn't gobble quite so much;
But somehow now it's different, you ain't raising a row,
And you're awful self-effacing, 'cause I'm the gobbler now.

decided to settle down with the sparse provisions he had on hand, and to keep his own company. The storm promised to be one of about three day's duration, and to accept the invitation that had been tendered him by one of the neighbors was to court disaster. "No man or beast," he argued, "could face the blinding blizzard; so with pipe, a few books and a deck of cards, he proceeded to while away the long hours of the day.

In the second place, he decided that someone had made a stupendous blunder when they had driven out the Indian and buffalo from these great wastes in order to make room for the white man. The Indian, with his centuries of acclimatisation, might be able to stand the rigours of the climate, but

fortunately was living under a temporary cloud. Trained in its best schools and colleges, he had acquired certain accomplishments that were not in the curriculum, and several of the escapades which followed as a result had led the faculty to ask him to remove his presence. Even this effacement, however, was insufficient to curb his spirits, and he soon found himself ostracised after a particularly foolish break with which his name had been more or less prominently connected. The fact that his family was well-placed and was bidding for national honors, brought the issue to the fore, with the result that his father had requested his removal to some place outside the shores of Britain. Omitting his fare and the promise of