

the appearance and character of their future husbands.

Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of Russia, and his festival used to be celebrated earlier in December than the 25th, but now his name is synonymous with Christmas festivities. In parts of Europe he is known as "Pelsnichol," or Nicholas with the fur, because he is supposed to be clad in furs from head to foot.

The idea of Saint Nicholas travelling in a sleigh drawn by reindeer originated in the cold northern countries. The reindeer were the swiftest animals known, and they must needs fly like the wind to carry Saint Nick the rounds of the world in one night.

In certain parts of Germany it was commonly held that on Christmas Eve the Christ-child—Kris Kringle, or Kriss Kingle—visited earth, and, as he passed over the houses, dropped gifts through the roof for the deserving and the good.

But aside from the customs which relate to gifts and the spirit of giving at Christmastide, there are several observances which are indissolubly linked with this time.

Christmas is never Christmas without the holly wreath and the mistletoe. Christians venerated the holly, or holy tree, because to them the little thorny leaves and red berries made in a wreath typified the crown of thorns and the bloody drops. Doubtless they introduced this solemn reminder at the joyous festival in order not to forget the sacredness of the occasion in the general festivities.

The mistle bush, mistletoe—or mistletoe, as we know it—owes its use as a festal decoration to pagan times. According to the Scandinavian legend, Baldur, the most beloved of all the gods, had a premonition that death impended. Thereupon, his mother, Frigga, besought everything that was begotten of earth, air, fire or water to swear not to harm her son.

But in her request she overlooked the insignificant little mistletoe. Loki, the god of destruction, disguised as an old

woman, visited Frigga, and, learning of her oversight, hurried back to where the gods were assembled. There they were amusing themselves by hurling all manner of missiles at Baldur, and all were turned aside. But Loki, with an arrow made of mistletoe, pierced Baldur's heart.

In reparation, the mistletoe was given to Frigga to do as she saw fit, provided it touched not earth. And she, to show that she bore no ill will, hung it up, and every one who passed under it received a kiss as a token that, instead of hatred and jealousy, the mistletoe now stood for love and forgiveness.

Among the Celtic nations the mistletoe was an object of veneration, and at the festival of the winter solstice the Prince of the Druids himself cut a bough of it. The people were assembled, and then were led to the woods by the priests, who drove in advance of the company two snow white bullocks. When the oak tree was found which bore the mistletoe, the plant was cut with a golden sickle, and the bullocks sacrificed.

At present it is the custom for the young men to carry out the doctrine taught by the Scandinavian myth and print a smacking kiss on the lips of any maiden thoughtless enough to stand beneath the suspended mistletoe bough. But for every such kiss one of the white berries of the mistletoe must be removed, and when all the berries have been kissed away the spell is broken.

Almost as important as the gift giving and gift receiving on Christmas Day is the feast of dainties spread on that festal occasion. But even the Christmas dinner has its origin in the dim distant past. Feasts were always the accompaniment of any festival. In Egypt, at the winter solstice, every family killed and ate a goose as a religious observance.

In the hieroglyphic language of the Egyptian, the figure of a goose was the word "child." The people had noticed that the goose was remarkable for the

way in which it protected its young, hence it was looked upon as the symbol of great love—that love, which is willing to sacrifice itself for the object of its affection. This trait was also believed to belong to the god they worshiped, so the Egyptians celebrated this festival by killing and eating a goose.

We preserve the custom of eating fowl on this day, but the toothsome turkey has more generally supplanted the goose. The plum pudding as a dish in the Christmas feast has its meaning. The number and richness of its ingredients represented the rich gifts which the Kings laid at the feet of the child Jesus.

In earlier days the mince pie, then a pastry dish, filled with forced meat and fruits, was made box-shaped, to typify the manger in which the Child had lain.

The celebration of Christmas-tide is as old as the human race, and many of the customs have lost their origin in the hazy past. We preserve and hand down these customs because we respect their age. But pagan customs have survived in our Christmas festival, not so much because of their age, as because it was necessary to preserve them.

When Christianity was in its infancy, men who embraced it refused to give up the old festivals, so in view of the great end to be obtained, the leaders of the early church allowed these customs and festivities to stand, but sought to put into them some Christian significance and meaning.

But to such strict sectarians as the Puritans and the Quakers in England the Christmas festivities appeared to be little better than pagan orgies. These worthy people thoroughly discountenanced the festival, and when the Quakers came to found a state in the New World, they made rigid rules against any such form of festivity.

The Dutch colonists, however, were enthusiastic in their observance of Christmas-tide, and, though far from home, they celebrated the happy time in the old way. From the Dutch colonists in

America spread the Christmas cheer, and the frowns and the resolutions of the staid Puritan and Quaker colonists availed nothing against the infectious spirit of Christmas cheer and good will which the Dutch brought into the new country.

Alum an unseen danger in food.

Noted food scientists have decided that alum is an unseen danger in food, and as a result of their investigations, rigorous laws have been enacted and are now being vigorously enforced in England, France and Germany, prohibiting the use of alum in foods.

Until suitable laws are passed in Canada prohibiting the use of alum baking-powders, every housewife should be careful to buy only a baking-powder that has the ingredients printed plainly on the label.

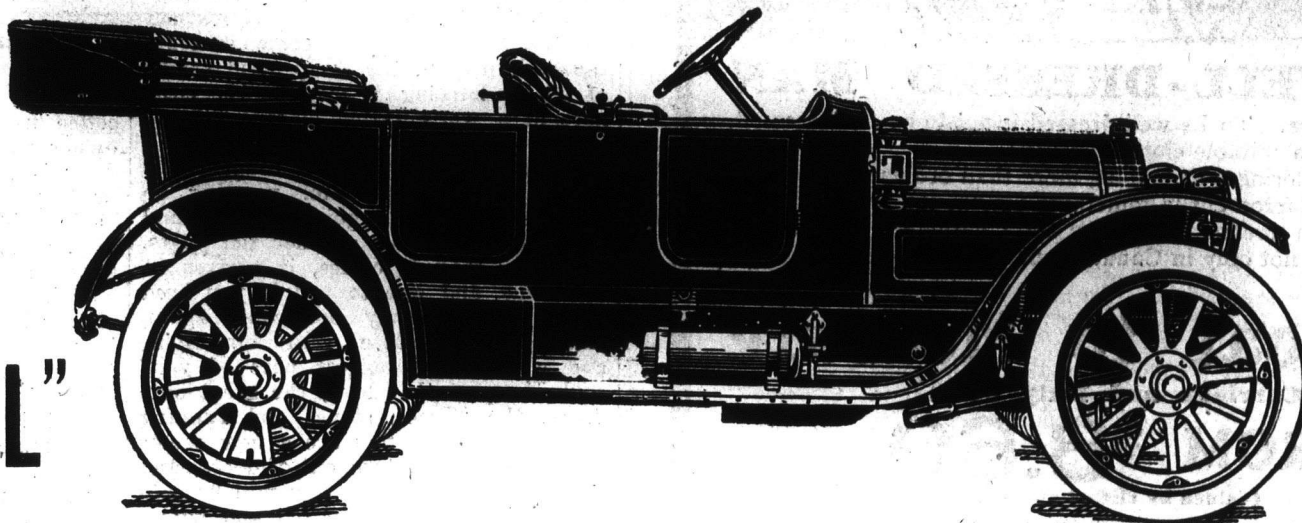
Great Legal Light Gone.

Contributed 100 Legal Articles to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

London, Nov. 3.—Dr. James Williams, High Sheriff of Flintshire, a contributor of over 100 legal articles in successive editions of the Encyclopedia Britannica and many in law magazines and reviews, died here to-day. He was born in 1851. He was the author of a number of books on law, including "The School Master and the Law," "Wills and Succession," "Law of Education," "Dante as a Jurist," and "Law of the Universities." He also wrote "A Lawyer's Lawyer" (verse), "Simple Stories of London," "Briefless Ballads," and "Ventures in Verse."

The Pill that Leads them All—Pills are the most portable and compact of all medicines, and when easy to take are the most acceptable of preparations. But they must attest their power to be popular. As Parmed's Vegetable Pills are the most popular of all pills they must fully meet all requirements. Accurately compounded and composed of ingredients proven to be effective in regulating the digestive organs, there is no surer medicine to be had anywhere.

THE NEW REO "SPECIAL"



WHEEL BASE—
112 inches
WHEELS 34-inch
demountable
rims
TIRES 34 x 4
EQUIPMENT—3
oil lamps, 2 gas
lamps, gas tank,
electric horn,
speedometer,
mahar top, sex-
tette windshield
nickle trim-
mings, foot and
robe rails

PRICE
\$1575
Winnipeg

THE MIGHTY REO

is the car for service. Constructed throughout of the very finest material that money can buy, and built by men who know how.

Men who have owned and driven cars of other makes—men who have owned and driven REO Cars in the past—men who have studied it and compared it with other makes—are the present buyers of the REO.

A Canadian built Car for Canadians. We invite the closest comparison.

"Thirty" Touring Car

complete with full set lamps,
top and glass front, fore doors

\$1425. Torpedo Roadster \$1350.

HUPMOBILE

TOURING CAR COMPLETE, with Top Wind-
shield, Full Set Lamps, fore doors

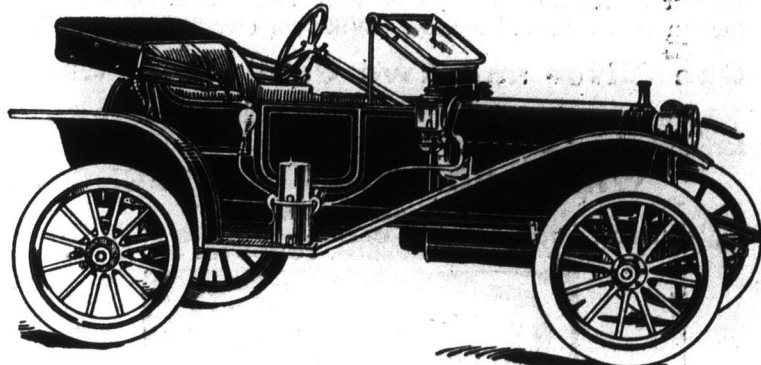
\$1065

RUNABOUT

\$900

The aristocrat of the small cars, a high-grade car at a price everyone can afford to pay, possessing qualities of refinement found only in the highest priced cars.

We will gladly send you catalogues and name of nearest dealer on request.



JOSEPH MAW & CO. LTD., 112-118 KING STREET,
WINNIPEG - CANADA