

The Toronto World

A Morning Newspaper Published Every Day in the Year.

MAIN OFFICE, 83 YONGE STREET.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Punctilious critics affirm that our Christmas Day is not the proper anniversary of the birthday of the world's Redeemer. As in all north latitudes, December is a winter month among the Judean hills, shepherds, they say, would not be abiding in the field, and therefore could neither hear the angelic salutation nor the voices of the heavenly choir that sang the first Christmas song of peace and goodwill. They may be right, but after all it is not the exact date that is of value, but the spirit of the commemoration. So many hallowed memories, so much of precious and beautiful story cluster round the Christmas Day of northern lands, that the error, if error it be, may well be not only forgiven, but forgotten. Certainly the commandment to remember the poor, who are always with us, appeals with peculiar force when comfort and good cheer sharply contrast with the misery and destitution that are still accepted as the unavoidable and undesirable adjuncts of our advanced civilization. Christmas Days come and go and year after year there is no apparent amelioration in the social conditions that lie so heavily on the hearts and consciences of men and women who hope for the coming of the heavenly kingdom on this earth. Some, indeed, see in the present manner and custom of the observance of Christmas Day a perversion of its hallowed traditions. The old Christmas spirit, they say, was one of personal endeavor, unselfish giving, loving planning and delightful surprises and tender thoughtfulness. Now it is reduced to bargain-hunting, counter huckstering, and coarse, crafty calculating. There may be an underlying truth in this, for to an ultra-utilitarian age, the gentler graces are ungenial and for that reason it becomes the more necessary to cultivate the deeper sympathy which adds incomparably to the value of a gift and makes the passing hand-clasp and the conventional salutation the voices of the heart.

CONCILIATION IN LABOR DISPUTES.

Mr. Lloyd George, president of the British Board of Trade, has greatly and deservedly increased his prestige and reputation by his successful mediation between the railway companies and their employees, and in the still more recent dispute in one of the chief cotton manufacturing centres. This gives additional interest to the record of the work of the board under the Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Act passed in 1896. That statute empowered the board of trade, when a dispute had arisen or was apprehended, to enquire into the causes of the dispute, to induce the parties to confer together with a view to a friendly settlement, to appoint a person to act as conciliator at the request of either party, and to the application of both parties to appoint an arbitrator.

During the last year the board has been called on to assist in settling 232 labor disputes and in 183 cases with success. Of these latter 140 were joint applications, 60 came from workpeople only and 22 from employers only. In the early years of the act applications as a rule were made by one side only, but in later years they have been mainly joint, and this is rightly regarded as evidence that the value of official mediation is steadily gaining recognition.

There are 299 conciliation boards now in existence in the United Kingdom and they are engaged all the time in adjusting differences affecting the trades they regulate. In 1906 no less than 473 cases were settled through these boards by conciliation and 224 by arbitration. Much evidently may be expected from voluntary methods such as are in operation both in Britain and Canada.

CITY-BUILT HOUSES

Editor World: Owing to so many men being out of work, I would suggest that the city build fifty houses in the west end and fifty in the east end and fifty in the north part of the city. These would be six-room detached, built of wood and veneered with brick, with all conveniences except furnace. These houses would be only for the working men of the city and who are employed by the city and could be rented at about \$14 per month, and could be completed in about three months. The city would then begin to get some of the money invested and in about ten years they would pay for themselves. The cost would be about \$1,000, or about \$1400 each. The building of these houses would give employment to about one thousand men, laborers, bricklayers, carpenters and all other lines of trades, and if started at once they would be completed about the first of May. The city would then begin to have a revenue coming in to cover some of the expenses, and it would be a good paying investment and would also give their employees a comfortable house to live in, and where they would take an interest in the city work.

Player Piano for New Years.

The special sale of player pianos at the warehouse of Heintzman & Co., Ltd., 115-117 West King-street, Toronto, that has been a feature of December selling, will continue until the end of the year. There is a very large assortment to select from and terms are made to suit purchasers.

Toboggan in Good Order.

The High Park toboggan slides never were in better condition, the snow that fell on Monday has frozen over and the slides will probably be well patronized to-day.

Election Aftermath.

Revised returns of the Centre York by-election give Dr. McLean a majority of 23. As it happened on the 23rd of December. The summary: Wallace majorities: Woodbridge 29, Weston 26, Markham Village 54, Etobicoke 154, Scarborough 11. Total 303. McLean majorities: Markham Township 172, Vaughan 138, Richmond Hill 16. Total 326. The Conservative candidate has nothing to be ashamed of. He made gains in every municipal except two, his own town and Richmond Hill. In Woodbridge he fell 2 behind the majority given Pugsley in 1904, but Dr. McLean also lives there and is very popular Wallace could not be expected to get it all. Richmond Hill furnishes the one division which really disappoints the Conservatives. In 1904 W. H. Pugsley, the Conservative candidate, secured a majority of 36. Monday there was a turn over of 52. Dr. McLean pulling out a majority of 16. The vote there will stand a lot of explaining on the part of someone. The falling off in the Conservative vote in Richmond Hill most that explains Dr. McLean's advantage. It is also said that Capt. Wallace's supporters expected a larger vote in No. 2, Etobicoke, and they complain that the polling booth in that division was moved a mile and a half away from the centre of population, the result being that many voters who work in the city could not take time to register their franchise.

An analysis of the returns shows that the Conservatives are making steady gains in the once liberal holds of Markham and Scarborough. Markham Township in 1891 gave Alexander Mackenzie (Lib.) a majority of 334 over W. F. Maclean, and the following year J. K. Leslie (Lib.) overcame Mr. Maclean in this township with a majority of 204. In Markham Village the Liberal majorities in the same elections were 4 in each case. Markham Township gave ex-Ald. Frankland (Lib.) 325 majority in 1898 over W. F. Maclean, while the village gave a majority of 9 for Frankland. N. W. Rowell, ex-Ald. (Lib.) was Mr. Maclean's opponent in East York in 1900. In this year the Conservative candidate pulled down the adverse majority in Markham Township 244, while in Markham Village Rowell held his majority at 4. In the next general election, 1904, Markham was placed in Centre York, the redistribution having been carried through for the purpose of providing a safe seat for Archie Campbell, W. H. Pugsley, Mr. Campbell's opponent, and the Liberal stronghold of Markham Township again placed somewhat to the batteries of Conservative argument. It gave Campbell only 199, while in the village the complex was so changed that Pugsley came out with a majority of 59. On Monday Tom Wallace pulled this up to 54, while he still further reduced the Liberal voting surplus in the township to 172.

Scarboro Township has also gradually broken from Liberalism as the following table will show: 1891—Alexander Mackenzie (Lib.) beat W. F. Maclean 127 to 107. 1892—J. K. Leslie (Lib.) beat W. F. Maclean 127 to 107. 1893—Ex-Ald. Frankland (Lib.) beat W. F. Maclean 127 to 107. 1900—N. W. Rowell (Lib.) beat W. F. Maclean 127 to 107. 1904—W. H. Pugsley (Lib.) beat Tom Wallace (Con.) beat Dr. McLean 117 to 111.

The polling on Monday was the reason for the Conservative claim that Scarborough has at last been truly conformed to the Markham Township may no longer be designated a Liberal hive.

Just now Tom Wallace's supporters are canvassing the probabilities that may result from a recount which it is certain will be demanded. The scrutineers are bringing in the returns, and upon these will depend the action of the association. In No. 7 Markham, there were five rejected ballots. It has also been reported that in one division the deputy returning officer called Wallace ballots for McLean till the Conservative scrutineer began to take an interest in the proceedings and set him right.

At No. 7 Vaughan, an elector was given a ballot paper minus the printed names of the candidates and he wrote the name Dr. McLean, and the face of it. This ballot, however, was rejected. Other minor irregularities were said to have existed, and there may be many instances of this kind, but in wiping out the meagre 23 now claimed by Dr. McLean.

The government will not be pleased with the slender majority obtained by its candidate seems altogether probable. Centre York was carved out in the shape of a horseshoe to take in those townships on the west side of the Conservative Township of York which have always given overwhelming Liberal majorities. The municipalities now comprising Centre York, which voted in the by-election, East York in 1900 gave Liberal 323 and Conservative 223, when the riding was carved out it was conceded that Archie Campbell, if he could poll the full Liberal strength, should have a majority approximating 400. When the result came on Monday, the Liberal vote solid and his majority was only 123. With a stronger man running as the Liberal candidate on Monday, and desperate efforts made to get out the vote, the majority fell off a hundred. The question therefore is: how many ranges in Ontario are safe for the government? North Oxford, always put down by the Liberals as good for a thousand, have had without a fight, carried for the government by 400 two years ago, handed over to the Conservatives this year without a fight. On the result in Centre York The News says:

"The result in Centre York is the most damaging blow the Liberal Government has sustained since 1896. The constituency has a normal Liberal majority of 200. It was admitted that Senator Campbell was a weak candidate. Liberals were rejoicing that in Centre York they had a man who could unite the Liberals of the riding and poll the full strength of the party. He is as good a candidate as his friends said he was, and certainly he should have had from 200 to 300 of a majority. But he comes out with an advantage of only 15. This result, combined with the result in Nova Scotia, the result with the collapse in London, the result in Windsor, Salt, ought to cost more—so pure, fine, well-savoured. Goes further, too. But not a cent dearer."

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Trains Late.

Only one train was on time last evening, and No. 7 from Montreal, due at 8:45, was 1 1/2 hours late, while the Montreal limited from Montreal, due at 10 o'clock, was 2 3/4 hours late.

The Emigrant's Christmas.

THE NEW ARRIVAL:

Old England, thy exiles look back to their Home Thru clouds of dark troubles, o'er seas of despair; This year was unkindly for Britons to roam, Amidst phantom fortunes in panic's wild air.

This Christmas, in Canada's broad Promised Land, We chase the shy rainbow for bricks of false gold; The visions have vanished, and idle we stand, The eager to conquer grim hunger and cold.

O, Yuletide! In England, thine altars are dear With memory's evergreen garlands and crowns; Thy holly's red berries wet heart-drops to cheer; Thy mistletoe charmed away Fortune's black frowns.

Thy carols of Christmas, the chimes of thy bells, Thy family unions and greetings of friends, Now seem like the echoes of funeral knells, And mock the salt teardrops which homesickness sends.

THE ANGLO-CANADIAN:

Be brave, Sons of England, away with such mope; Remember your breeding, and let cowards cry; The Cross of St. George on the banner of Hope Still waves here for Britons beneath a free sky.

The God of your Christmas reigns here just as sure As home in Old England, and you are His care. See Bethlehem's Star, shining forth bright and pure In the East—pointing West—o'er this land, rich and rare.

Go, spend your last shilling—each dream millionaire— For souvenir gifts to the loved ones at home. Our lands, not our cities, have homesteads to spare For a dozen old Englands, on rich prairie loam.

Your brother Canadians have conquered this land, Thru forest and stream, in our nation's rough spring; They blazed out your road, and they reach you a hand, So sing "Merry Christmas" and "God Save the King."

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR.

Christmas, 1907.

CHRISTMAS DAY

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Church, and a short address on the subject of the day will be delivered by Rev. Mr. Brown. This portion of the service was to have been taken by Rev. Prof. Wallace of Victoria College, but a slight indisposition has rendered him unable to fill the engagement. Christmas music will be contributed by the excellent choir.

I. O. F. DENIAL.

To the Editor of The World, Toronto: Dear Sir,—The members of the Executive Council of the Independent Order of Foresters, who are at present in the city, desire to give an unqualified denial to the rumor that Elliott G. Stevenson contemplates resigning as Supreme Chief Ranger.

The meeting on Saturday was the regular meeting of the executive for the month of December, and nothing took place at that meeting to indicate the slightest intention of resignation. Mr. Stevenson will be in his office on Thursday morning.

Yours faithfully, R. Mathison, Supreme Secretary. H. A. Collins, Treasurer. T. M. Milman, Supreme Physician. W. H. Hunter, Supreme Counsellor.

AT OSGOODE HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Hon. Chief Justice Mulock will hold court and chambers on Thursday next at 10 a.m. Goods Sold and Delivered. An action has been begun by J. C. Palmer of St. Louis, Miss., against G. C. Campbell of Toronto to recover \$249.87 for goods sold and delivered.

Did Not Send Potatoes. McKim and See of Toronto have issued a writ against J. C. Manger of Andover, N. B., claiming damages of the non-delivery of a quantity of potatoes.

English Firm Takes Action. John Smith & Sons of Rasbrick, Eng., have instituted proceedings against Dingman & Co. of Toronto to recover \$280.00 for goods delivered to them.

Winding Up Application. On Thursday next a petition will be presented to the court asking for the winding-up of the George Queen Clothing Co. of Stratford. The company was incorporated under the name of the McClellan Try-on Clothing Co. in September, 1905. The capital stock of the company is \$40,000, divided into shares of \$100 each. The name was changed to its present one in March, 1907. The liabilities are alleged to be over \$65,000. Gault Bros. and A. McDougall & Co. of Montreal are the petitioners.

A Winning Candidate. Aid. T. L. Church has been three times successively returned as alderman for the Second Ward, and is known as one of the most progressive men in council. He is capable, young and honest, and this year rendered good service as chairman of the local board of health. He had a good voting record in the council, and is very active to the needs of the ward, and is obliging and courteous. He is a good campaigner and his friends predict he will head the poll in this election. He is a member of the Y. C. C. Club.

Cow Swallowed Snake. OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—John E. Hughes, a Pontiac farmer, had a cow which died mysteriously. A post-mortem examination was made and a snake 24 inches long was found in its bowels. It is supposed the snake was swallowed while the cow was drinking water.

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The value of the orders given at this time last year was \$218.50. But instead of discouraging applicants, several of the gentlemen present stated their disappointment at the number asking for assistance. "I don't think that we have as many people coming here to-day as we had last year," exclaimed Mr. Daise. "I will go out and compel them to come in."

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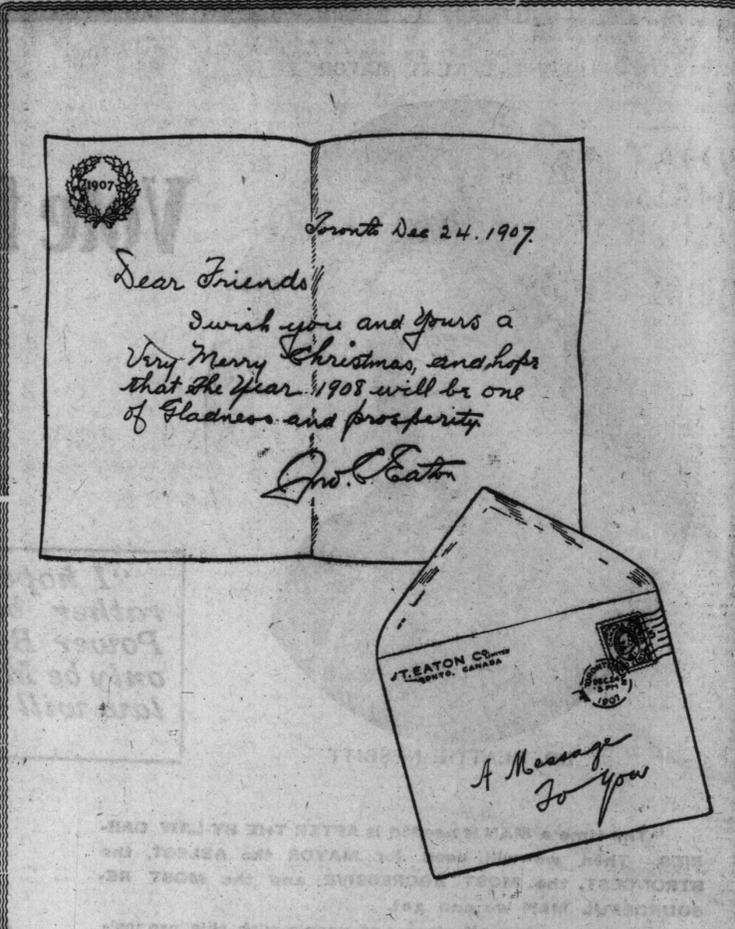
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Arrangements have been made to give a dinner to about 1000 poor children at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of New Year's Day, at the Temple on Albert-street, to be followed by an entertainment consisting of suitable songs and recitations.

Some 150 families have been assisted thru the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the various city Roman Catholic parishes, and it is expected that fully 250 families will be on their books and in