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The Bunnies' New Year**PART I.**

"To go to bed," John Bunny said
"Would surely be a sin,
It's New Year's Eve, and we must wait
To see the New Year in."

"Above our doorway slopes the hill
And there upon the snow
We'll have a sleighing party
While we watch the old year go."

"Here are some boards will
do for sleighs
So we'll have lots of fun,
Each will hold three, so
eight, you see
Will hold you, everyone."



"And at the bottom, hereabouts,
We'll make a bank of snow
So that when sliding down the hill
Too far you will not go."

"Now Mr. Fox has not been well
To-day, I hear he's worse
Two doctor Foxes wait on him,
Two doctors and a nurse!"

"So we may go without much fear
To see the old year out,
The owls have promised they will see
That there's no harm about."



The Bunnies jumped and
clapped their hands
They were so full of glee,
This was the first time they
had watched
The old year out, you see!

In groups of three the family
Climbed up the little hill,
The sleighs were rather heavy
But they worked with great good-will.

Now little Fluffy was quite small
Much smaller than the others
He wedged himself quite tightly in
Between two bigger brothers.

And good John Bunny stood above
To start them on their way
With care he took each set of three
And packed them on their sleigh!

First slowly down a little
grade
Each sleigh would quietly
run,
Then faster, faster it would
go
And there was heaps of fun.



Sometimes a sleigh would over-turn
Though why, I do not know,
And then three little bunnies would
Be landed in the snow.

Head over heels three furry balls
Would roll for many a yard
But they did not seem to hurt them-
selves
Although the ground was hard.

And thus the merry hours went by
With laughter and with glee
While Mrs. Bunny sat below
With cakes and rabbit tea.

And many little bunnies came
To snatch a quick repast
(Their appetites were extra good
The pace was very fast)

Now as it neared the hour of twelve
John Bunny stopped the play
And told the Bunnies all to put
Their little sleighs away.

**UNCLE PETER'S MONTHLY LETTER****Y DEAR BUNNIES:**

As we are just commencing a new year, let us see what a year means to us in opportunities to practise our club motto—"Effort with Contentment." How short this last year seems to most of us as we look back upon it, and how long the year that is coming seems by comparison. And, after all, a year is a long time. A day is a long time in some ways, such a lot of good or such a lot of harm may be done in a single day sometimes. It is certain that if we take care of the hours, then the days, weeks, months and years will look after themselves, just as it is said that if we look after the cents the dollars will take care of themselves.

This is the month when Canada looks ahead towards the possibilities of the New Year, and towards a happy conclusion to the Great World Trouble which is standing in the way of progress, and you, my Bunnies, must not be forgotten in this looking forward.

I wonder whether you all fully realize that Canada, so far as its people are concerned is made up of units. You know what a unit is, don't you? It means just one of anything, and everyone of you Bunnies is an important unit in the making up of the Canada of to-day, and the Canada of the future. It seems to Uncle Peter that there are other kinds of units, too. Our actions day by day are surely individual units all going together to make a life. As long as we travel in the right direction, firmly sticking to the right, and avoiding the wrong, our life must be a success, whether we actually make a lot of money or not. The truly successful life is not to be reckoned in dollars and cents.

**Just Like a Railway**

Here is an illustration for you, imagine a railroad, miles and miles of shiny steel rails, all leading forward to a certain point ahead, all bound together in unity of purpose with a single aim in view. The express train thunders over those rails at speed, the freight train follows with its thousands of tons of goods and both safely reach their destinations. But in the hundreds of thousands of rails which make up the line, if one is pointed away from its straight course, the train will be wrecked, if it is not found out and straightened again. Each one of those rails is like a day in our lives they must point straight forward and be bound together by good purposes, for a single day, mis-spent, may wreck a lifetime, or cause much pain and damage to ourselves and to others.

So it pays, and pays well, to look ahead sometimes, and plan for our own parts, big or little, in the future of Canada, and for each one of us to turn our faces forward, and to march with all Canada, ahead to success by the Road of Progress. And to do all this happily, Bunnies, we shall need our own Bunny Club Motto, Contentment with the things of to-day, and Effort to improve both them and ourselves for the benefit of to-morrow!

**A Happy New Year to You**

Stand up straight, little Bunnies, and hold your heads high, knowing that each one of you is just as much a part of the real Canada, as any one else can be. The year 1918 is ahead, life is ahead and our own Canada, with its troubles, its successes, its joys and its sorrows is ahead, and looking to you, my Bunny, and to me, and to every single unit of us all over the land, to grow into strong links in the chain which binds our whole country together.

I wish you all a Contented New Year, and yet a New Year full of energy, perseverance and effort towards better things, and I hope that you will all be as fortunate as the Bunnies in my story, so that if trouble comes your way it may pass you very quickly, and bury itself deep in a snowbank or anything else which happens to be handy.

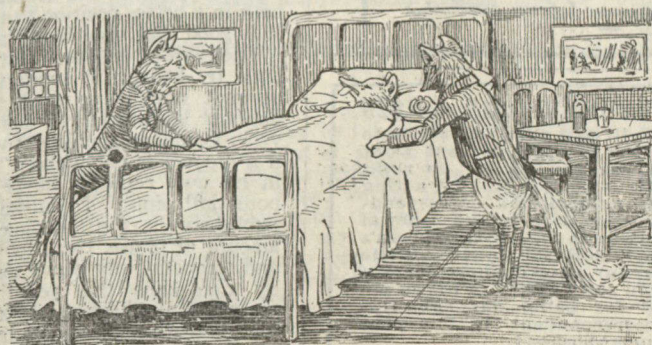
Come, Bunnies, get into line, quick now, two hundred and fifty thousand of you, a whole army of future Canadian men and women, and help to push Canada this year along the road of progress. You're small, perhaps, but then there's such a lot of you you can do wonders in a year!

Here's luck to you!

Your affectionate Bunny-Uncle,

Uncle Peter.

P.S. I've written you such a long letter this time that I haven't left space for anything else. So please look on page 48 for the names of the winners in the October Bunny Club Competition.

**The Bunnies' New Year****(Continued)****PART II.**

Now as I told you, Mr. Fox
A cold had, in his head
Two doctor Foxes, and a nurse
Were gathered by his bed.

And news was brought, the Bunnies
all
Were playing in the snow.

Then Doctor Fox spoke up and said
That he would like to go.

Said he, "My patient ought to have
Some rabbit pie to-night
I'll go and catch a bunny now
If that will be all right!"

When Doctor Fox came to the hill
No bunnies there he found
But he found a sleigh which they had
left
Lying upon the ground!

And down below the hill he
looked
And saw with many a grin
The Bunnies in the bright
moonlight
Watching the New Year
in.



Said Doctor Fox, "If I go down
They all will slip away,
And I could never catch one—"
(Here his eye fell on the sleigh.)

And Doctor Fox then laughed with
glee—
"It's better than I'd reckoned,
I'll sit upon the sleigh," said he
"And reach them in a second."

PART III.

The clock struck twelve, John Bunny
cried
"Look, children, up the hill,
The New Year's coming in, so let us
Cheer him with a will!"

They all looked up and had begun
To cheer with all their power,
When Doctor Fox came rushing down
At sixty miles an hour!



The Bunnies rushed this
way and that
The sleigh passed on the
jump,
And it hit the Bunnies
snowbank
A most enormous thump!

The Bunnies rushed into the house
(You should have seen their haste,
But Doctor Fox was buried in
The snow up to his waist!

John Bunny watched him wriggle out
(He stood within his door)
And Doctor Fox went sadly home,
His head was very sore.

Now I have told you all I can
So here I'll end my rhyme
You will agree, I think, with me,
They had a dandy time.

Now Bunnies all, both great and small
I wish you all good cheer,
May trouble pass you "on the jump"
In this, the coming year.

