

BETHLEHEM UNDER UNION JACK

COMBINED CROSSES FLY OVER THE SACRED PLACE.

For First Time in Nearly Seven Centuries Bells Rang Out Under a Christian Flag.

In 1917 for the first time in nearly seven centuries the Christmas bells of Bethlehem rang out under a Christian flag.

The combined crosses that make the Union Jack flew over the Judean hill town where the Babe was born in a manger.

Bethlehem is the home town of Christmas. It is a very Eastern-looking town, hanging on the sides of its two hills—white and dome-roofed and crowded. It is almost unique in Palestine for being well-nigh exclusively Christian. Only a handful of Moslems still cling to a corner, surrounded by some 8,000 Christians. It lacks, however, one characteristic that the Christian village of Ramallah, further north, boasts. Ramallah takes pride in the fact that its children do not pester the traveller for "bakshesh." As one approaches Bethlehem, even the mother-of-pearl merchants come out to beg the traveller to come to their shops, offering to serve as guides, gratis, if promised a visit.

Ancient Church of the Nativity. The church at Bethlehem—the Church of the Nativity—is a much more ancient and interesting structure than the better-known Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The latter is largely a new building. While some sections of the earlier structures survive and can be traced by archaeologists, the present church is almost wholly the new edifice erected in 1810 after the great fire of two years previous. But when we enter the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem we find ourselves within a venerable pile whose origins are lost in the mists of the past. Its antiquity of design and simplicity in details lead some to argue that this is the actual basilica erected by the Emperor Constantine on this spot in the fourth century. Certain it is that it bears few of the marks of the later work of Justinian (sixth century). But it may have been largely restored by Justinian, preserving the style of Constantine.

What happened to it under the period of Moslem rule before the Crusades is not known. Some reports state that it was wholly destroyed, but there is a general belief that it was preserved "by a miracle" and that the Crusaders found it intact. Throughout the middle ages we find frequent descriptions of it in the writings of pilgrims, and they agree so perfectly that there can be little doubt that this identical church lasted intact through the stormy period. Compare this with the known facts that the group of churches built on and about the Holy Sepulchre were destroyed by the Persians in the seventh century; were rebuilt and added to from time to time and then destroyed again by fire in the tenth century; were once more rebuilt by the Crusaders; had fallen into ruin so as to compel a virtual rebuilding in 1719; were burned in 1808 and a new church erected in 1810. The superior claims to antiquity for the Church of the Nativity are at once evident.

British Guard Holy Place. It has its historical interest, too, for here Baldwin was crowned King on Christmas Day, 1101. At times its sanctity seems to have been regarded as much greater than at others. Certain rulers covered it with jeweled ornaments and gilded mosaics. Others almost neglected it for the more popular buildings in Jerusalem. It is now a most bleak and barren-looking structure, outside of the underground chapels which mark the nativity, the manger and the scenes connected with the birth of Christ. One crawls into it through a small doorway.

Somewhere in the rare fertile valleys about this hill town must have been the Field of the Shepherds—somewhere must have been heard the "Gloria in Excelsis." This Christmas-tide it was heard in an air vibrant to the call of British bugles, and when the worshippers went up to the Church of the Nativity to hail the birth of the Christ-child they did not find an insolent, sneering, cigarette-smoking Turkish guard at the door—but a British picket who was thinking of the Christmas bells as they rang from the ivied tower or over the Cathedral close that memory called up as the symbol of the English Christmas at home.

Dried cow peas make a delicious soup.

Never allow a mirror to hang in the sunlight, or its backing will become clouded.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

ASSETS NEARLY DOUBLE TOTAL OF THREE YEARS AGO.

Purchase of Quebec Bank Adds 20 Millions—Total Increase During 1917 is 82 Millions.

The Royal Bank of Canada's statement shows a continuance of the rapid growth that has marked the recent history of the institution, a growth accelerated in the past year by the absorption of the Quebec Bank on January 1st last.

The purchase of the Quebec Bank added something like 20 millions to the assets of the Royal. That, however, accounts for a relatively small part of the expansion, for the increase in total assets as compared with November, 1916, amounts to more than 82 millions. In the past three years the bank has practically doubled the resources at its command; they are approximately seven times the total of only ten years ago.

Succeeding statements of the institution continue to give every indication that the progressive policy of the management has also been characterized by sound judgment. As the bank has gone forward, partly under the stimulus of successive absorptions of smaller institutions, and partly as a natural result of growth within its existing business, its position has been rapidly consolidated and strengthened before the next forward movement.

Evidence of public confidence is apparent in its deposit accounts. These show a growth of 53 millions in the past year and of 116 millions in the past three years. Savings deposits, taken separately, are about nine times the total of ten years ago.

The statement of profits continues to show successful direction of the bank's affairs. A substantial gain in the past year carried the figures to the highest level yet reached, with a showing of slightly better than 18 per cent. earned on paid-up capital against 17.8 per cent. the preceding year. As the Quebec Bank's record as an earner had been inferior to that of the institution in which it is now absorbed, the showing in that respect is highly satisfactory.

Profit and loss figures for three years are compared in the following table:

	1917.	1916.	1915.
Profits	\$2,327,879	2,111,307	1,905,576
Prev. bal.	852,346	676,472	614,062
Total	3,180,225	2,787,779	2,519,638
Less—			
Dividends	1,549,404	1,417,207	1,387,200
Pension F.	100,000	100,000	200,000
Premises	250,000	250,000	250,000
War tax	128,857	118,226	105,966
Patriot	60,000	60,000	—
Reserve F.	528,300	—	—
Total	2,616,061	1,935,433	1,843,166
Balance	564,264	852,346	676,472

It will be noted from the foregoing that a substantial addition has been made to reserve account. There was also added to reserve the premium on stock issued to the Quebec shareholders, and total reserve rose from \$12,560,000 a year ago to \$14,000,000 against a present paid-up capital of \$12,911,700.

The cash and the "liquid" position of the bank are virtually on a parity with a year ago. The proportion of cash assets, including with cash on hand the cover in the Central Gold Reserve for excess note issue, equals about 16.4 per cent. of liabilities to the public, against 16.2 per cent. a year ago, and the proportion of liquid assets about 53.9 per cent. against 53.2 per cent.

A notable feature of the balance sheet is an increase of upwards of 21 millions in holdings of Dominion and Provincial Government securities and an aggregate increase of about 26 millions in all security holdings. The figures are a measure of the direct assistance which the bank has been giving to war financing, in addition to the assistance given less directly through the financing of the business of corporations engaged in manufacturing war supplies. The circulation and current loan items both reflect the large demands of business in the bank's territory both at home and abroad.

	1917	1916
Deposits dem.	\$ 70,498,667	\$ 59,385,396
Do. notice	132,488,715	140,862,199
Do. total	202,987,382	200,247,595
Circulation	28,159,351	18,178,228
Pub. lab.	307,703,795	227,484,469
Total liab.	838,574,186	753,261,427
ASSETS		
Specie	16,079,830	16,072,763
Dom. notes	18,284,444	14,249,110
Cent. gold res.	18,000,000	18,000,000
Total cash	50,364,275	48,321,873

Securities	56,686,246	30,506,068
Balances, etc.	31,525,775	20,756,339
Call loans Can.	13,040,687	11,076,905
Do. abroad	14,574,136	21,372,026
Do. total	26,614,823	32,448,931
Total liquid	165,886,706	121,127,663
Cur. loans	102,388,037	86,936,831
Do. abroad	53,767,037	37,928,027
Do. overdue	490,084	465,640
Do. total	156,612,129	125,332,299
T.I. assets	336,574,186	283,261,427

The Children of the Road.

The conductor may have his transcontinental train and the sleeping car conductor his travelling hotel, but the section foreman with his six miles of roadbed and steel track and switches has something that these others must envy as they rush past his house beside the track—he has a home to which he can come back every evening to the wife and kiddies. A trim two storey house it is, with a garden on the right of way alongside on which he can raise his vegetables and keep a cow and chickens and pigs. The wife, as a rule, looks on the garden as her source of vegetables and small fruits, but twice a month she may travel on a pass to the nearest city to make any purchases she requires.

The house, which may have cost \$3,000 to build, is supplied by the railway at a nominal rent, in places where houses are difficult to obtain, and many other privileges are also allowed. Section foremen, for instance, are permitted to use old ties as firewood, so that their fuel costs them nothing. Many of them become so attached to their six mile stretch that they would not leave it on any account, but the more ambitious may become road-masters.

The section foreman has a busy life keeping the track in good repair, properly spiked and jointed, with ditches well preserved and drained. He must keep the right of way clear of weeds, and look after farm crossings, test the crossing alarm bells where such exist, and generally police the track, watching against possible danger from freshets or fires, replacing worn rails and ties.

Prizes ranging from \$10.00 to \$100.00 are given each year to the foreman who show the greatest improvement on their sections, and these are eagerly competed for, the men taking extraordinary interest in their work. Many of them began work upon the road as casual laborers, but now with their comfortable houses and their \$80.00 to \$90.00 a month (and ten dollars a month more in the cities), with a pension when they reach the age of sixty, with free fuel and garden, and with a family pass once a year over any part of the line, they consider themselves the "Children of the Road," and its chief support and mainstay. Just now they have particularly good reason to feel satisfied, as the scale of pay has been re-adjusted in their favor by an arbitration board to an extent which is costing the C.P.R., for instance, over a million dollars a year.

How Englishwoman Serves.

In a London district recently, shortly after midnight, a light was seen moving from one side of the street to the other. It was carried by a postwoman, who was delivering letters after delay caused by an air raid. One of the recipients remarked to the young woman: "You ought to have a medal for doing this at this late hour." The postwoman replied: "I am a soldier's wife, madam, and I know the value of these letters I am carrying." Such ideals of service are becoming common enough in England and in many other countries. And every time they "carry further than the next street."

MURINE Granulated Eyelids.
Sore Eyes, Eyes Inflamed by Sun, Dust and Wind quickly relieved by Murine. Try it in your Eyes and in Baby's Eyes.
YOUR EYES No Smarting, Just Eye Comfort
Murine Eye Remedy At Your Druggist's or by Mail, 50c per bottle. Murine Eye Salve, in Tubes 2c. For Book of the Eye—Free. Ask Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago 4

When you Spill Ink on Carpet. If you are ever careless enough to spill a bottle of ink on the carpet or the rug at your feet, go to the kitchen just as quickly as possible and get the salt bag. Throw a generous handful—or more, if the ink has spread much—upon the ink while it is still wet. Cover the stain well and then place a chair over it, or arrange in some way so that no one will walk over that portion of the floor. Let the salt remain for several hours; then take a clean cloth and a basin of water and wash the spot. One house-keeper says that she tried this scheme and it was very satisfactory, not a trace of the ink remaining upon the carpet.

Planes and Kerchiefs. The principal effect of the recent announcement that the British government had placed orders for 36,000,000 yards of linen for airplane sails has been to indicate a scarcity of handkerchief linens for some time to come. Inasmuch as the fabric weighs about eight ounces to the square yard, the order will cause the consumption of upward of 18,000,000 pounds of linen yarn, or much more than the total of the annual yield of Irish flax.

Britain in Palestine. Among the hosts of ancient stars That o'er Judea shine Again the Star of Bethlehem Reveals its light divine, For lo! Mohammed's crescent sets This Christmastide in gloom, To shed its evil rays no more Upon the holy tomb.

PAIN? NOT A BIT! LIFT YOUR CORNS OR CALLUSES OFF

No humbug! Apply few drops then just lift them away with fingers.

This new drug is an ether compound discovered by a Cincinnati chemist. It is called freezone, and can now be obtained in tiny bottles as here shown at very little cost from any drug store. Just ask for freezone. Apply a drop or two directly upon a tender corn or callus and instantly the soreness disappears. Shortly you will find the corn or callus so loose that you can lift it off, root and all, with the fingers.

Not a twinge of pain, soreness or irritation; not even the slightest smarting, either when applying freezone or afterwards.

This drug doesn't eat up the corn or callus, but shrivels them so they loosen and come right out. It is no humbug! It works like a charm. For a few cents you can get rid of every hard corn, soft corn or corn between the toes, as well as painful calluses on bottom of your feet. It never disappoints and never burns, bites or inflames. If your druggist hasn't any freezone yet, tell him to get a little bottle for you from his wholesale house.

Along Jerusalem's narrow streets Once more a cross is borne. The crimson cross of England's flag Salutes the Christmas morn, And while the bells of Christendom Announce the Saviour's birth It brings the promise in its folds Of lasting peace on earth.

GIRLS! LEMON JUICE IS SKIN WHITENER
How to make a creamy beauty lotion for a few cents.

The juice of two fresh lemons strained into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white makes a whole quarter pint of the most remarkable lemon skin beautifier that about the coast one must pay for a small jar of the ordinary cold creams. Care should be taken to strain the lemon juice through a fine cloth so no lemon pulp gets in, then this lotion will keep fresh for months. Every woman knows that lemon juice is used to bleach and remove such blemishes as freckles, sallowness and tan and is the ideal skin softener, whitener and beautifier.

Bread and Bacon Prices. Persistent statements are made that the prices of bacon and bread are higher in Canada than they are in Great Britain. The allegation in regard to bacon has been emphatically denied and figures have been cited which prove conclusively that it is cheaper here than in Great Britain. The bread of England is war bread, subsidized by the Government and containing other ingredients than white flour. A uniform price of a one-pound loaf at five cents was fixed. Already \$200,000,000 has been appropriated to apply as a subsidy to sustain these prices.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS
CURES ALL KIDNEY DISEASES
BRIGHT'S DISEASE
DIABETES BACKACHE
WATER 23 THE PR...

KAISER'S FAMILY TREE

Blight of Topmost Twig Should Be Cut Out Well Below Diseased Area.

Some people are of opinion that the Kaiser's family tree is now the gallows, but he has another, and it hangs—not grows—in the palace at Potsdam. This genealogical tree has at its root the name of King David, and as its topmost twig the name of William the Second, king of Prussia and German Emperor. Needless to say it is a very big tree, and contains a lot of branches and leaves.

Considering the Kaiser's contempt for everything English, including the British army—if not the navy—it is surprising that he should stoop to the indignity of tracing this Biblical descent through his mother, and therefore through the English royal family, but the very existence of such a tree not only shows the Kaiser's belief in his "divine mission" and divine right, but also his conviction that he is the right king of England, seeing that he is the eldest son of Queen Victoria's first-born.

According to this precious and preposterous tree the reigning house of Britain is descended from King David, the Sweet Singer of Israel through the eldest daughter of Zedekiah, who fled to Ireland in charge of the Prophet Jeremiah and eventually married Heremon, King of Ulster.

So the Kaiser is a bit of an Irishman in his own estimation, and he is certainly a "broth of a bloxy." He has turned the world into a Donnybrook fair, but there are few who will not be glad to attend his wake!

Apparently the Kaiser is fond of gazing on this "proof" of his ancient and honorable lineage, for the chart occupies a prominent place in his study.

TAKE NOTICE
We publish simple, straight testimonials, not press agents' interviews, from well-known people.

From all over America they testify to the merits of MINARD'S LINIMENT, the best of Household Remedies.

Food Controller's Duty. Speaking recently in Ottawa, Ven. Archdeacon Cody of Toronto, said that there appeared to be a wide-spread misunderstanding with regard to the functions of the Food Controller, whose primary duty was not to determine the price of foodstuffs but to see to it that there was a sufficient supply for export.

MONEY ORDERS
A Dominion Express Money Order for five dollars costs three cents.

A casual glance at some orchards by passersby would lead them to conclude that the owners had contracted a case of colic from eating green apples, and therefore, put the blame on the orchard. The trees are scraggy and scrawny in appearance, while some of them look as if they were on their last legs. It is a shame that these big profit-makers are allowed to go to ruin, when just a little care each year would save them.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES Diphtheria.
A little piece of cloth dissolved in water used for washing saves a great deal of labor and soap.

Washing eggs destroys the protecting film with which they are covered and hastens their spoiling. Keeping the nests clean is the way to get clean eggs.

GILLETT'S LYE
MADE IN CANADA
For making soap.
For softening water.
For removing stains.
For disinfecting refrigerators, sinks, closets, drains and for 500 other purposes.
REFUSE SUBSTITUTES

War Marriages.
The war resulted in 200,000 English people being married between August, 1914, and June, 1917, who in the ordinary course would not have married. The marriage rate for 1915 was the highest recorded—19.4.

These figures are given out by Sir Bernard Mallet, registrar general of births, deaths and marriages in England.

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.
Hyacinths and crocus planted in pots now will flower late this winter. Set them away in a dark cool place for a while until the roots are properly formed.

MISCELLANEOUS
CANCER, TUMORS, LUMPS, ETC., internal and external, cured without pain by our home treatment. Write us before too late. Dr. Bellman Medical Co., Limited, Collingwood, Ont.

The Soul of a Piano is the Action. Insist on the "OTTO HIGEL" PIANO ACTION

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CUTICURA SOAP and Ointment
which give quick relief and point to speedy healing. Then why not make these sweet, pure, super-creamy emollients your every-day toilet preparations and prevent little skin troubles becoming serious.

For free sample each address post-card: "Cuticura, Dept. N, Boston, U. S. A." Sold throughout the world.

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Try Sloan's Liniment and see how quickly the swelling is reduced and the pain disappears. No need to rub; it penetrates quickly and brings relief. Have a bottle handy for rheumatic pains, neuralgia, back ache and all muscle soreness.

Generous sized bottles, at your druggist, 25c., 50c., \$1.00.

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The World's
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- 1 WHEELLOCK ENGINE, 18x42.**
New Automatic Valve Type. Complete with supply and exhaust piping, flywheel, etc. Will accept \$1,200 cash for immediate sale.
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Will accept \$300 for immediate sale, although belt is in excellent condition and new one would cost about \$600.
- PULLEYS, Large size.**
26x66—\$30; 12x60—\$20; 12x48—\$12; 12x36—\$8.
- 2 BLOWERS OR FANS, Buffalo make.**
One 10 inch, other 14 inch discharge—\$30 each.

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