

# MC 235 POOR DOCUMENT

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 23, 1911.

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### CHRISTMAS

We come again to that benign season when the Great Anniversary sends over all Christendom the spirit of peace on earth and good will to men.

Here and there discordant voices are raised to tell us that there is not peace but war in the world of men, and that in the religious world there is not concord but dissension. But in the very act of recording this unseasonable protest one realizes of how little moment it is, by comparison. For, while there are minor wars, and while some of the crowds are in the crucible of thought, the great outstanding fact is the sustained and increasing brilliance of that star that shone above Bethlehem, which, after the lapse of centuries, holds more and more of the world in the warm glow of its radiance.

Talk there is of creeds, talk of changing beliefs, talk of peace interrupted by some rattling of the swords of the nations; but the world is not to be judged by a day or a year, or a generation, but by the steadiness with which it swings evermore truly toward the epoch star of truth. Men change in their conception of formula, but the fundamentals do not change. They are more broadly interpreted, so that they command more widespread allegiance from the thinking men of all nations.

The world is emerging from the clogging multiplicity of creed rules, and coming yearly to agree more and more upon the outstanding simplicities of religion. Love is service. This is the great creed, and yearly more and more of the world's people subscribe to it, realizing, even in the age stamped above all others as material, that selfishness is humanity's greatest foe—selfishness under whose black banner are enlisted the meanness and the more militant forms of greed, among individuals and among nations.

They are blind who do not see, as each Christmas comes, that the current of good becomes always broader and more powerful. To the mature in mind Christmas is at once a season of rejoicing and of thoughtful pause. The world calls a truce from its myriad activities, and thinking folk give attention to causes and results. Among those of lighter mind the clatter of mere merry-making seems to drown the higher music; but that is true of but a small circle, for, consciously or unconsciously, the Christian world today studies the old but evergreen story again—the story of Christ's coming and the dawn of hope for humanity upon this small earth of ours which moves in its fixed orbit and contributes its note to the music of the spheres.

In Canada, and throughout the British Empire there are manifold reasons why this should be indeed a merry Christmas, in the best sense of the phrase. Under the British flag there has been peace, increasing prosperity, and a broadening sense of national duty. Under such circumstances it should be the more delightful to contribute to the happiness and well-being of all who fall within the radius of one's influence; of the sick, of the poor, of the children, of all whose lives it is possible to brighten by a spontaneous and unselfish touch of the true Christmas spirit.

The Times heartily wishes for all its readers A Merry Christmas.

The trial of the Chicago meat packers is going to occupy months and cost a mint of money. But the trial of the meat consumers has extended over many years and has cost many millions. Turn about is fair play.

If there is any Liberal office holder who has not yet been fired for "offensive partisanship" the chances are his case will be attended to if he will send his name to Mr. Monk in confidence.

There is an intimation from Ottawa that the Premier of Canada will be Sir Robert Laird Borden early in the new year. The news is pleasing and of some importance, but it would be more to the point if Mr. Borden would take Canada fully into his confidence with respect to the tariff.

During the new year St. John will introduce commission government and will at least give thoughtful examination to the merits of gradually exempting improvements from taxation. This latter subject is of immense importance and ought to be studied by every taxpayer. It is a mistake to suppose that it would lead to injustice or the oppression of any one class. The reverse, rather, is true.

The suit by the Bank of Montreal against Sir Sanford Fleming may result in leaving the lead line into the water in the cement grout stock. Sir Sanford Fleming has money enough to afford to do a little submarine investigating, and he recently told several friends that before he got through he would turn the cement grout inside out. Beyond the distur-

ance of a few financiers, there is no reason in the world why the public which buys stock should not see the works of the watch as well as the face thereof. So here is more power to Sir Sanford's elbow.

A tariff war between the United States and Russia is on the programme. A tariff war means a system of fines for the consumer. Such fines ought to be paid only by the politicians who raise the tariff. When the voting population of any country really studies its own interests it will quickly prevent tariff wars.

C. P. R. officials in Montreal deny that their company has purchased a site for a big hotel in St. John. This rumor persists in the face of many denials, a fact due probably to the universal belief that the C. P. R. will find it a good matter of business to establish a big hotel in St. John before the Grand Trunk Pacific has time to do so. When St. John's prospects for growth were poor, the big transportation companies could afford to wait. But that day is past. Next year even the C. P. R. will not be able to pick up a desirable hotel site in St. John for a song.

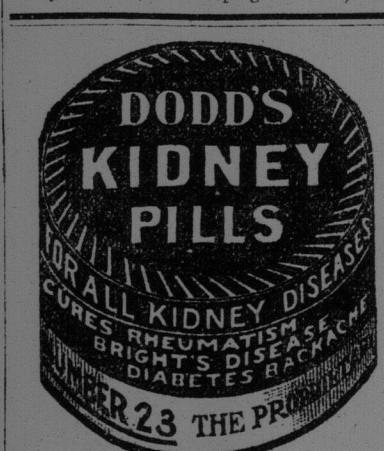
An Ottawa despatch to the Standard says that if Mr. Borden is knighted the honor will be given "in recognition of his fight for British connection and unity of the Empire in the recent election." The recent election had nothing whatever to do with British connection or the unity of the Empire; but in the year 1897 the Liberal party lead all the King's overseas dominions in giving British goods a substantial preference in this market. That great step toward imperial unity elicited from Mr. Borden one of his finest poems.

Later on the Liberal government increased the preference. No Conservative government has ever matched that achievement. Today a majority of the people of Canada—beyond question a very great majority—desire and would heartily welcome a further increase of the British preference. A duty in this respect squarely confronts Premier Borden. There is no way to evade it. He must lead the way in the matter, or refuse to increase the preference at the bidding of the selfish "interests." The manufacturers have already told Mr. Borden that the preference must not be increased, and now this whole country is waiting to see what the Premier is going to do about it.

## PHASES OF HIGH COST OF LIVING

(Toronto Mail and Empire)  
It has been well said that the reason for the high cost of living is the cost of living itself; and that the consumers themselves are directly responsible for the sins of which they have accused the middleman. Like most epigrams, this remark does not contain all the truth, for the housewife who grows tired and impatient at the exactions of the grocer and the butcher may not be to blame for them; the responsibility may rest on other shoulders of this or an earlier generation, in this city or in some other. Formerly the housewife would take her basket on her arm—see Hetty Green does today, for instance—and would saunter forth to the market. There she would spend an hour, maybe, picking out the best and choicest vegetables and meats, and declining to pay a single cent more than the minimum that the dealer would accept. She carried the goods away herself, knew what she was getting, and went home well satisfied with her morning's work. This sort of housewife is almost extinct. Thousands of women in this city and in other large centres do their purchasing over the telephone, or through the medium of a maid-servant.

The Modern Method  
They phone for what they want at the last moment, insist upon the choicest supplies, instantly delivered, and usually in small quantities. It is safe to say that there are few houses in Toronto, even in the fashionable and well-to-do quarters, where you can go into the cellar and find a fine side of beef or a back of pork hanging on a hook, ready to be cut into steaks or chops by the husband before he starts for work in the morning. Those who have no telephone and cannot use a neighbor's rarely carry their purchases home themselves; the smallest parcels must be sent, and very often charged. Thus the housewife makes it necessary for their retailers to have telephones, delivery services, bookkeeping accounts, and



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## We Wish You A Merry Christmas

PORTER'S DRUG STORE  
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### CHRISTMAS SORROWS

On Christmas Eve, the fire burns bright  
Within the grate of yonder dwelling.  
And grandpa's heart is moved to-night  
By mingled joy and sadness swelling.

He sees each grand child, girl and boy,  
In sweet expectant slumber dreaming;  
His aged heart is filled with joy,  
Yet down his cheek a tear is streaming.

He feels again the rule of youth  
That thro' his childish hours darted  
When Santa Claus was gospel truth  
To him in days now long departed.

Some incident of childhood days,  
That had for years been all forgotten,  
Again appears before his gaze  
At sight of each expectant stocking.

The sleeping doll, the gilded drum,  
The music-box with sweet vibration,  
The glittering sword, the polished gun,  
The skates for holiday recreation.

The odor of the painted toys,  
He's sorting out with feeble finger,  
Awakes again the vanished joys  
That e'er in the memory linger.

For Christmas mirth will ever tend  
To wake the dormant chord of sadness,  
By recollections of the friend  
Who shares no more our festive gladness.

The vacant chair that's never filled,  
The happy voice whose ringing laughter,  
The heartless rooster rudely killed,  
To waken in the bright hereafter.

In every home such thoughts as these  
Are mingled with the season's greeting  
Throughout the world where'er you please  
You'll find them in the family meeting.

Forgive me, reader, if I wrote  
A line to mar your festive gladness,  
I only pen the lines to note  
How Christmas joys are linked with sadness.

RUBIED TIPTILING.  
IN LIGHTER VEIN  
She—"Yes, I like Ted; he is so extravagant."  
He—"That is hardly the best quality for a husband, is it?"  
She—"Of course not; I am not going to marry him."

Guest at a Restaurant—"Excuse me, sir, can you let me come to the telephone?"  
You have been here twenty minutes without saying a word.  
"Sorry, sir, but I'm talking to my wife."

Conceited Bridge-Player—"Come here and sit by me, Kitty. You can learn a good deal by watching my game."  
Kitty Quicktongue—"No thanks, I never could profit by other people's mistakes."

Professor Stone—"To the geologist a thousand years or so are not counted as any time at all."  
Man in the Audience—"Great Scott! And to think I made a temporary loan of two pounds to a man who holds such views!"

"Why don't you try to write your name on the scroll of fame?"  
"My friend," said the severely practical person very earnestly, "have never seen anybody leaving leaflets out of the scroll of fame and getting them cashed at the bank."

An old country woman asked a young lady the other day, "How long have you been learning the piano?"  
"Two years," was the reply.

"My, what a time!" exclaimed the old dame. "Our Jack got a gramophone, and he could play it off the first shot."

Two servant girls had the following brief but pointed colloquy—"Well Sally, how are you?"  
"Oh, capital. My master's got the gout and can't wear his boots, so I haven't got to clean 'em out of a morning; while my mistress has the indigestion so bad she can't eat, so I've got nothing to cook."

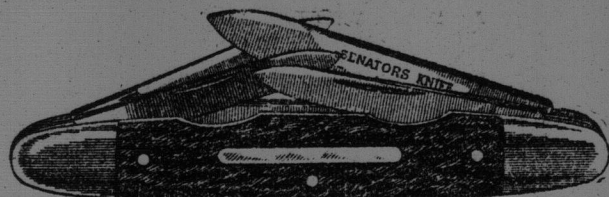
"Oh, what luck!"

A host of modern paraphernalia that was not considered essential in the good old days when butter sold at a York shilling a pound, and when the customers would carry bags of potatoes on their shoulders from Parliament street over the Don.

Mayor Shank's Plan  
The most notable of contemporary move ments against the high price of food necessities is that inaugurated by Mayor Shank, of Indianapolis. Becoming convinced that the retailers were charging unfair prices, and that they were combining to keep up prices, he boldly attacked them by constituting himself a market. He sent into the country and bought a number of carloads of potatoes from the growers at 60 cents a bushel, and after paying incidental charges, was able to sell them at 75 cents. At that time the retailers in Indianapolis were charging \$1.00 a bushel. When Mayor Shank began to cut prices the dealers a bushel, but raised them again to a dollar a bushel, but raised them again as soon as the Mayor's supply was exhausted. Then his Worship invaded the fruit market, and similarly cut prices, while his supplies lasted. On Saturday he helped seventy-five people to get their Thanksgiving turkey at 18 cents a pound. He also sold 300 dressed chickens and 500 pounds of country butter at prices considerably below those charged in the stores of Indianapolis. He declares that he will go on with the fight until the retailers abandon their ring.

Better and Cheaper Food  
The people of the city appear to be very strongly in favor of Mayor Shank's plan, and never let him keep his stock long on hand. Probably they have figured out that the Mayor's experiment was a success. The Mayor has taught them to go to the market again. He does not deliver the goods. He has the supplies delivered at the market, and the people have to go there for them. He fills no telephone orders, charges nothing, has no bookkeeping expenses, no rent to pay, and the

## POCKET KNIVES

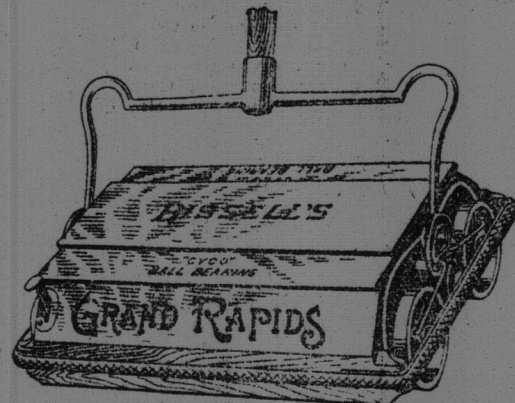


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