

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 23, 1916

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## CHRISTMAS

It is not surprising that the Christmas season this year is marked by a spirit of sympathy and a desire to contribute to the happiness of others which has never in our history been more generally displayed. We owe it to the war, and the common sorrow of rich and poor, who mourn alike the loss of loved ones, or share a common anxiety for the welfare of brothers or sons or husbands on the firing line, that all hearts are tender, and respond to those generous impulses which bring welcome sympathy and practical assistance to those who need it made known. So far as the city of St. John is concerned, the response to every appeal has been prompt and generous.

Happily, despite the high cost of living, money is plentiful, for there is work for all; but there is that which is of far greater value—the kindly spirit which prompts a helpful deed. May we not hope that this spirit will not subside, but will continue to animate the people until such community reforms are brought about as will lessen poverty, increase the opportunities for children to make the most of their lives, and so guarantee a great and needed improvement in social conditions everywhere throughout the city and province?

The thoughts of all people will go out on Monday to the Canadian soldiers in England, in France, or wherever duty may have called them. For some of them there will be Christmas pleasures, on leave or in camp, but they will miss the joys of home, and we may be sure their hearts will be at home, and their desire will be that all at home may find happiness in the simple pleasures of the day. But some will be in the trenches, for there will be no truce at the front, and to these especially the hearts of all will go out, with a prayer that they may come safely out of that inferno where they are fighting to preserve for us the liberties that make life worth living.

In thought we lay a tribute of tender love beside the little crosses that mark the graves of heroes who have died, but have not died in vain. Their devotion and their sacrifice is a part of the proud heritage of their country for all time. Their blood has consecrated for us the soil of France and Flanders, and they are one with all the hero souls of all time, whose deeds have shone upon the pages of the story of man's upward march toward a higher and nobler civilization. Other men have followed them to the halls of death and deathless fame, and we are chastened by the knowledge that it must be so; but we would be unworthy of them if we sought to hold them back. A recent observer tells us that though life in the trenches may be measured by weeks—perhaps days—the great fact that impressed him was the cheerfulness of the soldiers. We, too, must endeavor to be cheerful, even in the presence of bereavement, for they would have it so.

There will be at this Christmas time a very tender feeling toward the children, and it will be joined with a very deep sympathy for the mothers whose children, or some of them, are far from the home circle. This will be the third Christmas away from home for some of our lads in khaki, and the hope is universal that by this time next year the war will have ended in such a manner as to guarantee to the world a lasting peace.

Many times since this awful war began the question has been asked—Is Christianity a failure? What is vital in Christianity never had stronger defenders than it has today. The principle of sacrifice and service was never more in evidence as the guiding principle of human lives. That there are exceptions, national as well as individual, does not disprove the statement. The world will be a better world when right has triumphed in the great struggle which is now convulsing Europe, and what is vital in religion will appeal more strongly than before to all the nations, because it will have been vindicated from the brutal paganism which declares that might is right. And so, we hail the spirit of the time and join in the customary greetings of the season so dear to hearts of the children.

## CHRISTMAS AND THE TORIES.

It would be most ungracious, at this festive season of good-will, to trail the troubles of the Conservative party before a world that is thinking of Christmas stockings and their contents, and the manifold ways of making people happy. It is quite true that when the Liberals of Toronto, moved by a desire not to embarrass the government, permitted Hon. A. E. Kemp to be elected without opposition the Conservatives waited till after nomination day and taunted the Liberals with fear and cowardice; but nothing else could be expected of Toronto Toryism. So we let that pass.

It is not, therefore, in any cavilling spirit, or with any desire to gloat over the situation, but rather with a mournful feeling, that attention is directed to the Chatham World's declaration that the resignation of Hon. Frank Cochrane would cause bonfires to be lighted all along the Miramichi. The World is a Conservative newspaper, and its remarks concerning the minister of railways are made in connection with the action taken

by the Stanfields of Colchester. It says: "The principal achievements of Hon. Frank Cochrane, minister of railways, are the expenditure of many millions on a useless railway to Hudson Bay and the tearing up of the rails between Blackville and Nelson in this county. The Hudson Bay road is to carry grain for shipment from a port that is practically inaccessible for shipping ten months of the year, and the abandonment of the Blackville-Nelson line, in the name of economy and improved service, has caused an increased expenditure and resulted in so wretched a service that the mere mention of the word Cochrane in the ears of Miramichi people elicits a chorus of curses. Nothing could be possibly worse than the service on the Chatham subdivision under the Cochrane regime. When Mr. Cochrane was told at the Chatham station of the political effect of his crazy policy he burst forth in a volcano of sulphurous defiance of political condemnation. He seems to have taken the same stand against the protests of much more influential persons than those he rallied at in Chatham, and the result we looked for has come to pass. Frank Stanfield, M. P. P., and John Stanfield, M. P., have resigned their seats because a man has been imported from Ontario to fill a railway vacancy in Nova Scotia that a Truro official is entitled to by seniority. They protested in vain. The great man was not to be moved from his purpose. Mr. Gutelius had recommended the man from Ontario and he was appointed. The Standard's Ottawa correspondent says that the resignation of the chief whip at Ottawa, and that it has rendered action of some kind on the part of the prime minister necessary. And if such action on the part of the prime minister should cause the Hon. Frank Cochrane to submit his resignation there will be bonfires all along the Miramichi."

This is all very sad. It appears to confirm a remark made by the Toronto Globe, that "there are a lot of people who think with the retiring member for Colchester and former chief whip of the Conservative party that Ottawa is suffering from too much Cochrane."

But there is a ray of hope. The Stanfields may not resign, after all, and Mr. Cochrane may mend his ways. There are some persons, Grits of course, who said the Stanfields never intended to resign. They said it was merely a limited resignation—a sort of Stanfield's Limited—as it were. Everybody will at least hope that a truce will be declared for Christmas, and that when next these fierce Tory warriors leap over the parapet at each other it will be to discuss terms of peace, not on national service, in response to the appeal of Sir Robert Borden and Mr. R. B. Bennett.

The Toronto Globe pays the following tribute to Hon. W. J. Hanna, who has resigned from the Hearst government in Ontario: "In the establishment of the Prison Farm at Guelph and in the construction of modern hospitals for the insane the provincial secretary found scope for his marked executive ability and for the distinct strain of humanitarianism in his nature. Mr. Hanna would doubtless be the first to credit Dr. Gilmour, the prison reform enthusiast, who was so long warden of the Central Prison, with creating in his mind an interest in the welfare of society's unfortunate, but once awakened to the need for and the value of prison reform, Mr. Hanna became in this respect a radical of the radicals. He leaves behind him as the concrete result of fourteen years in the legislature and eleven in the ministry a greatly improved system of reformatory, prisons and hospitals for the insane."

Hon. W. J. Hanna, provincial secretary of Ontario, has resigned, and has been succeeded by Mr. W. D. McPherson, who, we are told, "has long been in power in the Orange Order and in the inner circle of Toronto Conservatism." Premier Hearst and Mr. Hanna apparently could not pull any longer in harness, and so we have Mr. McPherson stepping into the breach.

Sir Robert Borden's dignified and measured statement of Canada's attitude in the war, in his speech in Toronto last evening, is endorsed by the Canadian people without regard to party. Canadians know what they are fighting for, if President Wilson does not; and they speak with one voice in pledging their continued devotion to the cause of the Entente Allies and of civilisation.

The capture of El Arish by the British is described as a serious blow to the Turks, which more fully ensures the safety of the Suez Canal.

It is very evident from the news that comes from Berlin that the German people are eager for peace before their situation grows any worse.

London and Paris comment on his peace note will not tickle President Wilson's vanity, whatever Berlin may do for him.

The Times will not be issued on Monday, Christmas Day.

Foot-Fitters : 50 King St.

## THE VACANT RANKS.

On the road to Tipperary  
There's a place that's vacant still,  
There's a rifle lying silent,  
There's a uniform to fill,  
True, at home they'll hate to lose you,  
But the march will soon begin  
On the road to Tipperary  
With the army to Berlin.

On the Morris chairs of clubland,  
Are you there content to stay,  
While others guard your honor  
While the Germans boast "The Day"  
For your King and country need you  
And we want to count you in,  
On the road to Tipperary  
With the army to Berlin.

Have you seen the lonely crosses?  
Boys who'll never more come home,  
Will you idle while they're calling,  
Will you leave them there alone?  
For they're calling, calling, calling,  
And they want to hear you sing,  
On the road to Tipperary  
With the army to Berlin.

When from Mons they fought each foot-step  
When their lips with pain were dumb,  
'Twas the hope which held their  
trenches.

Never doubting you would come  
Through the frozen hell of winter,  
Midst the shrapnel's racking din,  
They have waited, never fearing,  
You will join them in Berlin.

On the road to Tipperary  
There's a land of awful darkness,  
Patient faces, tired and grey,  
Sobbing women, ruined girlhood,  
Screw the train of cultured sin;  
Can't you hear the call for vengeance?  
Won't you join us in Berlin?

On the road to Tipperary  
Sleep the boys whose day is done;  
Don't you hear their voices calling,  
To complete their work begun?  
There are victories yet to win,  
On the road to Tipperary,  
With the army to Berlin.

On the road from Tipperary,  
When the boys came home at last,  
"Ere Old England's call had passed"  
But the gate of manhood's open—  
You your part can still begin,  
On the road to Tipperary,  
With the army to Berlin.

(Written by a Canadian engineer two hours after an engagement, and sent home by W. Hume Bessey, A. S. C.)

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\$5.00 per 1-2 bbl. bag

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Electric Lanterns.....2.00 and 2.40

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8 lights.....\$3.25, \$3.90 and \$6.50. 16 lights.....\$6.50, \$7.50 and \$13.00

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## JUT GLASS

A Large Assortment, Best Quality

Celery Dishes.....\$3.50

Sugars and Creams.....\$6.50 to \$7.00

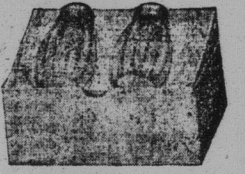
Bon-Bon Dishes.....\$2.50 to \$3.50

Vases.....\$2.75 to \$3.50

Spoon Trays.....\$2.75 to \$3.50

Knife Rests.....\$2.75 to \$3.50

Salt and Pepper Shakers.....\$1.50 to \$3.00



## NICKEL and COPPER GOODS

Nickel Tea Pots, \$1.50 to \$5.00

Nickel Coffee Pots, \$2.00 to \$5.00

Nickel and Coffee Percolators.....\$3.00 to \$7.00

Copper Chafing Dishes.....\$6.00 to \$12.50

Nickel Tea Kettles.....\$1.85 to \$3.50

Nickel Coffee Machines.....\$7.00 to \$10.50

Copper Coffee Machines.....\$8.00 to \$10.00

## SPECIAL

Casserole Dishes.....\$1.50

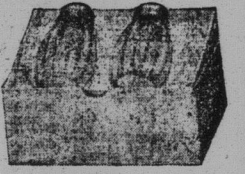
## SPECIAL

Hammered Brass Jardinieres.....\$1.25

## SPEEDAWAY SLEDS

Strong and Serviceable

Prices \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00



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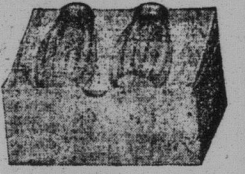
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