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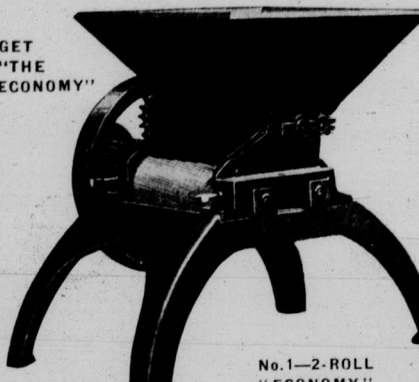
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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
Write for Circular

a Good Christmas Dinner for a Quarter, Go to Smithers's Cafe."

Little Billee roared with laughter. "Papa's trying to fool me, just as you did when you pretended not to know where I lived, Santa Claus," he said, looking up into the old fellow's face, his own countenance brimming over with mirth. "You mustn't think he can't read, tho," the lad added hastily. "He's only joking."

"Oh, no, indeed, I shouldn't have thought that," replied Santa Claus, smiling thru his tears. "I've been joking, have I?" said Little Billee's papa. "Well, then, Mr. Billiam, suppose you inform me what it says."

"Merry Christmas to Everybody," said Little Billee proudly. "I couldn't read it myself, but he told me what it said. He has it printed there so that if he misses saying it to anybody, they'll know he means it just the same." "By Jove, Mr. Santa Claus," cried Little Billee's papa, grasping the old man warmly by the hand, "I owe you ten million apologies. I haven't believed in you for many a long year; but now, sir, I take it all back. You do exist, and, by the great horn spoon, you are the real thing!"

IV.

Little Billee had the satisfaction of acting as host to Santa Claus at a good, luscious dinner, which Santa Claus must have enjoyed very much, because, when explaining why he was so hungry, it came out that the poor old chap had been so busy all day that he had not had time to get any lunch—no, not even one of those good dinners at Smithers's cafe, to which Little Billee's father had jokingly referred. And after dinner Henry came with the automobile, and, bidding everybody good night, Santa Claus and Little Billee's papa went out of the house together.

Christmas morning dawned, and Little Billee awoke from wonderful dreams of rich gifts, and of extraordinary adventures with his new-found friend, to find the reality quite as splendid as the dream things. Later, what was his delight when a small boy, not much older than himself—a pale, thin, but playful little fellow—arrived at the house to spend the day with him, bringing with him a letter from Santa Claus himself! This was what the letter said:

"Dear Little Billee:
"You must not tell anybody except your papa and your mama, but the little boy who brings you this letter is my little boy, and I am going to let you have him for a playfellow for Christmas Day. Treat him kindly for his papa's sake, and if you think his papa is worth loving tell him so. Do not forget me, Little Billee. I shall see you often in the future, but I doubt if you will see me. I am not going to return to Twenty-third Street again, but shall continue my work in the Land of Yule, in the Palace of Good-Will, whose beautiful windows look out upon the homes of all good children.
"Good-by, Little Billee, and the happiest of happy Christmases to you and all of yours. Affectionately,
"SANTA CLAUS."

When Little Billee's mama read this to him that Christmas morning, a stray little tear ran down her cheek and fell upon Little Billee's hand.

"Why, what are you crying for, mama?" he asked.

"With happiness, my dear little son," his mother answered. "I was afraid yesterday that I might have lost my little boy forever, but now—"

"You have an extra one thrown in for Christmas, haven't you?" said Little Billee, taking his new playmate by the hand. The visitor smiled back at him with a smile so sweet that anybody might have guessed that he was the son of Santa Claus.

As for the latter, Little Billee has not seen him again; but down at his father's bank there is a new messenger, named John, who has a voice so like Santa Claus's voice that whenever Little Billee goes down there in the motor to ride home at night with his papa, he runs into the bank and has a long talk with him, just for the pleasure of pretending that it is Santa Claus he is talking to. Indeed, the voice is so like that once a sudden and strange idea flashed across Little Billee's mind.

"Have you ever been on Twenty-third Street, John?" he asked. "Twenty-third Street?" replied the messenger, scratching his head as if very much puzzled. "What's that?" "Why, it's a street," said Little Billee rather vaguely.

"Well, to tell you the truth, Billee, said John, "I've heard tell of Twenty-third Street, and they say it is a very beautiful and interesting spot. But, you know, I don't get much chance to travel. I've been too busy all my life to go abroad."

"Abroad!" roared Little Billee, grinning at John's utterly absurd mistake. "Why, Twenty-third Street ain't abroad! It's up-town—near—oh, near—Twenty-second Street."

"Really?" returned John, evidently tremendously surprised. "Well, well, well! Who'd have thought that? Well, if that's the case, some time when I get a week off I'll have to go and spend my vacation there!"

From which Little Billee concluded that his suspicion that John might be Santa Claus in disguise was entirely without foundation in fact.

The Year of Drought

Continued from Page 13

year from deep plowing and from spring plowing, as shown in the chart, do not represent average yields in normal years. The accumulation of snow in the very long stubble on this land last winter is largely responsible for the good showing of spring plowing, and as the shallow plowing did not cover this long stubble as well as the deeper plowing it did not give as good a seed bed and resulted in a lower yield. The average yield here from shallow fall plowing, done early after harvest and well worked down, is slightly greater than for any deeper plowing at any other time. Nevertheless deeper plowing is probably advisable when the stubble is long and heavy. There seems no doubt about the necessity of working down the plowing in order to lessen evaporation and to put the furrow slice firmly in contact with the subsoil so that there may be no interference with the rise of water to meet the needs of the seed and the crop.

Surface Cultivation Helps Stubble Land

The average yield of all stubble plots that were surface cultivated but not burned was 2 bushels 35 pounds of wheat and 7 bushels 22 pounds of oats more than the average for those not cultivated in any way. In the absence of weeds and in the presence of a long heavy stubble, burning in the spring followed by surface cultivation is preferable for immediate returns in spite of the fact that burning dissipates nitrogen and organic matter. Burning is wasteful of these most valuable constituents of Western soils and should not be practiced on our poorer soil types. The time will come when it must be abandoned even on the heavier types, but so long as soils do not "blow" and weeds can be controlled this practice on our richer soils is likely to continue. It is important to notice, too, that early surface cultivation in the fall increased the yield of wheat 1½ bushels and the yield of oats 1 bushel 24 pounds over similar surface cultivation done three weeks later.

Harrow the Growing Crop

No figures are available to prove the value of harrowing the growing crop this year, but careful observations confirmed us in the opinion that the harrowing of all cereal crops, corn and potatoes after they were up materially increased the yield. Fields that are very loose or rough, or covered with small heaps of uncovered stubble, respond less favorably to this treatment, but on weedy land and particularly in dry years its advantages are very apparent. Another important point brought out by the experiments is that it is best to sow thinly in dry areas. On fall plowing 1 bushel of wheat, 1½ bushels of oats, ¾ bushel spring rye, and on fallow, 1½ bushels wheat, 2 bushels oats, ½ bushel winter rye and 20 pounds of flax, each produced larger net yields than any thicker seeding. Alfalfa when seeded at 4½ pounds per acre in rows 24 inches apart and cultivated yielded more forage than all heavier seedings in closer rows, but otherwise treated in the same way. Alfalfa sown at the rate of 3 pounds per acre in rows 36 inches apart yielded more seed than

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