

Christmas Gifts From the Country

Don't think that because you live in the country you cannot send any presents to your friends in the city that they will value unless you make a trip there or order something expensive out of a catalogue. If you look about the farm or among the wild things in the woods you will find gifts that will please your friends greatly at less expense than you ever imagined.

A suggestive Christmas package might contain a dressed chicken, a glass of jelly, a glass of cottage cheese or a pound or two of fresh butter. It would be sent by parcel post and would delight the heart of any city housewife.

So many things are accessible to the person living on a farm or in the village which make most acceptable gifts to friends less fortunately situated, or to the girl or boy away at school or at work. Often the simplest gift with a tinge of the country about it will give pleasure the winter through to some city man or woman.

A gunny sack full of Christmas greens to decorate the house is most acceptable as I, myself, can testify. Christmas greens in town are expensive, unless one waits until the last moment when only scraggy branches are left to choose from. Mistletoe, holly or evergreens, tied in attractive bunches with gayly-colored Christmas ribbon, or fashioned into wreaths, are also welcome.

A small Christmas tree will delight an entire family and costs but a trifle to send a reasonable distance by parcel post. A three-foot Christmas tree with a dozen ears of pop corn to pop and string for the tree were sent to a little friend of mine last Christmas. Her joy in having that treator her very own was unbounded. The very small Christmas trees from eighteen inches to two feet high are in great demand in the city for centre pieces for the Christmas table. They are expensive and hard to get in the shops, while the woods abound with them.

Such farm products as pop-corn, dried sweet corn, winter apples and pears, nuts and winter vegetables, can be made into attractive packages which are acceptable gifts to the city housewife who has to rely on the shops for the supplies.

A well-shaped hickory stick makes a splendid handle for an umbrella or an excellent cane. Sheets of birch bark will cover winter window boxes. Birch bark can also be used to make receptacles for small articles. For instance it can be made into a small box and filled with spruce gum, or into a larger box and filled with home made sweets, or it may be used to wrap around an article, its beautiful coloring suggesting the country in its most wonderful state.

An ingenious country woman once sent to her city cousin several cheese-cloth bags, about six inches wide and thirty-six inches long, filled with cedar shavings, padded to keep the shavings from falling to the bottom. These were to hang in clothes closets to keep out moths. To another friend she sent cedar twigs tied in little bundles to be strewn in the city woman's trunks.

Pine-needle pillows are very refreshing. A small pillow cover made of linen or even unbleached muslin, stenciled with pine cones and filled with fragrant pine needles will give some weary friend a pleasant thought of you every time she lays her head upon it.

A Red And Green Dinner

The Christmas colors, red and green, are so cheerful and "Christmasy" that they can't be repeated too often. Every corner of the house that can hold a Christmas decoration is almost sure to be full of spicy evergreens and bright holly. A form of Christmas decoration not so often thought of, however, is the carrying out of the Christmas colors and Christmas shapes, like trees and stars, stockings and holly leaves, in the Christmas dinner. Yet it can be done with very good effect in almost every course.

Bread for the canapes or hot rolls, made by any preferred recipe, may be cut out with a star-shaped cutter.

The soup may be a red one, made from beets or tomato; or a green one, with spinach as the basis.

The turkey, or, if the old English Christmas dinner is preferred—a little roast pig or a roast of beef—may be garnished with parsley and red cranberries.

Tomato jelly on lettuce may be used for a dinner salad.

The plum pudding may come to the table decorated with real holly leaves and berries.

The frozen dessert may be a bombe with the outside of loganberry sherbet, and the centre of vanilla or pistachio ice cream, topped with fruit.

Candles of almost any shape or color are acceptable at Christmas time, but there are many kinds that can be given a holiday air by the careful use of colors, and that may be purchased of almost any first-class grocer.

It's easier to collect a crowd than a

Christmas Tree's Age

(By Carl Holliday)

How old is the Christmas tree? Older than Christianity itself. Far back in the days when Egypt was one of the mightiest nations of the world the people of that land used the palm tree for almost the same kind of festival at almost the same time of year as our Christmas. The palm puts forth a fresh shoot or sprig each month, and at the fetes or parties during the last week of the year each guest brought a palm "spray" with twelve shoots as a symbol of the closing of another twelvemonth.

In those old days the Egyptians were wide travellers and thus it happened that the custom was carried into Italy, but here the fir tree was substituted for the palm, and its tips were decorated with tiny candles burning in honor of the great god of seed-sowing, Saturn. And, strange to say, this ceremony, called the Saturnalia, occurred at the winter solstice toward the close of the third week of December.

And how about the presents? There

arose the custom of exchanging on certain days, known as the Sigillaria, figures of wax or candy, such as we find on the modern Christmas tree, and these were sometimes tied on the trees in gardens or forest. Then there was another occasion, the Juvenalia, when everybody tried for one time during the year to act young, and old men and women romped with the children, and nobody dared "stand on his dignity." It was exactly like the rollicking good time old-fashioned families still have on Christmas night.

At length the idea of the tree passed on into France and Germany and Denmark, where for centuries the primitive tribes had hung either living animals or wooden images on the pine trees as sacrifices to the gods, and naturally these people very readily accepted the idea of the Christmas tree with its gifts and candles. But, curiously enough one sometimes sees to-day in Holland, Germany, and Denmark a wooden pyramid instead of the tree—perhaps a reminder of the annual ceremony of long centuries ago among the pyramids of Egypt.—"Evening Post," New York.

"Idle curiosity"? The blame thing works day and night.

CHRISTMAS TALKS



Xmas Headquarters at Blakeney's Book and Fancy Goods Store

Remember the place—opposite Post Office. Store recently enlarged and refitted.

Toys from 25 to 50 per cent. better value than last season, and endless variety.

- Dolls, Drums, Toy Dishes,
- Teddy Bears, Trumpets, Coats,
- Celluloid Babies, Tops, Sleds,
- Dolls Co-Carts, Rattles, Dolls Beds,
- Balls, Guns.

SPECIAL VALUES IN SKATES, ALL SIZES AND PRICES.

See our splendid variety in French Ivory, Mirrors, Brushes, Combs, Toilet Sets, Manicure Sets, Photo Frames, Pin Trays, all priced reasonably.

Christmas Decorations

Garlands, Bells, Tinsel, Crape Paper in plain colors and fancy, Xmas Boxes for mailing, Tags, Seals, Candles, Crepe Napkins.

Smokers' Supplies

Choice Briar and Meerchaum Pipes, Cigarette Cases, Pouches, Smokers Stands.

Mirrors, Jewelry, Hay Baskets, Clocks, "Waterman" and "Parker" Fountain Pens, Purses, Hand Bags (all real leather), Pocket Knives, Harmonicas.

Great Variety of Books and Booklets. Novelty Books in Suede leather bindings. Souvenir Goods, Papeteries in endless variety. Christmas Cards.

3 Attractive Tables 3

at 5 & 10c., 15c. and 25c. Special values on these Tables.

We are planning to make this the only Specialty Store in town, buy early and avoid the rush and get better assortment to choose from.

H. E. BLAKENEY

Opposite Post Office, next door east of Royal Bank.



EVERYBODY

Expects Special Prices around Xmas time so we have decided to hold a \$1.00

ONE DOLLAR SALE

for ONE WEEK commencing, Monday, Dec. 12th

REMEMBER—We only buy and sell first class goods. No second hand goods are handled by us.

We guarantee our goods and prices. We meet all competition.

The following articles are only a few of the many things we are selling at SLAUGHTER PRICES for this week.

\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
4 pkgs Seedless Raisins	\$1.00	20 lbs. Rolled Oats	1.00		
4 pkgs Seeded Raisins	1.00	12 lbs. Farina	1.00		
4 lbs. Bulk Raisins	1.00	12 lbs. G. Sugar	1.00		
9 lbs. Y. E. Beans	1.00	13 lbs. B. Sugar	1.00		
10 lbs. White Beans	1.00	13 Bars S. Soap	1.00		
2 lbs. Best Bulk Tea	1.00	13 Bars Gold Soap	1.00		
2 1-2 lbs. Good Bulk Tea	1.00	5 lbs. Pure Lard	1.00		
8 pkgs Kellogs Corn Flakes	1.00				
5 pkgs Health Bran	1.00				
3 pkgs Cr. Wheat	1.00				
7 pkgs Quaker C. Meal	1.00				
4 pkgs Currants	1.00				
8 pkgs Jello	1.00				
12 pkgs Bee Jelly	1.00				

We never had a better assortment of "Moirs" and Willards Chocolates in Fancy Boxes and also in bulk.

Our new Nuts both in and out of the shell are now in.

Do your Xmas Shopping with us. We can save you money.

Don't forget to book your Turkey or Goose early. We guarantee delivery also price.

R. E. HARRIS & SONS