

Christmas

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Vests.
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We have a large stock and big variety in
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Underwear
and our prices are the lowest.

HENRY BLAIR

SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

THE PRICE OF ADMISSION.

Did you ever visit at a home where the price of admission was so high that you really felt you couldn't afford to go again? I don't mean financially, of course. The price of admission to such places isn't reckoned in terms of money.

This is the kind of thing I mean: We have in our neighborhood a young business woman, who is so attractive and charming that she is welcome in more than one of the finest homes in town.

Before last, Margaret visited the summer home of one of her friends, was taken canoeing, sailing on the lake, rode horseback, and was driven about the country in one of their beautiful cars.

Less Expensive To Board.

Last summer she went alone to a little inn where she had, of course, to pay her own way and buy her own pleasure.

"I do think it's the queerest thing," commented one of Margaret's friends, "that she should go off to that little inn when she has a standing invitation to visit the Carletons in their lovely home."

"Perhaps," said the Authorman, "she couldn't afford the price of admission this year. I hear she has been working very hard and is more tired than usual."

"The price of admission? Whatever are you talking about? Why she goes as the Carleton's guest, of course."

You Have To Pay In Admiration.
"Exactly," said the Authorman, "and if what I have heard about the Carletons is true, any guest of theirs is supposed to pay a good stiff price of admiration. Oh, no, my dear lady," as her astonishment showed signs of being

coming vocal again, "I don't mean in money. I mean in admiration and gratitude and in being always ready to fall in with every plan they make, and having the good time for them that they are too bored or too stupid to have for themselves. I haven't visited the Carletons but I have visited their kind and I know what it is like."

"You have to admire every new possession they have got since last year—that's what they've gotten them for, to show their guests, when they come, and that's what they have guests for to show their possessions to. And you have to rave over every view, and you have to be awed by their handsome new cars."

"And you have to pretend that you are terribly envious of them and that you'd be perfectly happy if you could live just the way they do. And then after you've done all that, you've got to be as grateful as if you hadn't been giving them a quid pro quo for everything they've done for you. Yes, sir, if that girl's tired, I can see why she can't afford the price of admission."

Couldn't Be Polite So Long.

A man I used to know was offered a trip to Europe by a friend in exchange for his companionship. He didn't accept. "I couldn't be polite that long," he explained. In other words the price of admission was too high, by far.

Haslett, in his essay on the spirit of obligation, speaks bitterly of "sitting at the lower end of the tables of the great, eating awkwardly from gold plate, drinking fulsome toasts, or being thankful for gross favors and grosser insults." Evidently he had been to houses where the price of admission was too high, by far.

Of course there are not many places where the price of admission is as heavy as that. Or even as heavy as the Authorman describes it. But I think there are many people who do put more of a tariff than they realize on their hospitality.

London's Night of Peril

THRILLING MEMORIES OF "THE SILENT RAID"—HOW METROPOLIS ESCAPED A DIRE CATASTROPHE.

Which was London's night of greatest peril during the German air raids? Col. Rawlinson, who helped to create an air defense organization for London, tells us in a volume of absorbing interest entitled "The Defence of London" that it was the night of Oct. 19, 1917, during which the Huns made what was known as "The Silent Raid." If the population of London could only have known at the time the sinister nature of the German plans for that night it would have been very difficult to avoid panic on an unprecedented scale. As it turned out, the appalling plan of destruction drawn up by the Huns miscarried. This was partly due to the policy of our air defenders, who never once allowed a flicker of light to appear, and in a greater measure to the elements, for Heaven on that occasion, as on others, fought for the Metropolis. On the night of this silent raid the Germans used for the first time a new type of high-flying aircraft. Colonel Rawlinson tells us that it was obviously the intention of the enemy to assemble in the neighborhood of Watford, then to float down wind over London at a high altitude with their engines stopped; in which case we should neither be able to see them to shoot with our "eyes" nor hear them to shoot with our "ears." The one advantage the defence possessed was that, being on the ground, they were in a position to know the speed of the wind. This the enemy at their great altitude, had no means of judging, but the moment our searchlights were unmasked, the enemy would be able at once to judge the speed at which their ships were moving over the ground by the change in the bearing of the various lights. I called all

stations and gave orders that no lights should be uncovered under any consideration. At 11 p.m. Watford reported sounds of aircraft to the north. The fleet was therefore at last complete and about to start on its feat over London. In the meantime our faithful and invaluable ally, the wind, still continued to freshen. Interminable minutes passed in absolute darkness and silence, and no sign was given from the sky. But at 11.24 p.m. bombs were reported from the south-east of Harrow, on the direct line from Watford to the heart of the City. I thought then, and still think, this was an attempt to induce us to uncover our lights, but if so, the enemy must have been sadly disappointed, as not a glimmer of light was shown. Four minutes later another single explosion was heard, bearing north-east-by-east from my headquarters at Putney, and about four miles distant. The crucial moment had arrived, and the whole Zeppelin fleet, fully loaded with bombs were in the position they had striven so long to attain, and the heart of London then lay below them at their mercy, but shrouded in impenetrable darkness.

There can be no doubt, states Col. Rawlinson, that this bomb was also discharged with the object of inducing the lights to uncover; and the accuracy of its aim was so astounding that, had its discharge been based on any definite knowledge of their actual position, it is certain that every bomb in the Zeppelin fleet would have been dropped simultaneously at that critical moment. Only one was dropped, however, and mercifully the darkness and silence below remained impenetrable and unbroken. The succeeding minutes were charged with such an anguish of anxiety, says Colonel Rawlinson, and the horror of the awful tragedy which appeared likely to be enacted at any moment was so great, as to cause him an absolute spasm of nervous agony. This he found it almost impossible to control, and says it threatened every moment to render him physically sick from apprehension. The good north-west wind still stood our friend. It gained steadily in strength until, six minutes later, another bomb was dropped in the neighborhood of Grove Park, far to the south-east, and our agonising anxiety was over, for in the freshening gale no ships could ever hope to return against the wind.

London was saved from a catastrophe of which the possible extent can never be estimated accurately. The one large bomb which dropped at 11.23 p.m. was the one that fell at Piccadilly-circus, which demolished premises of Messrs Swan and Edgar. As illustrative of what might have been done had all the tons of bombs carried by the airships been dropped, the actual damage done by the three bombs (which were the only ones dropped that night in the metropolitan district) was killed 48, injured 49, structural damage £50,000. The lowest estimate of the number of bombs at that moment floating over the town would be at least 100, and the actual number was probably

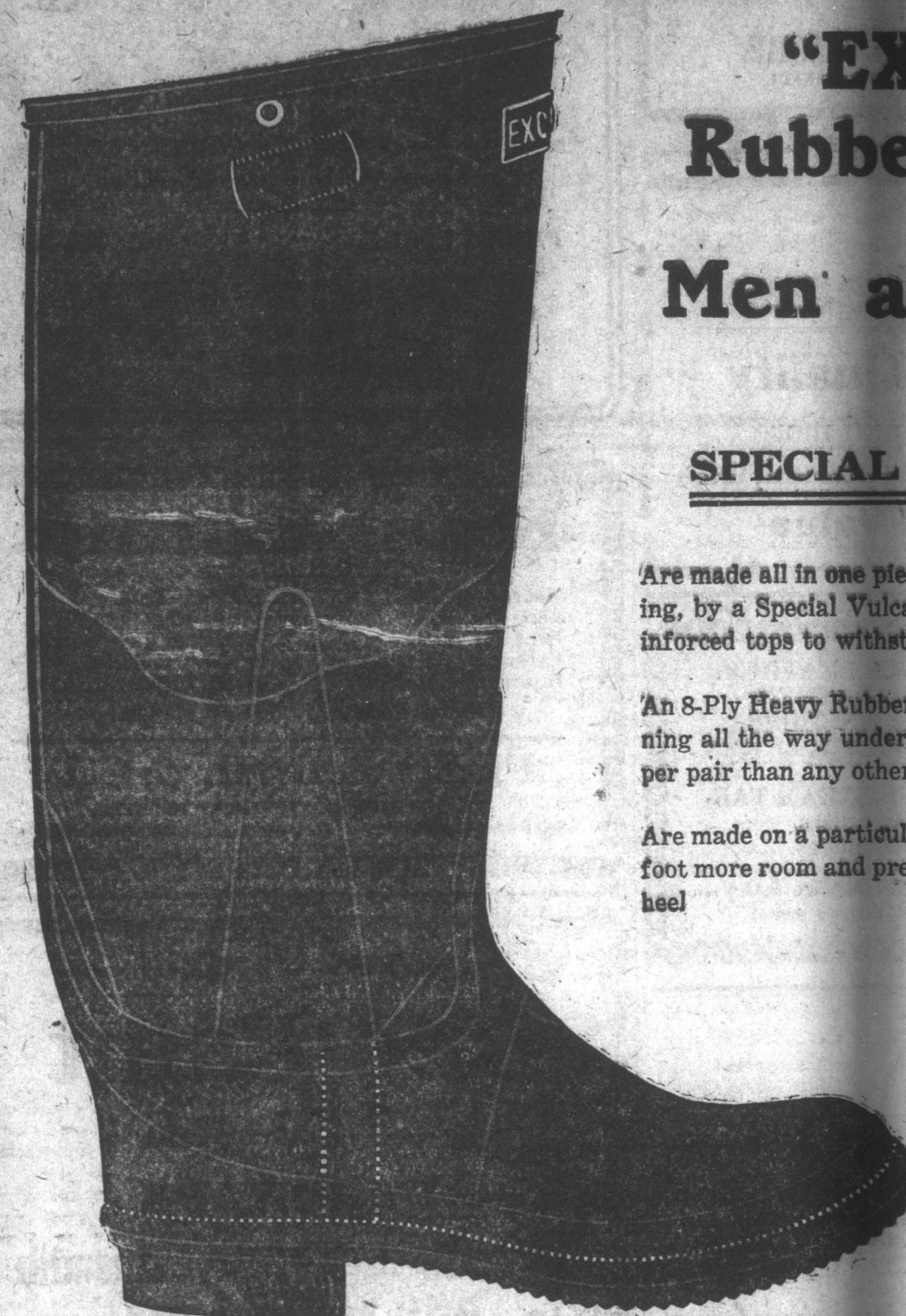
Not Everyone keeps a House

where baking can be done. Many housewives do not have cake in the cupboard because they have no facilities to bake it—particularly in summer. Drake's Cake makes it possible for the fastidious housewife to have the best of cakes in the house and yet not fret about the baking

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An 8-Ply Heavy Rubber Sole with extension edge, running all the way under the heel. Insures more wear per pair than any other make of Boot on the market.

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Manoa in Port

S.S. Manoa direct from Montreal arrived in port at 9 p.m. Saturday, bringing a full cargo consisting mostly of flour and oats. The following passengers came by the ship—J. H. and Mrs. Rogers, Miss G. Lloyd, Wm. Field.

St. JOHN'S

Grocery Stores

Pork Jowls.
Pork Ham Butt.
Pork Fat Back.
Beef (very choice).
Bologna.
Spare Ribs.
Armours Beans.
S.S. Chow and Pickles.
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Turnips.
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Diss. Coconut.

J. J. ST. JOHN.

Duckworth St. & LeMarchant Road.

Bulky One: "Jove! we seem to get on jolly well together. May I have the last dance with you as well?"
Exhausted One: "You've had it!"

A great selection of Novelties at Miss Mollie Ellis' stall at C.L.A. Sale.—nov18,21,24