

How to Get Rich:

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SINGING RIVER'S CHRISTMAS

Ma'am Hickey's account of the Christmas tree at Singing River is so much more interesting than any account I could give of it, that I think it best to let her tell about it in her own way.

"You see, Big Dan an' Joe Burke got back all right the middle of the afternoon the day before Christmas. They looked like a pair o' pack peddlers, an' they were about fagged out for they had had a hard time of it pullin' up over the mountain trails in a snow-torn. Joe said he didn't think he could have dragged himself another mile for love or money. He had two big turkeys on his back besides a great lot of other things.

"Well, the men in the camp had been busy. They had cut a big fire an' set it up in the hall over the post-office an' the way they had decorated the hall with evergreen was beautiful. You couldn't see an inch of the ugly bare logs nor of the bare rafters. They set to an' scrubbed the floor an' washed the windows, an' strung up a lot o' red, white and blue bunting. I happened to have in the house, an' I tell you the little old hall did look scrumptious. I kept the children in the kitchen with me, where I was makin' pies an' cake an' doughnuts most o' the time. I give 'em dough to maza with, an' let 'em scrape the cake-dishes, an' tried to keep 'em interested all the time, so they wouldn't ask about their pa.

"When Big Dan an' Joe got back, the other men had a great time riggin' up the tree. We were afeard they wouldn't be able to buy Christmas tree candles in Crystal City; but, my land! they got about ten dozens of 'em, an' no end o' tinsel an' shiny balls an' things to hang on the tree, an' a lot o' little flags to stick in among the evergreen decorations. We had no end o' common taller candles on hand, an' the men were perfectly reckless with 'em. I reckon they put as many as two hundred of 'em up around the room. An' what did they do but go an' rig Big Dan up as Santa Claus! They wrapped him up in a big bearskin one o' the boys had, an' put about a quart o' flour on his long, bushy whiskers to whiten 'em, an' they put a big fur cap on his head an' he did look for all the world like Santa his own self. Yes; an' he had a string o' sleigh-bells they got at the stage-office stable; an' them boys recklessly cut a hole in the roof so Santa Claus could come down through it. La, if you want things carried through regardless, you let a lot o' Rocky Mountain boys take it in hand. They won't stop at nothin'. I reckon they'd h'isted off the hull roof if it had been necessary to make the appearance of Santa true to life. Such fun as them boys had over it all! An' all of the capers they cut up! Seemed like they were all boys once more! Me an' Ann Dickey an' Mary Ann Morris were the only women in the camp, an' we had our hands full gittin' up the Christmas supper we intended havin' after the tree. Mind you, there wasn't a child in camp but jus' them two poor little orphans, an' all that fuss was on their account. If you think rough miller boys can't have the kindest o' hearts, you just remember that. Every man seemed to be tryin' to outdo the others in doin' somethin' for them little folks.

"Well, I jest wish you could have seen them children when the time come for 'em to go up to the hall an' see their tree! Little Freddy he give a yell o' joy that most split our ears, an' he jest stood an' clapped his hands, while his sister kep sayin', 'How lovely it is! Oh, isn't it beautiful!' Then Freddy he screeches out: 'Oh, there's my choo-choo engine! Goody!' An' how little Elsie's eyes did shine when she saw no less than three dolls on the tree for herself! There was enough stuff on that tree for a hull Sunday School, for the men had been that reckless in sendin' to Crystal City for things.

"Then I wish you could have seen those children when Big Dan come in all rigged up as Santa Claus! That was the capstone of the hull proceeding. First we heard his bells outside, an' him callin' out, 'Whoa, there!' 'Whoa, as it he was talkin' to his reindeers. Then he climb up the ladder the boys had set outside, an' presently down he come through the hole in the roof. I jest thought little Fred's eyes would pop clean out o' his head when that part of the show come off. An' what fun there was when old Santy went around givin' the boys all sorts of ridiculous presents! He give old Tim Thorpe a tiny chiny doll, an' big Jack Ross a jumpin'-jack, an' Ben Anderson a set o' little pewter dishes; an' he fetched me a great big old pipe, when they knowed I hated the very sight o' one. I tell you, it was real fun!

"Well, the things had all been distributed, an' the children were loaded down with presents, an' me an' an' me an' the other two women were about to go downstairs to take up the supper, when the door of the hall opened, and a strange man stepped in. When he saw the children he give a kind of a little outcry, an' the next minute he was down on his knees before 'em, with an arm around each child, an' he was kissin' first one an' then the other. We all jest stared at each other when little Elsie clapped her hands together and said: 'Why, papa!'

"An' that's jest who it was! The man named Miller who had died a few days before was a cousin o' the children's pa. It seemed that this cousin o' the name of Miller had been sent to meet the children, because their pa had been sick an' wasn't hardly strong enough to come away over to Singin' River for them. He lived in a little camp only about 20 miles away, but it was a hard road to travel for a well man, even. So this cousin he come, an' from all we could make out, he had lost his way in a storm, an' had laid out a night an' got so chilled it had brought on pneumonia. When he didn't come back with the children after two or three days, their pa got uneasy, an' he set out himself to see what was the matter. He wasn't hardly fit to travel, but he come anyhow, an' he was all tuckered out when he got to Singin' River. Then he was so nervous an' kind o' wrought up that no one thought it to his shame that he jest broke clean down an' laughed an' cried by turns, kind o' hystericky like, over the children.

"We did have the best time at the supper! A storm had come up, an' the wind was roarin' an' howlin' in the canon an' up an' down the Singin' River, an' the sleet was dashin' ag'in the window-lights; but that jest made it seem more cheery an' comfortable in the cabin, with a roarin' fire o' pine knots in the big fireplace at one end o' the cabin, an' the tea-kettle singin' on my big shinin' stove at the other end. Mr. Miller he set between the two children, an' he'd hug an' kiss 'em between times. We made him stay two whole weeks in Singin' River to rest up an' git real well, an' then a hull passel o' the boys went with him to git the children home. The boys rigged up a sled, an' tuk turns drawin' Elsie an' Freddy over the trails an' away up over Red Bird Mountain. I reckon it was a ride they won't ever forget; an' none of us that were there will ever in this world forget that Christmas on the Singin' River."

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THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS

Any even numbered section of Dominion lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, excepting 8 and 26, which has not been homesteaded or reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or for other purposes, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

ENTRY Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land to be taken is situated, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent for the district in which the land is situated, receive authority for some one to make entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for a homestead entry.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES Under the present law homestead duties must be performed in one of the following ways, namely: (1) By at least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years, or-

(2) If the father (or the mother, if the father is deceased) of any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead, the requirements of the law as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother, or-

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by himself in the vicinity of his homestead the requirements of the law as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT Should be made at the end of the three years before the Local Agent, Sub-Agent or the Homestead Inspector. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of his intention to do so.

INFORMATION Newly arrived immigrants will receive at the Immigration Office in Winnipeg, or at the Dominion Lands Office in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them. Full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, as well as respecting Dominion lands in the railway belt in British Columbia, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa; the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, Manitoba, or to any of the Dominion Lands Agents in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories. JAMES A. SMART, Deputy-Minister of the Interior.

N.B.-In addition to Free Grant Lands, to which the Regulations above stated refer, thousands of acres of most desirable lands are available for lease or purchase from Railroad and other Corporations and private firms in Western Canada.

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THE EXCELSIOR LIFE INSURANCE CO. HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO Incorporated 1889. Our Annual Report for 1901 shows as the result of the year's operations the following Substantial Increases in the important items shown below:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Gross Assets: \$769,918 75. Premium Income: \$139,292 45. Interest Income: 19,721 61. Net Assets: 477,202 29. Reserve: 399,928 63. Insurance in force: 4,429,768 00.

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The Home Savings & Loan Co. LIMITED. CAPITAL (Authorized) \$2,500,000 CAPITAL (Subscribed) \$2,000,000 EUGENE O'KEEFE, President JOHN FOY, Vice-President DEPOSITS RECEIVED from 20 upwards; interest at current rate allowed thereon. MONEY LOANED ON MORTGAGE, small and large sums; convenient terms of repayment and lowest current rates of interest. No valuation charged. Loans on collateral of Stocks, Bonds, and Debentures. JAMES MASON, Manager. The feebleness and frivolousness of modern literature are due to no deterioration of men's intellectual powers, which are as great and as good now as ever they were, but to the want of force and constancy of will which itself is owing to the neglect of severe studies, the want of philosophical discipline, and of high and noble aims.