

READY FOR CHRISTMAS

year slipping out of... all talking about... full of whispers and... up the pack that old... all smiles as she... with the happiest... Christmas—well, me—... mortal can... better than all of the... Christmas that should... something about it that... discontentment and com... the whisper their secret... and giggle sets every... pipe and I sit there and... old world is worth... of feet is a joy to my... with their treasures when... trimming the home for... all, but magnificent... surprises and writing... which we love so that... which somehow my soul... real delight in the... will frown at the fuss... and growl at the bills... the money they spend... the folly of scattering... When Christmas gets... for it is the best fun... —By Edgar A. Guest

SHOOTING WAS NOT WITH INTENT TO DO BODILY HARM

Jury Finds in Case of Wesley Huffman the Belleville Boy, Who Was Shot and Killed at Ottawa—Story of the Tragedy as Told by Witnesses.

(Special Despatch from The Ontario's Ottawa Correspondent) OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—The verdict of the jury in the case of Wesley Clayton or Huffman, formerly of Belleville, who died in St. Luke's hospital last Wednesday was to the effect that death was the result of a gun shot wound inflicted by F. W. Mooney, while the deceased was unlawfully trespassing on the premises of Mr. John Patton. The shooting was not, the jury found, done with intent to do bodily harm. Mr. Mooney is out on \$10,000 bail on a manslaughter charge and appears tomorrow. It took the jury about half an hour to reach the verdict after Mr. Louis Cote, Crown Attorney, of Prescott and Russell, who handled the case in the absence of Crown Attorney Ritchie, had instructed the jury explicitly on the point of whether the shooting was the result of intent or indiscretion.

Accused Testified

Mr. F. W. Mooney who fired the fatal shot, said that he fired a .31 Mauser rifle while eight yards away from Clayton when the latter was attempting to scale the fence of the Patton Dye Works. He swore that he fired "from the hip" and gave a demonstration. He said that he did not aim at the boy. When he fired Mr. John Patton had just been attempting to catch Clayton by the feet, but the dead man got loose. Mrs. Thomas Clayton, mother of the dead lad, swore that when she visited her son in the hospital he told her "Mr. Patton held me on the gate and called three times for the other man to shoot me. He also said that Mr. Patton said after he had been shot, 'Let the lad lie there.' Mr. Gordon Henderson interposed that the deceased said this after he knew he was going to die. When cross-examined by Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Clayton refused to repeat what she had previously given as evidence and was so overcome that she had to have assistance.

Went for His Gloves

Mr. Thomas Clayton gave evidence that his son told him that he had gone to the Patton works, where he had been previously employed, at midnight to get a pair of gloves which he had left there. Mr. Cote pointed out in his address to the jury that the deceased was at the Patton shop for an unlawful purpose. The important point was that while there was reasonable grounds for believing that the deceased was about to commit a theft a private individual couldn't shoot at a man according to law. It was different when a man was trying to escape. The jury could draw its own conclusions as to whether the shot was deliberate.

Patton's Story

John Patton, 20 Concord street, a cleaner and dyer, told of being informed over the phone by Mr. Mooney that someone was trying to enter his dye works. He got up out of bed and took a carpenter's hammer with him. At the corner of Greenwood and Concord streets he saw a man run. He tried to catch him, but failed. At this time Mooney, who was across the street, went to his side and said: "He was in our yard." He opened the front door of his works and went inside. He turned on the lights and opened the side door leading into the yard and turned on the lights which lit up the yard.

Mr. Patton made a plan showing two houses on his lot, works, stables and fences. He told how he opened a little gate leading out of the large yard. Mr. Mooney and his son were there. One of them carried a rifle. "I saw a figure trying to get over the gate leading into the street. I ran to catch him and pull him down," he said. "I was about 24 feet from him when I saw him. He yelled 'stop or you will be shot.' My fingers caught his toes. He pulled his foot away. At the same time I heard a report. He dropped inside the fence. He demonstrated how he fired.

Sergt. J. Cunningham told of being summoned to the scene of the tragedy at 12.10. He and P. C. Coombs arrived at 21 Greenfield where he found Wesley Clayton lying on his back. A tourniquet was applied to the wound and the bleeding stopped. Wesley Clayton was formerly known as Wesley Huffman. His father who died a number of years ago was William Huffman of Belleville. The boy after his mother's second marriage to Thomas Clayton went by the name of Clayton.

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS ORIGINATED IN DISTANT PAST

The customs which mark the Christmas season have a great similarity in all lands which observe the day. Everywhere it is a time of good cheer, of feasting and often drinking, of decorating with flowers and greens, of singing and of making presents to friends and to the needy. There are many little customs belonging to the Christmas celebration which are peculiar to one country or even to one small section of it, but the general idea of having a good time and of helping your neighbors to have a good time is the underlying principle of the holiday season everywhere.

Late Miss N. Naphin

The funeral of the late Miss Nellie Naphin, who died in Toronto, took place this morning from the residence of Mrs. Cullane, East Moira street, to St. Michael's Church, where Father Killen conducted service. There were many friends of the deceased present at the last sad rites. The remains were taken to Belleville cemetery vault. The bearers were Messrs. J. Freeman, J. Ebyle, R. Davidson, F. Wims, W. Harris and M. Naphin.

MARMORA

Mr. Alphonse Madden, of Peterboro, visited relatives in Marmora for a couple of days this week. Messrs. Geo. Wellman and Ed. Hewitt have opened a meat market in Mr. B. C. Hubbell's new block. Mr. James Flynn, of Deloraine, Man., visited his brother, Mr. Wm. Flynn, and other relatives in Marmora for a couple of days this week. Mr. A. Abbott, of Belleville, has opened a law office in the rooms over Dunlay's store. He will be here from Monday morning until the end of the week and his office will be open Monday evening as well as through the day.

Miss Eva Inkster, who is attending the Continuation School in Havelock, won the second prize, Lower School, in the Victory Loan essay competition held in that town. Her essay was considered worthy to compete in the Provincial Competition and has been forwarded to the Department. Mr. Charles Shannon, of Seattle, Wash., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Shannon. It is fourteen years since he was home before. Cold as the weather has been here for the past few days, Mr. Shannon states that it was much colder in the West when he left.—Herald.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie; Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night, How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven; No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him, still, The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us to-day; We hear the heavenly angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Immanuel.

G. T. R. Man Painfully Injured

Lindsay, Dec. 22.—Mr. Isaac Robinson, who boards at 49 William street south, met with a serious and painful accident Thursday afternoon while engaged with the Grand Trunk Bridge and Building gang on a culvert in the vicinity of Halliburton. It appears they were placing tile in the culvert when a chain snapped, letting Mr. Robinson fall, as well as a heavy piece of timber. The timber fell on Mr. Robinson who suffered two fractures of one leg, and one fracture of the other leg. He also received a gash in his head eleven inches long, and his face was badly scratched and bruised. The injured man was brought to the Lindsay Hospital for treatment.

DIED

VANALLEN—in Belleville on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, 119. Peter Cornelius VanAllen, aged 45 years, 8 mo.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Move to Belleville

Last Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hall left for their new home in Belleville. Hugh, while in Dresden as manager of the local branch of the Dominion Bank made many friends, and we venture to say there never was a manager in any Dominion Bank of Ontario, in a town the size of Dresden, that was the direct cause of increased business in a branch to such an extent as was Mr. Hall during the short time he was here. But it seems to be the custom of the big guns at the head of these large institutions who sit in their offices at Toronto, to take pleasure in moving the Managers from small places to other centres, sometimes even before they have time to get acquainted. It may be good business, but they should know. And by losing Mrs. Hall the town loses one who will be greatly missed, socially and otherwise. She was an enthusiastic worker in the I. O. D. E., as well as any other good cause. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Hall every prosperity in their new home.—Dresden Times Dec. 18th 1919.

The Empty Stocking

There's an empty stocking hanging From many a little bed, Where a God-blown dream hangs over Each sleeping curly head; And the vision gathers nightly Of a day that's soon to come Where little feet should patter To the music of the drum.

One of The Explanations.

Christmas comes at the time of the winter solstice when the sun has reached its lowest point in the heavens and is just beginning to climb upwards. The feelings of all mankind, which have been depressed by the gloom of the sky and the sterility of the earth, are naturally of rejoicing that conditions are on the mend. This seems to be the reason for the celebration which marked this season of the year in almost every country before the coming of Christianity, and the celebration of Christmas on Dec. 25 now. The Teutonic races all observed a sun festival at this time of the year. They said that Freya, the sun goddess, and lighted up his wheel once more, and was drawn over woods and meadows in his ship by a boar with golden bristles. The Saxon sun festival was Yule. The Norse honored Thor. In the woods of Britain, long before the Saxons came, the Druids celebrated their peculiar festivals. All these celebrations were characterized by much eating and drinking, and much merriment. That the early Christian leaders recognized the necessity of allowing these pagan customs to remain on some form is well authenticated. It is known that when Pope Gregory sent St. Augustine to England to convert the people, he instructed him to attach the traditions of the Christian Church to the customs he found in order not to make too violent a change. So it was that after the heathen Saxons had accepted the new religion they continued to kill many oxen for a great banquet in honor of the birth of Christ instead of the sun god. Thus it is that with a common origin the Christmas customs of all lands have a common nature.

Mistletoe Love Test.

In some parts of the United States there is a little love test which requires mistletoe. Two sprigs are placed on the hearth before the open fire. The one making the test gives his own name to one of the twigs, and that of his lady love to the other. To spare his feelings in case the test goes wrong, he is allowed to keep the name to himself, as the heat drives the twigs they move about to jump. If they move closer together, the young man's beloved loves him. If they move apart, the one is a bad one.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Christmas day was coming, the Christmas eve drew near. The fir trees they were talking low at midnight, cold and clear. And this is what the fir tree said, all in the pale moonlight, "Now, which of us shall chosen be to grace the holy night?"

The tall trees and the goodly trees raised each a lofty head In glad and secret confidence though not a word they said. But one, the baby of the band, could not restrain a sigh. "You all will be approved," he said. "But oh, what chance have I?" "I am so small, so very small, no one will mark or know How thick and green my needles are how true my branches grow. Few toys and candles could I hold, but heart and will are free. And in my heart of hearts I know I am a Christmas tree."

The Christmas Pudding.

No description of Christmas customs would be complete without mention of the English plum pudding which is distinctively a Christmas dish. Its preparation formerly was a matter of some ceremony, and old books contain minute instructions to the maids of the family as to the hour of Christmas morning when they should arise in order to start the lengthy preparation. Often it is brought upon the table aflame, brandy having been poured over it and set aflame.

Wm. Crawford is the Labor nom.

The long period of festivities ends in England and on the continent on January 6th, which is the twelfth night. Writers attribute this custom of singing to the "Gloria in Excelsis" of the angels announcing the birth of Christ. Originally the songs were chosen of the best sort on purely appropriate subjects. This is still the case in remote parts of England, and the tradition is maintained in Wales. In the larger cities of England popular airs from the theatre are used. The custom is kept up with much vigor in Italy and Spain. The Calabrian shepherds come down from their hills into the Italian cities to sing their carols through the streets. Occasionally they are noticed singing for Mayor of Barnia.

Boy Died as Result of Accident While Hunting Rabbit

Oshawa, Dec. 22.—A sad accident which eventually proved fatal occurred on Monday afternoon last about three o'clock when Warrick, the fifteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warrick, of Lot 31, Con. Darlington accidentally shot him self while hunting. Shortly after leaving home he discovered a rabbit which entered a hole and while trying to scare it out by using the butt end of the rifle on the ground his fingers came in contact with the trigger causing the gun to be discharged. The shot passed through his right wrist and entered his abdomen. He was found soon after by some neighbors who immediately summoned Dr. Siemon of "Emmiskillen." On examination, the doctor found that some of the shot had not only passed into his body but had gone through to the shoulder as well as other places. Blood poisoning set in and his condition became worse till he passed away about eight o'clock Tuesday evening. From the time of the accident till his death, Warrick never lost consciousness but owing to the fact that blood poisoning developed his death occurred in a much shorter time than it would otherwise have done.

BODIES OF 4 BABIES FOUND IN BOX

Heads Crushed, Apparently With Grate Shakers, Also Found in Box. Clyde, N. Y., Dec. 22.—The bodies of four babies were found in a wooden box on the ice of the large canal here yesterday. The heads of all infants were crushed, probably with two heavy grate shakers which were found in box. The infants appeared newly-born. The bodies were well preserved by the cold weather. The only clue is a Rochester news paper dated Dec. 11.

Liquor Was Stolen

Wet Goods Lowered From Upper Window By Means of A Rope. Ogdensburg, Dec. 22.—J.C. Dolan district attorney will be called upon to make an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the theft of six cases of whiskey and a suitcase filled with wet goods from the Norman Hotel last week. When wartime prohibition went into effect Joseph H. Norman proprietor of the hotel placed a portion of his best wet goods in a storeroom on the third floor of his hostelry. Among the selections were eight cases of Arnold's India pale ale, three cases of Gordon gin, two cases of Mount Vernon Whiskey one case of Tom Moore whiskey and a suitcase of whiskey held in trust. With the exception of the eight cases of Arnold's ale everything was taken; the ale probably being left behind because of its bulk. The loss is estimated by Mr. Norman at about \$700.

Wages paid to workers in Japan have increased from 38 per cent to 248 per cent, since the pre-war period.

U. S. railroad earnings increased during the first ten months of 1919 but were more than offset by the increase of expenditures.

19 year old boy was sentenced at Lyons N.Y., to die in the electric chair for murder of a night watchman while robbing a store.

Peace time industrial preparation for war was recommended by Bernard M. Baruch former chairman of the U. S. War Industries Board.

Soldiers testifying in the trial at New York of Capt. Dettzer a U. S. officer told of implied threats of death and of being beaten and held by his sergeants.