

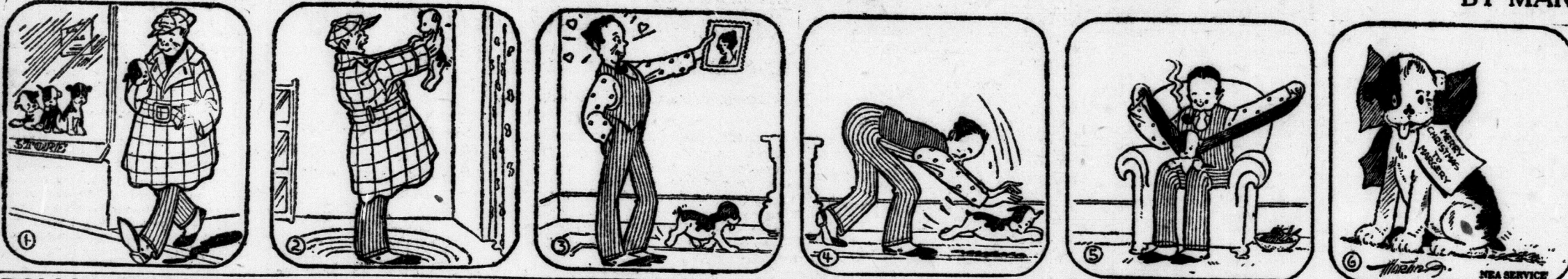
## THE GUMPS—FROM THE AUSTRALIAN SANTA CLAUS



TAKEN FROM LIFE

Hot Dog!

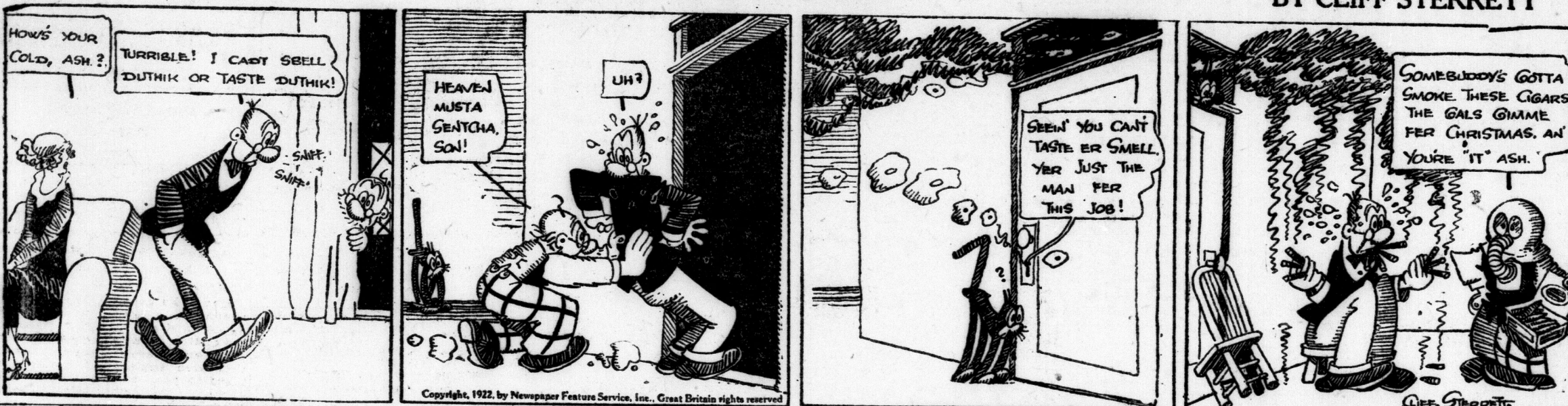
BY MARTIN



POLLY AND HER PALS

Even a Cold Can Be a Convenience.

BY CLIFF STERRETT



MUTT AND JEFF.

Jeff's Misunderstood, That's All—A Natural Mistake

BY BUD FISHER.



TOOTS AND CASPER

Casper Knew It Would Be Perfectly Safe There

BY JIMMY MURPHY



GAS BUGGIES

BY BECK



## REFUSAL TO HELP STIRS CITY LABOR

London Executive of Party Protests Action of Provincial House.

APPOINT 3 DELEGATES

Urge Stevenson To Enlist Colleagues To Fight Government's Stand.

London Labor officially protests the expressed attitude of the Drury government with respect to unemployed. Empowered by the executive board of the local branch of the Canadian Labor Party, a special committee will approach Dr. Hugh Stevenson, M.P., either today or tomorrow, urging him to exert every influence that the question of financial assistance from the province to the municipalities, be reconsidered by the authorities at Toronto.

Those who have been selected to bring this issue to the immediate attention of the member for London are Ald. Elect John Colbert, president of the London Labor Party; Ald. Elect Frank McKay, president of No. 1 group of the same body; and Louis Biggs, a member of the executive committee.

Gets Thorough Sifting.

The local problem was the subject of thorough consideration at a recent special session of the executive board, when attention was directed by Ald. McKay to the fact that the administration at the provincial capital through Hon. Frank Biggs, minister of public works, had informed City Engineer H. A. Brazier that no financial assistance would be forthcoming this year for the jobless of the towns and cities.

Aldermen McKay and Colbert and their colleagues deplored the evident fact that the provincial authorities feel that the circumstances do not warrant the extension of aid to the several communities as was furnished last winter, in conjunction with the federal government.

It is the belief of the new Labor councilors and their associates in the Labor party, that conditions may be such during the approaching winter months, that certain financial assistance from the government would be imperative and of vital import to the country at large.

Prepared For Emergency.

While acknowledging that it may be just a question of opinion at this moment with respect to the seriousness of the local situation, they argue that provision should be made early so as to be ready for any emergency. One of the executive stated that quite a substantial number of city workers had already registered at the government employment office as being in line for employment of any description that the city might have to offer.

"I understand that this question has already been considered by the federal authorities," stated Ald. McKay, "and the answer was that Ottawa would be only too ready and willing to shoulder its fair share of the financial responsibility, as was done last winter, if such action is deemed imperative, either in one or several localities or throughout the country. It was definitely explained, however, as I understand, that action in this direction must first come from the province."

Denies Aid Coming. In his communication to the city engineer last week in response to the query directed from the city hall to Toronto, the minister of highways stated that the provincial authorities contemplate no action, and adds that the federal government is similarly disposed.

The London Labor leaders question this, however, being under the impression from inquiries to the King administration at Ottawa, that certain assistance will be available, directly the initial move is discerned at Toronto.

"They contend that the Drury government should display greater interest in the problem throughout the province, and in an effort to bring this about seek the co-operation of the local member of the Labor block in the Legislative Assembly."

ERASTUS BRAINERD DIES. Seattle, Dec. 25.—Erastus Brainerd, formerly editor of the Post-Intelligencer and long a leader in public life in this state, died today.

## BEGGARS' SCHOOL THRIVES IN BERLIN

Students Taught Psychology "Profession"—Graduates Pay 10 Per Cent of Income.

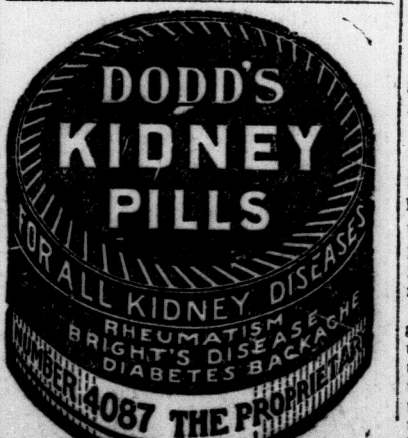
Berlin, Dec. 26.—Bachelor of Beggars! This may be a new degree to mingle with the A.B., B.S., Ph.D., if Berlin's College of Beggary is recognized by the academic world. Such a college exists.

"Do not laugh at my trade. It has taken a long time to bring it to its present state of perfection. The art of begging is not as simple as it appears. We must be urgent and forward without appearing impudent; we must appear to be modest."

"For years I have studied the psychology of begging. I learned to judge the passerby when he was three or four steps away. At first I taught my apprentices on the street; later I sold my right to my corner and founded the school for beggary which now does a flourishing business."

"Under my instructions my students learn the best methods of begging—down to the most delicate finesse. My students contract to pay me 10 per cent of their incomes for two years after graduation. Beggars are honorable in dealing with beggars."

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## MAY DISCRIMINATE TO AID U. S. SHIPS

America Is Puzzled by Heavy Losses From Merchant Marine.

ASK TREATY ABOGATION

If Ship Subsidy Bill Fails Drastic Step Will Be Considered.

Washington, Dec. 26.—What is going to be done with the United States merchant marine if the ship subsidy bill fails?

This question is already being asked in Washington, and is likely to be asked more and more pointedly as the winter goes on. It has looked for some weeks as if the ship subsidy bill were doomed to failure. At this date it seems destined to be set aside and proposed measures for the aid of farmers considered in its stead.

It has been represented to Congress by the shipping board that the government is losing \$50,000,000 a year on its merchant marine fleet. If subsidizing fails, then will come up the problem of what is to be done to meet this loss. One view is that the government should go ahead as it is doing now, search out markets, and try to curtail its losses, in the belief that a world of ship improves it will more than come out even.

But there are many who are not content with this. In the Senate debate there has been serious talk of the discrimination duty in favor of United States shipping.

The Jones shipping law, now on the statute books, makes provision for a discriminating duty and favors the abrogation of treaties with different nations which stand in way of such a discriminating duty. But neither the Wilson administration nor the Harding administration has taken steps toward abrogation of the treaties, though it is well known that it is the judgment of many leaders in Congress, as well as some of the foremost shipping board authorities that this is the effective way to build up the merchant marine.

Opinions differ as to why neither administration sought to make the law effective. One common view is that the states of shipping was unwilling to engage in the diplomatic contention which such a step would result in.

However, there is already serious talk of Congress simply by law abrogating the treaties in question and making discriminating duties in favor of the United States shipping industry. Senator McKellar of Tennessee suggested this in a recent Senate speech. If subsidizing definitely fails it is not at all improbable that this proposition will become acute.

Brighton, Ont., Dec. 26.—Christmas festivities in William Firm, two miles from this village, terminated in tragedy last night.

Mr. Firm and his infant daughter were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the farmhouse. Mrs. Firm and a 12-year-old son escaped, but their heroic efforts to rescue the other two members of the family were unsuccessful.

Mr. Firm early in the evening fell asleep on a lounge, his little daughter sleeping beside him. The house caught fire from an overheated or defective furnace connection. It is thought that Firm, when he awoke was immediately overcome by smoke and unable to make his escape. Meantime the wife and son, after unsuccessful efforts to save him and the child, made a difficult escape from the blazing house.

## MAN AND GIRL DIE WHEN HOME BURNS

Brighton Shocked As Tragedy Stalks Family At Close of Christmas.

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## PRESCOTT SPEAKS TO CUBA ON PHONE

Baraquay Sugar Company Official Sends Greetings To Mother.

Prescott, Dec. 26.—The first long-distance telephone connection between the Republic of Cuba and the local exchange and possibly the first from Cuba to Canada was made on Christmas day, when Charles McGannon, of the Baraquay Sugar Company, Baraquay, Cuba, paid the greetings of the season to his mother and sister here. The call was made from Baraquay to Havana, across the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Stream, to Key West, Florida; from Key West to New York, then to Prescott. The conversation was very distinct. The temperature at the time of telephoning was 87 degrees in the shade.

## JAPS ALTER TEXT BOOKS TO REDUCE ALPHABET

New School Manuals Now Comprise 1,360 Characters Instead of 4,000.

Tokio, Dec. 26.—Drastic changes have been made in the text-books used in Japanese lower grade schools. Apart from the reduction of the number of characters in the alphabet to only 1,360, as compared with 4,000, used by the average newspaper, important alterations have been made in the general spirit of the narratives given in the Japanese history books and readers.

Not so very long ago Japanese school boys were taught to regard all foreign nations with suspicion and antagonism; history books eulogized the great military leaders, practically ignoring the lives of Japanese who had gained fame in the world of arts, science and commerce.

Now all that has been changed. When great soldiers are mentioned at all in the new books they are praised for their determination and justice, rather than for the victories they won and the number of the enemy they slaughtered. And for the first time men like Marconi, Watt and Edison are the subject of text-book stories.