

DEC. 26 AND JAN. 2 ARE TO BE NAMED HOLIDAYS

Ottawa, Dec. 13.—Christmas day and New Years falling on Sunday this year, it is altogether likely that the following Monday in each case will be observed as a statutory holiday.

There has been no official announcement yet, but one is expected at any time.

It is said that the order-in-council providing for the observation of December 26 and January 2 as holidays, has been passed and is now awaiting the royal assent.



RATHER LOVE THAN HAVE

While mourning for the dishonor, Northumberland County and the Dominion of Canada in general has sustained, in the recent election, yet we, along with the majority of the reputable people of this constituency have the consoling thought that we would rather love what we cannot have, than have what we cannot love.



THE KING OF FESTIVALS

"Hark! the herald-angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King"

Away back in the misty past, in the land called "Holy" while Shepherds guarded their flock by night; the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and an angel revealed to them, the fact of the birth of Christ, giving them this sign; "ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And the message delivered to a multitude of the heavenly host, joined the Angel, in joyful praise to God, and this was their Anthem:—

"Glory to God in the Highest,
On earth peace;
To men of good-will"

The Shepherds witnessed the flight of the angels back to heaven and went with haste, "and found Mary, and Joseph; and the babe lying in a manger."

Such is the story of the first Christmas. No worldly pomp surrounded the greatest birth the world has ever known. It tells not of waiting servants, royal palaces, and lordly halls; and yet a child of the House of David was born; the King of Kings, and Lord of lords came forth to life in a manger. His name, above every other name, cannot be forgotten but will remain while earth lasts and be ever remembered and worshipped throughout the eternal hereafter.

It is nigh two thousand years, since that first Christmas was added to the world's history; and during all the centuries since; wherever Christians dwell, year after year, it has been observed and celebrated as "the King of festivals."

Wise men of the East, were also deeply interested in this wonderful Birth. They had heard a King of the Jews was born; but not just then did they think of a spiritual kingdom. The change came at sight of the Babe. A star appeared in the heavens—the star of Bethlehem. Gazing upwards they watched and wondered. Inspired by a sacred spirit, they wended their way of Jerusalem. They

told their story of seeing his star in the east, and asked, where is he that is born king of the Jews? and there they learned that their guest would be satisfied in Bethlehem of Judea. They departed on their journey; the star their guide, going on before them, 'till it came and stood over where the young child was. They rejoiced with the great joy of a mighty faith. They worshipped him, the Emmanuel; God with us, bowing before the Son of God, and with their prayers; they poured out their worldly wealth, as they opened their treasurers, and presented to him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Various countries, celebrate it in various ways. Christians hold it as a festival of worship, and of joy, and of love. In lofty cathedral, and humble village church, glad anthems; wherever the sacred name is revered, will arise to join the hosannas of the angelic choir. And this is a service all can join in, as brethren, and soldiers of the same King no matter by what other name they may be known.

In the family too it is a season of joy. Reunions take place around the festive table. The joy may be mingled with sorrow; as memory turns back to some bereavement and we see a vacant chair; but in that sorrow, the 'Man of Sorrows' has joined and his healing love, makes whole the broken heart. We still have A Christmas joy."

And the 'Kiddies' too. See them romp, and hear their merry laugh, as their little hearts are made glad by the kindness and love of Father and Mother, and loving friends. Ah they know it is Christmas, by the gifts which have poured in upon them, and the story of Bethlehem's Babe.

The needy, the poor, the afflicted where are they? Christmas to them may bring little of earth's joy unless others better off in worldly goods, reach out with hands of love, to bring some joy to their homes. Poor they are, but not so poor as to have been born in a manger; poor but not so poor as to have no where to lay their head, but yet it is for those, who are really not poor, to help make their Christmas happy, and to shower out on that sacred, happy, merry day, their gifts "of gold and frankincense and myrrh." The Babe of Bethlehem sees it all.

The Advocate extends to all, the wish, that they may have a Christmas day of good things, and real happiness.

HON. JOHN MORRISSEY
MAJORITY 1,420
Declaration proceedings took place in the Court House Tuesday afternoon 12156 votes were cast in Northumberland County. Of these McCurdy received 5,286, Morrissey 6,706. Rejected and spoiled 34. Morrissey's majority 1,420.

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BATTLE AT PETRA.

Stirring Episode of Col. Lawrence's Arabian Campaign.

One of the most stirring episodes of Col. Lawrence's Arabian campaign is narrated by Mr. Lowell Thomas in Asia Magazine, was the battle fought at Petra, the ancient rock city that, until the war broke out, had been asleep for almost two thousand years.

The battle took place in October, 1917. The Turkish commander, Djemal Pasha, sent out in three columns from Maan more than seven thousand men and several units of light artillery, accompanied by a squadron of German airplanes. On October 21st, the columns were to converge on Petra, where Lawrence and his Bedouins were safely lodged. Lawrence had only two mountain field guns and two machine guns, but with them for more than six hours he held the first ridge five miles south of Petra. Vacating it, he set half his men to a little ridge on the opposite side of the valley.

"Elated at having captured the trenches on the first ridge, the Turks were certain that they had decisively beaten Lawrence's forces. Thinking that the Arabs had retired all the way into Petra, they charged enthusiastically down into the valley. Lawrence let at least a thousand of the enemy's troops rush headlong between the two ridges. When he had the Turks wedged into the narrowest part of the gorge, one of his aides fired a rocket into the air. A moment later pandemonium broke loose in the mountains of Edom. The Arabs poured a stream of fire from all sides; the crack of rifles seemed to come from every rock. With shrill screams the women and children tumbled huge boulders on the heads of the Turks and the Germans six hundred feet below. Utterly bewildered, the invaders became panicky and scattered in all directions.

"A few minutes before the sun sank behind the rose-colored mountains, Lawrence and Maury Bey again sent up rockets. At the signal their followers swept down the ridges into the valley. They captured the entire Turkish transport, a complete field hospital and hundreds of prisoners."

Where Florins Came From.

Most of the names of British coins are very old, and many have changed considerably from their original form.

The pound, for instance, was at first not a coin at all, but simply a measure of weight. Before the use of gold coins it was probably sixteen ounces of iron or copper. The gold coin represents the equivalent of these unwieldy amounts. For centuries the Scottish pound was a small silver coin worth only a shilling or two.

The word shilling means a division. In years gone by the silver coins were called twentieth shillings, or divisions of a pound. This was too long a name, and only the word shilling survived.

The crown and half-crown receive their names from the king's arms and crown on their reverse side. The florin is really a Florence piece. At Florence coinage was made of very pure silver, and, therefore, had a high value in the eyes of merchants. Edward III. resolved to produce an English coin of equal purity and value, which, when it appeared, at once received the name of Florence piece, florin, or florin.

Penny comes from a Saxon word meaning a pledge. The original meaning of the word is seen in the phrase "binding penny," a pledge given to seal a bargain. The farthing is really a fourthling, or fourth part. Saxon pennies had grooves cut in them, each of a cross so that they could be broken at will into four fourthings.

"Stone Age" Men In 1921.

The least visited island in the Pacific, is Rennell Island, 120 miles south of Guadalcanar, in the Solomon group. There are only about 500 inhabitants, and because of their virtual isolation, through lack of ship's anchorage, even their dialect has never been studied. They are almost cut off from the outside world by walls of coral limestone, 300 feet high, and are said to be still living in a manner "before the Stone Age." Dr. Northcote Deck has recently made a series of visits to the island. On first landing he established friendly relations with the natives, who appeared heavily armed. "They bought every available object for sale," he says, "to obtain the much-coveted iron. All were smeared with turmeric, giving them a bright yellow color, and were tattooed in regular patterns according to rank. Caves were seen swarming with flying foxes, whose teeth seem to form the only currency on the island. Dr. Deck says the natives seemed to feel keenly the monotony of their isolation, and showed a settled melancholy, both in their faces and the cadence of their voices. Their only sort of music, to which they dance, consists in the tuneless beating of a log.

Peru's Independence.

Peru has recently been celebrating the centennial anniversary of its independence. Lima, the Peruvian capital, was for centuries the centre of Spanish dominion in South America, but its people followed the lead of rebellious Chile and Buenos Ayres in establishing independence at the end of the second decade of the nineteenth century. The constitution of 1860, by which Peru is now governed, is very similar to the American Constitution. Nominally, the people are free and have sovereign rights in the choice of representatives, but in reality the poverty and ignorance of the masses leaves them helpless.

Inhabitants on the Globe.

There are about 1,500,000,000 inhabitants on the globe. Of these 40,000,000 die every year, 137,735 per day, 5,780 per hour, about 95 per minute, or three in every two seconds.



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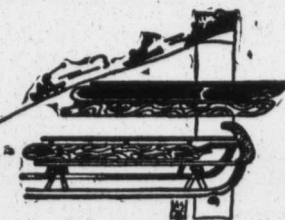
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SUNNY CORNER

Sunny Corner, Dec. 17.—Mr. Weldon Tozer, who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis is improving very slowly.

Misses I. Mullin, A. Burns, H. Tozer, Mrs. A. Murphy are home from St. Stephen.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Leach are rejoicing over a baby boy which arrived on Election day.

Miss Lottie Stewart paid a flying visit to her home here on Saturday last.

Miss Bernetta Johnston, who has been attending the P. N. S. Fredericton and her sister Mrs. Stevens of Union N. H. are visiting their parents Mr. and Mrs. James B. Johnston.

Messrs. Stewart McDonald, W. Porter, Allan Leach have gone to Maine for the winter.

Miss Nowlan and Master S. Leach are on the list this week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Nolan were visitors in Red Bank on the 5th.

Mrs. F. Mullin was in Boon Road the guest of relatives on Saturday.

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