

Facts and Fancies About New Year

(Written for the Rossland Miner by C. E. Stewart, Trail, B. C.)

Santa Claus, the patriarch of mythology, reigns supreme as he diffuses gladness in the children's world when Christmas bells are rung; and Father Time, the pilgrim of eternity, appears with sombre mien to record another niche in the cycles of the universe as the midnight bell proclaims a change of years.

These hoary-headed monarchs live conspicuously in the minds of both young and old for a month in the dead of winter. They travel side by side—Father Santa's features, wreathed in sunshine, while Father Time, with his furrowed brows, tries vainly to smile. They jog along together, their two old cronies, comparing notes and probably wrapping antediluvian reminiscences, until Christmas tide, when they arrive at the parting of the ways. Santa fulfills his ubiquitous mission of benevolence and scurries off to his far-away toy factory. Father Time trudges on for a week longer; then, as the nocturnal messages of New Year's eve declare the old year dead, he thrusts in his scythe, cuts it out by the roots and reverently consigns it to chronology's ever-increasing graveyard.

He waits for no man. He turns up with business-like regularity to officiate at these annual obsequies, regardless of whether or not the programs of frail mortality have been carried out. The man of business is obliged to extend many a last-year's calculation into the new year; the man of money had as yet unstarted plans concerning his bonds and railroad stock; the busy housewife is still wrestling with unsolved problems; the sentimental chap is still floundering about in an effort to recall all the resolutions he was to have enacted; the realms of love are invaded only to find the year in too big a hurry for some pairs contemplating wedded bliss are new year's day. Society's ambitions say they're always ready for a change of seasons—but the seasons are all too brief—and the new year is ushered in without ceremony upon uncompleted revelry. The poor man was to have been richer; the rich man richer; the weak man was to be strong; the strong man stronger; the sober man to have sobered up once for all, and the procrastinating sinner still finds himself floundering about in the gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity. Wars are not over; treaties are postponed; the North Pole is not discovered; flying machines do not fly; inter-oceanic canals are not dug; anarchy is not terminated; trusts are not crushed; the ends of justice are not arrived at. These things all appeal to Father Time when he looks in on a republican form of government on or about midnight, December thirty-first. Nevertheless, like the sexton with whom Bessie pleaded when "England's sun was slowly setting," Father Time has "done his duty over," tried to do it just and right," and proceeds straightaway to ring his little curfew announcing to the just and the unjust that the cur-

tain must fall—finis or no finis. And poor, frail humanity awakens on New Year's morn to the realization that the curtain is again rising, this time on the delicate sunlight of a new-born year, and that the unfinished drama must be undertaken anew.

Once more there is hustle and bustle. Once more the screws of the nervous system tighten—and the end of another year finds the world as far, if not farther, away from the coveted goal than when it started. The years come and go, and ill-judged man is still engaged in frenzied sleep-chasing, trusting to the Lord of Hosts that brighter hues may beam along his lustrous path ere "next year" hoves in sight.

The new year, however, is not always fraught with the dizzy reckonings of the up-to-date Quixotes. Other elements enter into the make-up of this pleasant holiday which reveal its genuine merit. Indeed, the day is to the old people what Christmas is to the young, and follows after Christmas as naturally as clouds follow sunshine. Then it is that the older heads are glad to congregate around familiar firesides and dwell again upon the hardships and trials of pioneer days. Then the hearts of aged parents are made light as they welcome in glad reunion the sons and daughters who have gone forth and reflected honor upon their whitened brows. Then the festive board is spread with dainties which only a mother can prepare, and children's children gather around to mingle their innocent mirth with the undimmed cheer of old age. The homes of poverty and darkness are infused with the light of Christianity's generous bequests more extensively than on other days—and, in short, in the day itself there is nothing tending to foster an unhappy, dismal spirit. It smacks of safety, simply because it's the new year, and nothing else—for the new things most always do make one gay—and the pleasure to the old as well as to the young, attests its recognition as a permanent fixture in the hearts of all.

It cannot be regarded as a sacred day. Neither holy edict nor man-made creed give place to it, though the ancient fathers sought to make it a day of absolute fasting and prayer which resulted in a compromise of part fasting and part prayer. This applied, however, to the time of Augustine and Chrysostom; and while even now various religious functions are quite in order and highly appropriate, yet the inevitable trend of the mind on that day is to invite an abundance of good feeling; the old year has departed, the new year is here—and the merriment and gladness that fit the occasion are usually ill-concealed.

Throughout the entire world people have their new year's eve and their new year's day. Festivities, mutual good wishes and congratulations, as well as many other manifestations of joyous exuberance, are indulged in the world over; and the very antiquity of the day and its customs demonstrates its universal hold on class, clan and tribe alike.

TRAP NEATLY SPRUNG

Northport Saloonkeeper Captured With a Load of Stolen Matte—Was Notorious "Fence" For Petty Smelter Thieves.

Peter Swanson, saloonkeeper of Northport, is incarcerated in the cells at police headquarters awaiting sentence on the charge of having stolen goods in his possession. The situation thus developed is the outcome of a clever instance of detective work that will put a damper on a series of annoying thefts at the Northport smelter. Moreover the case is a splendid demonstration of the speedy and effectual manner in which justice is administered north of the international boundary line.

For months it has been known that matte was being stolen from the Northport smelter. The smelted product of the works, as everyone is aware, is drawn off from the furnaces in the form of a metallic compound carrying the gold and silver values together with the copper, which is the principal factor in the matte. This product is shipped to refineries in New Jersey, where the metals are separated and reduced to commercial commodities. The residue left on the furnace bottoms is described as a "sow," and this is removed regularly and broken up. A "sow" frequently carries high values, much more so than ordinary matte, and it is sections of "sows" that are stolen by dishonest employees of the plant.

Men employed about the smelting works have abundant opportunities to steal small pieces of matte and amass a fortune. Swanson, however, is a man of a decidedly serious charge. This is a striking instance of the promptitude with which British justice is meted out to offenders.

John S. Ingram, chief of police, posted himself on the Northport road where it crosses the Black Bear property just inside the city limits. When Swanson drove in sight he was promptly arrested and brought to the police station with the gunny sacks filled with broken matte as evidence of the crime. The matte was in fragments weighing two pounds or less apiece.

Court was sitting when Chief Ingram arrived with the prisoner, and Swanson was immediately arraigned before Judge Boulbee. The warrant and information were produced and the prisoner was invited to elect whether he should be tried by a jury or take an immediate hearing before the police judge. Swanson elected for summary hearing, and pleaded guilty to the charge against him. He was remained until Monday for sentence. It is understood that with a view to mitigating his sentence Swanson may make a statement implicating the men guilty of the thefts of the matte. The court has the power to impose a penalty of four years' imprisonment with hard labor.

Almost within an hour of Swanson's entry into the city of Rossland he was a convicted prisoner awaiting sentence on a decidedly serious charge. This is a striking instance of the promptitude with which British justice is meted out to offenders.

purchase of valuable material from the smelter. A list of names has been given to the police here and turned over to the smelter company, which will inaugurate a number of prosecutions on Monday. The list includes saloon men and merchants, who have to Swanson's positive knowledge bought valuable matte and furnace bottoms from employees of the reduction works, knowing the same to be stolen, and whose action in this respect has encouraged the man to continue the thefts. The employees of the smelter who have sold the material to Swanson, and to others of whom he knows, are also named.

A dispatch to The Miner from Northport states that Swanson's arrest in Rossland came like a bolt of blue. The petty stealing at the smelter has been carried on so generally and the traffic in the stolen material has been so open, that the arrest and conviction of the man who has the key to the whole story has startled all those interested, and put the whole community on the "qui vive" for further developments. It is currently reported that a number of men are arranging to leave Northport for parts unknown today in order to escape the prosecutions which the smelter company is credited with being determined to inaugurate, using Swanson's sworn statement and the information of other nature which he conveys, as evidence.

CITY NEWS

HOME AGAIN—Eugene Croteau has returned to the city after a lengthy trip to the east in the interests of the recently organized Dunas Mining Company.

SOLD OUT—The stock carried by W. Frank Teetzel & Co. in Rossland has been sold to Alexander Stewart of Eloit and will be removed to that point shortly.

INTERESTING SPECIMENS—E. W. Ruff has an interesting exhibit at his office opposite The Miner. It consists of a number of cores taken out in the diamond drilling operations now under way in the Le Roi mine. The smallest are 15-16 inches in diameter, and the largest 1-1 1/2 inches. All show minerals.

PASS RESOLUTIONS—The Rossland Hive No. 5 of the Ladies of the Maccoshees at their last meeting passed resolutions of sympathy to the husband and family of the late Mary Murphy, who died some weeks ago. Mrs. Murphy was a member of the society.

A MARRIAGE—The only Christmas day marriage reported in this city yesterday was that of Mrs. Charlotte Dixon to John Thomson Armstrong. Both parties are well known in this city, both having resided here for some time. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. A. M. Sanford at the home of John W. Wize, a son-in-law of Mrs. Dixon. Only a few friends were present.

DANGER BELOW—The fronts of several buildings on Columbia avenue are capped by ridges of snow overhanging the street. The thaw has loosened the ridges and there is a serious danger of them falling with unpleasant effects upon anyone who may be beneath. In view of this the authorities are notifying occupants of such buildings to remove the snow, and Sergeant Bradshaw was busy yesterday serving such notices.

CAVE IN—Through the heavy weight of sodden snow, several houses and barns in the city with flat roofs caved in during Christmas day and yesterday. No one was hurt by the cave ins. The damage to the buildings amounted to very little in the aggregate. Yesterday morning about 11 o'clock a barn, owned by Harry Bell, next to his hotel on Second avenue, caved in. The cave in had been anticipated, consequently no one was hurt when it fell.

LIGHT THAT FAILED—There was trouble on the Bonington-Nelson section of the West Kootenay Power & Light company's system at 8:40 last night, the exact cause of which had not been learned up to a late hour. For five minutes or so the city was plunged into utter darkness, but after this brief delay the lights once more burned up brightly. It was surprising how black Columbia avenue looked minus every one of the several thousand lights that illuminate the streets and stores. The incident was regarded as a motive for much shouting and whistling from pedestrians. Within a couple of minutes candles were lighted at many points, but the speedy restoration of the incandescent and arc service obviated the necessity for the candles.

CHARGED WITH MURDER—SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Dec. 27.—A charge of murder in the first degree was returned by the county attorney against Dr. E. J. Payne of this city, in whose office Miss Anna D. Hill, a school teacher, was found dead last Saturday. The coroner's jury investigating Miss Hill's death today rendered a verdict that death resulted from an anesthetic administered with criminal intent.

THE PARIS GAS SUPPLY—PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Figaro this morning states that the Paris municipal council will certainly hold an extraordinary session at the end of January to consider the question of the Paris gas supply.

Anthony N. Brady and other officers of the Chicago Gaslight & Coke Company called for Europe December 26th with, it was asserted, ideas of effecting a merger of several Paris gas and electric light companies.

BRADSTREET'S REPORT OF THE TRADE IN CANADA

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: Satisfaction with the old and confidence in the new year are the dominating features as 1902 draws to a close. The enormous holiday trade, exceeding in most respects all records, proved to be a fitting crown to a year of almost unprecedented business and industrial activity.

Excepting some sections of the south and southwest, where crop and weather conditions had led to a modification of otherwise sanguine expectations, the volume of seasonal business is in most respects satisfactory in the east, the west, the northwest and on the Pacific coast. There is but one note, and that of satisfaction, with the results achieved during the past few weeks.

Additional reports received of trade distribution for the year confirm those hitherto given of an enormous volume of business, modified, it is true, in some respects, by higher cost of materials. With the last turn-over, however, and the active demand in most lines, the profit side has not been entirely lost sight of, and it is safe to say that equally satisfactory results will be obtained in the year to come.

Good profits have been obtained as a result of the comparatively high and at the same time steady rates for money. The holiday spirit has ruled in wholesale prices, by higher cost of materials. Industrial operations naturally have slowed down, except where conditions, as in railway traffic, are such as to demand the straining of every nerve to keep up with the business offered.

Not only are spring goods being bought freely, but prompt delivery of the same is being urged.

Eastern shipments are 9-1 1/2 per cent less than a year ago, but 1891 showed a gain of 16 per cent over 1900. Among the great industries, iron and steel, naturally quiet at this season of the year, still notes the projection into it of the fuel scarcity, affecting production of merchant furnaces east and west.

Structural iron still leads in strength and the demand is good. Some heavy orders are being placed. Plates are heavily sold ahead.

One large locomotive manufacturing concern is reported refusing all orders for delivery earlier than January, 1904, and fancy premiums are being paid by some large roads.

The increased use of oil is enabling producing interests to reap a harvest. Prices of refined are nearly 40 per cent above last year.

Textile trades generally return satisfactory reports, though reasonable quietness in distribution. Textile manufacturers note an increase of 51 per cent in the cotton woolen yarn output over a year ago.

Cottons are rather quiet, except where accumulations in bleached goods have been moved at slight reduction.

In men's wear woollens the situation certainly is excellent. Machinery is employed. Overcoatings for next year's heavy weight season are 10 per cent higher, and other heavy weight goods are expected to show similar advances.

Raw wool is very strong, and rather more interest is noted in low grades at leading centers this week.

Australian advices are very bad because of the drought and a great shortage in the production of wool is expected in that country.

The lumber trade situation, that for white pine and hardwood particularly, is a satisfactory one, and the year closed with prices \$3 to \$5 per 1000 higher than at the opening. In white pine the output in the northwest is credited with some influence. Yellow pine, however, notes some easiness because of the immense output.

Business failures for the week ending December 25th number 161 against 225 last week and 315 in this week last year.

The wholesale movement at Montreal this week was broken into by the Christmas holidays, as was the case at other trade centers. Travelers were off their routes, and there were few orders coming by mail and practically no country

buyers on the market, all being busy with holiday trade.

The spring trade will be given a rest of a week or ten days.

The holiday trade has been very large, much greater, generally, it is believed, than last year.

The trade movement so far this month has been very satisfactory and the outlook for spring is exceedingly promising.

In Toronto this week there was a good demand for goods early in the week, but it tapered off later, with the travelers off their business became quieter on nearby, and will likely be a holiday sales this year were very heavy.

Retailers report a splendid business. Payments, which have been slow the past week, are likely to show a marked improvement during the next ten days as a result of the large holiday sales, which are generally spot cash transactions.

The outlook for business after the first of the year is very promising. Money is in good demand and firm.

At Quebec during the past week business has been fairly brisk, particularly amongst the retailers. Wholesalers are completing stock taking and those who are finished report favorable results.

The shoe factories are very busy and the general outlook is good.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The following are some of the weekly clearings as compiled by Bradstreet's for the week ending December 25th, with per centages of increase as compared with the corresponding week last year:

Montreal	\$20,556,185	increase 49.3
Toronto	\$12,528,518	increase 26.7
Winnipeg	\$5,102,588	
Halifax	\$1,864,792	increase 16.6
Vancouver	\$1,165,421	increase 62.0
Hamilton	\$78,929	increase 7.5
St. John, N. B.	\$711,412	increase 4.0
Victoria	\$225,588	increase 37.6
Quebec	\$1,205,777	increase 2.9
Ottawa	\$1,603,273	increase 7.2
London	\$738,748	

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM THE ORIENT

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 27.—News was brought by the steamer Tartar, which arrived tonight, of a disaster in the Malacca Straits, as a result of which sixty lives were lost.

The Tokio Asahi publishes a telegram from Hong Kong stating that the steamer Bunsang was in collision with the steamer Kiangyan in the Malacca Straits, and the Kiangyan was sunk, sixty sailors and passengers being missing.

Dispatches from Hakodate report that a outbreak of fire occurred on board the Iwanai steamship company's steamer Hokuu Maru off the coast of Stuttgart on December 3rd, and the vessel was sunk, eighteen of the crew losing their lives.

Japanese papers report that an offer has been received by the Japanese government from a South American republic which offers to sell its men-of-war to Japan.

The same paper reports that since the news was published regarding Japan's new naval program American and European shipbuilders are vying with each other to obtain orders from the Japanese government.

The Japanese sealers had a profitable season, although four vessels of their fleet of nineteen were lost, three of them, it is believed, with all on board, although there were rumors that the men of one, the Tanyu Maru, had been seized by the Russians. The total catch of the schooner carrying the Japanese flag amounted to 12,601 skins.

FRIGHTFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT

WANSTEAD, Ont., Dec. 27.—An awful collision occurred here shortly after 10 o'clock last night between the fast Pacific express and the eastbound freight on the Grand Trunk. The train was behind time and was going at the usual high rate of speed. The freight was running slowly, and was to have taken the switch to allow the express to pass. Apparently neither of the engineers saw the danger ahead to avoid an accident, for the two engines came together near the west switch with a frightful crash, overturning into a ditch. The baggage and express cars telescoped into the smoker with appalling results.

The wreck was complete, and it is thought that hardly a single passenger in the smoker escaped injury or death.

The others cars of the express remained on the track.

As soon as the accident occurred work was sent to London for doctors who were soon on the scene. The work of removing the dead and injured was then proceeded with.

Engineer Gillies of Sarnia and his fireman, named not yet known, of the express are among the killed.

The remainder of the killed are among the passengers. Twenty-four persons are thought to have been killed and eighteen injured.

25 KILLED—25 INJURED.

MONTREAL, Dec. 27.—The Grand Trunk railway officials have reported that 25 persons were killed and 25 injured. They state that the accident was caused by the agent at Watford station, east of Wanstead, failing to hold the Pacific express as per dispatcher's orders.

CAME LIKE A THUNDERBOLT

YOKAHAMA, Dec. 27.—The report that the United States government will impose a duty of 10 cents a pound on tea now held in bond, even though withdrawal may not take place until after January 1st, when the duty is removed on new arrivals, has caused some consternation among tea men in town. It is possible, however, that tea merchants, jobbers, grocers and others entrusted may be able to induce the government to withhold such action, which has come upon the market like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky. The tea tax in America, which was one of the Spanish war taxes, is to be lifted on January 1st next, and in anticipation of that event a large quantity of Japan tea has been placed in bond in American seaports.

THE OLD PURITAN.—History of the Cup Defender That Is to Be Changed Into an Auxiliary.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The famous old cup defender Puritan is to be changed into an auxiliary. Her centre-board is to be taken out and a twenty-horse power gasoline engine is to be put in the yacht. This engine will take up a little of her interior accommodations, but it will be sufficient to get the yacht into port if becalmed at any time when out sailing. The yacht was recently purchased through the agency of Hollis Burgess by C. H. W. Foster, who is a member of the New York Eastern, Corinthian, Hull-Massachusetts, Beverly and Manchester Yacht clubs.

The Puritan was built in 1885 by the late Edward Burgess for a syndicate of eleven eastern yachtmen. She was built as a cup defender and after defeating the Priscilla and older boats in the trial races she met and defeated the English cutter Genesta, owned by Sir Richard Sutton.

MANUFACTURER KILLED.—CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—Wilson Morton, who was killed in the train wreck at Wanstead, Ont., was president of the Morton company, manufacturers of this city. He had charge of the school exhibit of Canada at the World's Columbian exposition in 1893.

MORE GOLD FROM FRANCE.—The City Bank is importing another \$250,000, Supposedly For Cuba.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The National City Bank is importing another \$250,000 in gold from France, supposedly in transit for Cuba. This makes a total of \$500,000 thus imported by the bank.

The sterling exchange market was steady, with demand bills quoted at \$4.88 60 to \$4.86 65. The sub-treasury transferred for local banks \$250,000 to New Orleans. It received \$129,429 on account of customs duties, making the total thus received for the week \$5,551,419 as against \$3,529,400 last week.

SILMIKAMEEN DIAMONDS.—(Silmikameen Star.)

Inquiries made during the week regarding the operations while here of Herbert Weymas, the prospector who recently stayed in Vancouver that he believed he had discovered diamonds in the Silmikameen, elicited the information that the claim spoken of on which the supposed gems were discovered, is not on Kennedy or Copper mountains, but higher up the silmikameen, in the vicinity of Roche river. Large beds of conglomerate similar to those of the Kimberley diamond fields, are reported to exist near the head of Roche river, by prospectors who have been into that section. It seems curious, however, that the gems were not discovered by placer miners who have worked the Silmikameen river for years, if they really exist in this district.

PROMOTING B. C. MINES.—Alleged Swindlers Have Been Arrested—There Are Others.

TORONTO, Dec. 26.—The Telegram's London cable says: Three Parisian financiers have been arrested for an alleged swindle connected with promoting certain British Columbia mines.

THE RAZOR STEEL, SECRET TEMPER, CROSS-CUT SAW.



We take pleasure in offering to the public a saw manufactured of the finest quality of steel, and a temper which toughens and refines the steel, gives a keener cutting edge and holds it longer than any process known. A saw to cut fast "must hold a keen cutting edge."

This secret process and temper is known and used only by ourselves.

These saws are elliptic ground thin back, requiring less set than any saw now made, perfect taper from tooth to back.

Now we ask you, when you go to buy a saw, to ask for the Razor Steel, Secret Temper Saw, and if you are told that some other saw is just as good ask your merchant to let you take them both home, and try them, and keep the one you like best.

Silver steel is no longer a guarantee of quality, as some of the poorest steel made is now branded silver steel. We have the sole right for the "Razor Steel Brand."

It does not pay to buy a saw for one dollar less, and lose 25 cents per day in labor. Your saw must hold a keen edge to do a large day's work.

Thousands of these saws are shipped to the United States, and sold at a higher price than the best American saws. Manufactured only by SHURLEY & DISTRICT, Gait, Ontario.

CHRISTMAS GREENWOOD THE W

(Special to THE MINER.)

GREENWOOD, B. C.—Christmas passed off quietly. The weather mild, with a Chinook which melted the snow and it continued it. The sleighing had, the churches were well attended, streets were enlivened by a number of men, time skating on the curlers played on the zest, the match between unmarried members for the latter by the Christmas tree, the Mother Lode mine, Eve was a decided success of the townspeople, making frequent trips on towards daylight the tired dancers got.

The Greenwood city that the Christmas spirit in the members voted \$25 to the fire amount was accomplished and complimentary of the services of the department. "The boys in giving an which they entertained P. Burns & Co's broken into and some early on Christmas found that the sausage shop, had first been was no means of intention between it and thief went to the front broke in the window pane of glass. He and turkeys and left den Hotel, telling the would call later for Burns & Co's employ breakfast shortly after of the incident, so in the trouble of carrying taking them back to thought that the drunken freak of so been celebrating or and but for the dance shop window would such.

A rancher, named died in the Sisters on day. He had been typhoid and other and it had been even days previous to his would not recover. His man and many year his relations, to Canada and had only one province. For some employ of Messrs. H. the sawmill business, tract. For the past, been ranching in the at Rocky Falls. He was age and had only one in Columbia—a brood in the neighborhood was a Forester until when he dropped out his old mother, still and but ill provided the benefit of his \$1000 which had he kept to would have been here fast declining years.

(Special to THE MINER.)

GREENWOOD, B. C.—contract for sinking dred feet on the Gode, claim, situated close to Spokane, has been of Griffin and P. Steffen ready commenced to men.

At the Montreal company's smelter at the iron work of the place and the build work is now in progress Goodell hopes of a future in the general, but pending the arrival of another boiler he will not or steam power to full capacity.

(Special to THE MINER.)

GREENWOOD, B. C.—About four inches of making the sleighing so early in the season is mild and the favorable for Christmas frosts having provided skating and curling skating rink is being use, curling having week. The curling received a second set intended to play a made up of married unmarried.

Special Christmas announced for tomorrow Church of England, the Sacred Heart church there at 8 o'clock on noon; mass at 11 children's service at 12:30 a.m. and at 9:30 a.m. and v. C. A. E. Shaw, P. from Keremeos. F. ascertained that the snow on the ground which is unusual country, but little lower levels in order as to what the connection with the is stated that the Hedley City he has accounts of the we Nickel Plate mine in a stamp mill, e