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GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC

For Sale of its Townsite Lots in Divisional Points of **Melville, Watrous, Biggar, Wainwright**, and Junctional Point of **Tofield**, and as Town of **Scott**, all located on Main Line of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway between Winnipeg and Edmonton.

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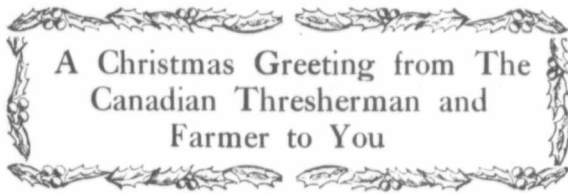
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A Christmas Greeting from The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer to You

What a world of good cheer ripples through the air,
Surcharged with the spirit of this glad season!
It is coming older; it is coming to-night!
On the snowflakes which cover the sod.
The feet of the Christ-child fall gentle and white,
And the voice of the Christ-child tells utmost delight,
That men are the children of God.

DO you not catch that wonderful something that thrills the great round world as you ring out your greeting or hear the salutation from others? It is a glorious occasion, and we who live in this day and generation should feel truly thankful that we are allowed to enjoy its privileges in freedom. It is, in fact the memorial day of a commercial age. Then, as on no other day, we face with compassion those who have fallen in our battles for wealth.

For a moment think of the thousands of children who have no share in the easy life we give our children, and who must find the season's joy in the charity dinner. Along with the barter to which we have debased our giving within the circle of our acquaintances, we play at extending the spirit of the day to those who are the refuse of our industrial game. We give a trifle to help the poor temper the bitterness of the year with an hour or two hours' good eating.

However sincere we may be in our efforts to spread Christmas cheer, our charity is none the less a testimony of the fact that Peace and Goodwill has not come upon the earth. Poverty and wretchedness are not to be off-set by yearly gifts of baskets of food and out grown clothes. We ought to make the spasmodic kindness of Christmas one of the constant forces of our work-a-day life. The qualities of fraternity are not born of charity but of justice.

Instead of commercializing Christmas, we should Christianize commercialism.

We do not pretend to be prophets, but we can all bear to hope, and this is what we hope: "That some day the strong will help and not exploit the weak; that some day fraternity will mean more than the desire of one man to become acquainted with another for the reason of the dollar; that some day love will beget justice, rather than charity."

Christmas cometh to the farmer and likewise to the thresherman as the last milestone of the year. Just around the bend is the beginning of another road, 365 days in length. The time glass must be given another turn and old Father Time registers another gap in his sickle. Christmas comes on

the wane of the old year. Colder and colder—days rapidly shortening—less and less sun. Summer warmth and life seem to be ebbing away for ever. Suppose it should never stop, and day finally disappear in everlasting night! So the first man, in his first year, must have thought.

After the 21st of December there is no sign of release. Every day has been shorter than the last. But on the twenty-second there is a difference. The almanac now tells us that we shall have three days of equal length. Perhaps, after all, the sun will go no further away. That is now the best we can hope for, but the evening of the twenty-fourth comes and, joy of mankind! The day is longer! The tide of darkness has turned. We are not to be swept away by it. The sun is coming back! We can stand the frost of winter cheerfully now, for we know that summer will rise from the dead. Christmas is the promise of Easter, wafted back across the snow.

Let us gather round the festive board on this Memorial occasion with as near a feeling of kinship and goodwill to all mankind as it is possible for human nature to muster. Let us be satisfied with the feeling that our lot has been cast in a place that might have been considerably worse, but let us not be contented with the drifting down the stream of another year. Let each of us help the good time forward, and Christmas tells us how.

This is the season of the year for exercising the brotherhood spirit—that is the source of peace and goodwill—that is the sun which must rise out of the valley of darkness and drive away the shadows there—that is the tide which will at last reach the high water mark of human happiness and make equality and fraternity real.

Let us fill ourselves with the Christmas spirit and carry it with us through the busy year.

May "1912" come to you as the happiest, healthiest and most prosperous year of all your existence. May your granaries be full; may your life in 1912 be an everlasting song; may your efforts be rewarded in every particular, is the sincere wish of THE CANADIAN THRESHERMAN AND FARMER to all of its readers.

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