

MEXICAN ROAD BADLY DAMAGED

Rebels Make Complete Work of Destroying Bridges and Blocking Traffic on Northwestern Line

CREW OF ENGINE TELL EXPERIENCE

Fugitive Women and Children Suffering Want of Food—Heavy Reinforcements Sent to Navarro

EL PASO, Dec. 24.—Engineer Cobler and Fireman Muzoz of the Mexico Northwestern Railway arrived here tonight and told a thrilling tale of their experiences while in the hands of the insurgents. These men were in charge of the engine captured by the insurgents on Thursday, and for four hours they were forced to run the locomotive at the bidding of their captors.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 24.—Official reports from the frontier in Presidio county along the Rio Grande frontier, 75 miles from the Rio Grande, are that 700 refugees, chiefly women and children, have recently crossed the river from Mexico to this side at Presidio and other points.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 24.—A telephone message from Supt. George Rutledge, who went down with the 21 Paso and Northwestern train on its trip south today, reports that the revolutionists blew up at least six bridges and possibly more after stealing the train on Thursday night.

CHIHUAHUA, Dec. 24.—Two big trains carrying 1300 troops left here this morning to reinforce General Navarro. Their first task, a difficult one, will be to take Mal Paso.

MURDERED IN HIS BED

People of Oklahoma Town Searching for Slayer of Physician—Blood-stains Reveal Crime

HENNEPIN, Okla., Dec. 24.—Aroused by the murder of Dr. R. S. Burns, a physician, 32 years old, in his office here last night, a posse of citizens, with bloodhounds, tonight is seeking the unidentified slayer.

HIGH EXPRESS RATES

Railway Commission Orders Companies to Make Reduction and Abolish Form of Contract

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—Judgment has been given by the Railway Commission on the express rates cases, which declares that rates are too high and orders the companies to file lower tariffs within three months.

TRAIN WRECKED IN OLD COUNTRY

Scottish Express on Northwestern Railway Runs Into Pilot Engine and is Completely Derailed

TEN ARE KILLED AND MANY INJURED

People Caught in Wreckage While Fire Overtakes Them—Bystanders Unable to Effect Rescues

LONDON, Dec. 24.—A railway disaster marked Christmas in the Old Country, the victims being chiefly Scotch people bound homeward to spend the festive season in the north.

WAGE ADVANCE FOR ENGINEERS

Settlement With Companies Reached and Strike Averted—Concessions Made by Both Parties to Dispute

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—The wage dispute between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and 31 railroads north and south of Chicago, was averted today. There will be no strike.

UNIQUE RECORD FOR CORRUPTION

Adams County, Ohio, Attains Bad Pre-Eminence in Matter of Selling Votes—Indictments by Wholesale

PORTSMOUTH, O., Dec. 24.—With a total of 311 indictments and 114 pleas of guilty to charges of vote selling during the recent election, Adams county, Ohio, presents a condition unique in political history.

C. N. R. TRAFFIC MANAGER

Mr. George H. Shaw to Have Control of All Traffic of the Company—Affect and Affect

WINNIPEG, Dec. 24.—George H. Shaw, traffic manager of the Canadian Northern Railway, returned to the city today. He confirms the report that he is to be transferred to Toronto as fourth vice-president.

AUSTIN, Texas, Dec. 24.—Seventy-five convicts of the state penitentiary were paroled at midnight today, having had executive clemency granted by Governor Campbell.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—"Send for Mary, I'm dying," said Thomas Cooley, 73 years old, to the watchers at his bedside in Jersey City this Christmas eve.

CHINESE SUFFER FROM FAMINE

Three Million People Starving in Kiang Su and Anhui Provinces—Crops Destroyed in Large Area

GOVERNMENT AID IS INSUFFICIENT

Missionaries Send Out Appeal To Christian Countries For Relief—Million Dollars is Needed in Work

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Private advice received here says the famine in China has far exceeded three millions of people, and that \$1,000,000 is urgently needed for their relief.

SEARCH IN MAIN FOR AVIATOR

No Tidings Received of Cecil S. Grace, Who Disappeared While Attempting Return Flight Across Channel

ELVEN KILLED IN TWO WRECKES

Fatal Train Collisions in Ohio and West Virginia—One Smash Costs Six Lives, the Other Five

STRIKES IN FRANCE

Text of Proposed Government Measure For Their Protection is Made Public

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The text of the government measure for preventing general strikes, with particular reference to the employees of public service corporations, was made public today.

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MINNESOTA WOMAN GIVES BIRTH TO CHILD IN PARTIALLY ROOFLESS CABIN

Child and Mother Escaped from Cabin in Distant Part of Minnesota

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 24.—While wolves howled around the cabin, Mrs. Walter Darrach, 34 years old, gave birth, six days ago, to a baby in a partially-roofless cabin near Pelee Lake, in this county.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Of the twenty-five men killed in a fire in Nelson Morris & Co's plant at the Union stockyards today by falling boiler bodies of nineteen, including that of Fire Chief James Horan, had been taken from the ruins at a late hour tonight.

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WALLS OF LARGE BUILDING AT MORRIS' PACKING PLANT FALL UPON CHIEF HORAN AND NUMBER OF HIS MEN

Disaster Caused by Sudden Expansion of Cold Air—Whole Day Required to Gain Control of Fire

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Advertisement for 'Our' products, listing various items and prices such as 'dainty colors', 'Roman Gold', 'fashioned', 'strong', 'only \$2.50', 'methyst cut in', 'Special 25¢', 'Set \$12.00', 'limited num.', '\$1.00', 'made. Regular', '\$35', 'ed with vanity', 'Also many', '\$5.50', '\$1.25', '\$1.75', '\$1.25', '\$1.75', '\$1.25', '\$1.75', '\$1.00', 'Prices, \$1.00', '\$2.75', '\$1.00', '\$1.50', '\$1.50', 'the daintiest', 'are very low', 'a box. Plain', '\$1.75', 'of pure linen', '\$1.75', 'ers, hand em', '90¢', 'gn and initial', '\$1.00', 'initial. Six as', '\$1.00', 'to a box \$1.50', 'initial, or plain', '\$1.50', 'corner effects.', '\$2.00'

CONSERVATIVES AND NAVAL DEFENCE

Mr. G. H. Barnard, M. P., Talks Interestingly During Recent Federal Session

The stand of the Conservative party of Canada on the question of naval defence is capably outlined by Mr. G. H. Barnard, the federal member for Victoria, who has just returned to the city from the recently concluded session at Ottawa.

"Well, the Conservative policy was voted down. That disposed of the time being of the direct contribution. Mr. Borden's resolution this year simply reiterated the party's stand that the permanent policy should be submitted to the people.

"Our own resolutions for immediate and substantial defence of the coast have been lost, the next best thing we could hope to do would be to express our willingness to submit the whole question to the people, and let the rest of my party vote accordingly.

"You ask why the government programme is inadequate. Well, in the first place, the proposed force is too small to be of any use in the second place, and contrary to that expressed wishes of the imperial authorities, it is divided between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

"The admiralty see the danger Sir Wilfrid speaks of and recommend as a provision against it that Canada should construct a fleet of war ships on the Pacific. Sir Wilfrid sees the danger. What steps does he take to meet it?

CHICAGO'S DEAD ARE TWENTY-FOUR

Captain Lannon of Fire Department Succumbs to Injuries—Young Man Loses Father and Brother

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Alexander D. Lannon, who was killed in the fire department, injured at the stockyards fire here yesterday, died today.

BIRD MEN THRILL WATCHING CROWD

Some Spectacular Performances With Aeroplanes At Los Angeles Meet—C-riess Makes Fast Flight

AVIATION FIELD, LOS ANGELES, Dec. 24.—Thrill after thrill witnessed the huge crowd today at the opening of the second annual international aviation meet.

SETTLEMENT IN VIEW

Development League Secretary Prophees Large Influx of People Next Year

The coming spring and summer will see the largest influx of settlers to the undeveloped lands of the province, according to the secretary of the Development League.

DISCUSSION OVER BIG CHINESE LOAN

Government at Peking and American Syndicate Not Yet Agreed—Question of Adviser Holds Up Affair

PEKIN, Dec. 23.—The government has not yet come to terms with the American financial syndicate over the proposed loan of \$50,000,000 to be used by China in furthering currency reforms and other interests of the empire.

CHIEF COUNSEL FOR C. N. RAILWAY

Mr. E. P. Davis, K. C., Leaves Position With Canadian Pacific to Take Place With Other Company

VANCOUVER, Dec. 23.—At the end of the present year, Mr. E. P. Davis, K. C., who for the past nineteen years has acted as chief counsel for the C.P.R. in this city, will sever his connection with that company to become counsel for the Canadian Northern Railway company in this province.

THOUSANDTH ANNIVERSARY

Rouen to Celebrate the Foundation of the Duchy of Normandy

Preparations are being made for a grand celebration during the month of June next at the city of Rouen, France, according to a letter addressed to A. O. P. Francis, the French consul at Victoria by the consul general for France at Montreal.

WILL NOT ENTERTAIN PROPOSAL ADVANCED

Hon. Richard McBride Replies To Petition Advanced by Committee of "Friends of the Indians"

The reply of the Premier to the deputation which recently interviewed the government as "friends of the Indians" in order to do good to the Indians, Bishop of Columbia. As expected, it is a courteous refusal to entertain the proposal advanced, which could not be properly made by the British Columbia Development League.

COMpanies LICENSED

Among the extra-provincial companies which have been either licensed or registered during the past week for the purpose of transacting business in British Columbia are the Burrill Rock Drill Co., Ltd., Brown Brothers, Ltd., Caledonia Springs Co., Ltd., Dominion Express Co., E. A. Small Co., Ltd., Fitzgibbon & Co., Ltd., Knechtel Furniture Co., Ltd., Lawrence & Co., Ltd., Murray Shoe Co., Ltd., Northern Coal & Coke Co., Ltd., Princess Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Record Foundry & Machine Co., Ltd., R. C. Co., Ltd., Travelers Life Assurance Co. of Canada, Waldron Drouin Company, Ltd., Healdie Machinery Co., Russell & Co., Ltd., Slater Shoe Co., Ltd., Salmop River Gold M. & M. Co., Ltd., The new provincially incorporated companies include: Alcorn Power Co., Charles A. Bodley & Co., Ltd., Northey Development Co., Ltd., Realty Fruit & Land Co., Ltd., Taxicab Limited, Western Canada Underwriters Limited.

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REBELS DESTROY RAILWAY BRIDGE

Passenger Train On Mexican Northwestern Line Oblivious To Return From Point Below Jaurez

INSURRECTOR SCOUTS ENTER CHIHUAHUA

CIVILIANS OPPOSED TO REVOLUTION SAID TO HAVE BEEN ESCUED—NAVARRO'S SITUATION NOT DANGEROUS

NEW YORK TO COAST

Alleged Plan of Harriman Lines Run Through Train Each Way Daily

SEATTLE, Dec. 23.—According to a story which will appear in the Seattle Intelligencer tomorrow, the Harriman lines are conducting negotiations with eastern trunk lines looking to the creation of through routes from New York to the Pacific Coast. It is planned to run a limited passenger train as an effective train between the east and western seaboard.

WITH ONE STOP

SEATTLE, Dec. 23.—The American Hawaiian line's new vessel steamship Honolulu arrived at Seattle in the night after steaming from Baltimore to Puget Sound a distance of 14,000 miles, with only one stop. The Honolulu took on 14,000 barrels of fuel before leaving Baltimore, October 3, and this supply was found ample to bring the vessel to her berth in Seattle harbor.

Advertisement for Raymond & Sons, featuring the slogan "May the Glow of the Fire" and contact information: 613 Pandora Street, Phone 272, Res. 376.

G. T. R. Reinstatement TORONTO, Dec. 23.—G. T. employee received word from their representa

RAILWAY
C. Leaves
Canadian Pa-
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REBELS DESTROY
RAILWAY BRIDGES

Passenger Train On Mexico
Northwestern Line Obligated
To Return From Point Be-
low Juarez

INSURRECTO SCOUTS
ENTER CHIHUAHUA

Civilians Opposed to Revolu-
tion Said to Have Been Exe-
cuted—Navarro's Situation
Not Dangerous

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 25.—The Mexico
Northwestern passenger train which left
here this morning for Cuernavaca, Grandero,
running without orders, returned late
tonight and reported that dozens of
bridges had been burned below Loma sta-
tion. The train was first stopped 75
miles below Juarez by a section of ay-
scamited train. An eighty foot trestle
between Loma and Canales has been
burned, and every bridge of importance
was in flames.

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NEW YORK TO COAST

Alleged Plan of Harriman Lines to
Run Through Eastern States
Way Daily

SEATTLE, Dec. 25.—According to a
revelation which will appear in the Post-
Intelligencer tomorrow, the Harriman
lines are conducting negotiations with
eastern trunk lines looking to the op-
eration of through trains from New
York to the Pacific Coast. It is planned
to run a limited passenger train and
an exclusive train between the eastern
and western seaboard daily.

WITH ONE STOP

SEATTLE, Dec. 25.—The American-
Hawaiian liner new steel steamship
Honolulu, arrived at Seattle last
night after steaming from Baltimore to
Finger Sound, a distance of 14,000
miles, with only one stop. The Honolu-
luna took on 14,000 barrels of fuel oil
before leaving Baltimore, October 20,
and this supply was found ample to
bring the vessel to her berth in the
Seattle harbor.

SEATTLE, Dec. 25.—The plan of gov-
ernment for the new Portuguese repub-
lic has been elaborated by the provision-
al government. It is based upon the par-
liamentary system of France, with cer-
tain modifications adopted from the
United States. The president of the Por-
tuguese republic will be chosen by the
parliament for a term of five years, and
he will be ineligible for re-election until
a regular term has intervened.

TORONTO, Dec. 25.—G. T. employees
received word from their representa-

MIX-UP OF BROTHERS

Joseph Fyand Declared He Was Ar-
rested on Charge of Crime
Committed by John

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was brought to Seattle from Missis-
sippi City to stand trial on the charge
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for forty minutes.

PADLOCK BILL PASSED

Premier Canalejas Seals March on
Clericals and Carlists—Means
Struggle With Church

MADRID, Dec. 25.—Despite Carlist
and Clerical attempts to impede the
progress of the measure, the Cortes to-
day passed the famous "Padlock bill,"
virtually providing for the separation
of Church and State in Spain and re-
voking the establishment of religious
orders.

TURKISH AGGRESSIONS

Osman's Patrols in Central Sudan
Sphere Under French Influence

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A despatch to the
Times from Dakar, West Africa, says:
"An astonishing development of Turk-
ish policy is reported from the east of
Africa on the desert caravan route from
Tripoli, through French territory, to
Northern Nigeria. By the Anglo-Turk
agreement of 1899 the vast stretch of
territory between the hinterland of Tri-
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a French detachment in order to pro-
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since been confirmed."

PORTUGAL'S GOVERNMENT

Plan for New Republic Elaborated by
Men Now in Charge—Based on
French System

Campbells
We Ourselves the Better Serve by Serving Others Best

"CAMPBELL'S" THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION TODAY

UMBRELLA SPECIAL
Regular \$2.25 to \$2.75
Special \$2.00
Regular \$3.25 to \$3.75
Special \$2.75
Regular \$4.25 to \$4.75
Special \$3.75
Regular \$5.75 to \$6.50
Special \$4.75
Ladies' Umbrellas, with
silk covers, pearl, sil-
ver, gold handles,
navy, green and grey. Per pair \$1.50
from \$1.00 to \$4.75
Children's Umbrellas,
each, 50c. and \$1.75

NECKWEAR—DAINTY AND EXCLUSIVE
Real Irish Lace Jabots, priced at \$3.75 down to \$2.25
Collared Gaiters, in white, helle, sky,
each \$6.50 to \$4.00
Linen and Lawn Stocks, with lace and insertion, \$1.50
to \$1.00
Lace Collars with Jabots attached, in ecru and white,
\$1.25, \$1.00, 90c and 75c
Chiffon and Fancy Neck Collars, with gold, silver
and pearl trimmings. We've a very choice selection of
these. Prices range up from \$1.25
Dutch Collars of heavy embroidered linen. Each 75c
and 50c
Lace Dutch Collars, in Gaiters and Irish, also ecru and
white, \$2.75 down to \$1.25
Coat Collars of fine Gaiters, square backs, \$2.75 to
\$1.25
Jabots, choice selection in the embroidered, lawn with
lace trimmings, \$1.15 down to 35c

BAGS AND PURSES
Small Pocket Purses in
seal and alligator.
Colors, brown, green
and black, each, 50c
\$5.25 and \$1.50
White Kid Bags, with
gold handles, each
little purse (made,
\$1.00 and 90c
Fancy Silk Bags, with
gold and pearl ge-
mettes, in black, green,
grey, purple
and navy. Each, 90c
Novelties in Evening
Bags—Silk, satin
and suede. Splendid
value at \$5.50 to \$7.75
The New Avenue Bag,
fitted with mirror and
powder puff, with
hand straps. Each
\$4.25 and \$3.50
Leather Bags, with riv-
eted frame and chain
purse inside. Each
\$1.25 and 90c
Handsome Leather Bags, fitted with mirror, powder
puff and box, smelling salts, card case and purse.
\$3.75, \$4.75, down to \$2.75
Leather Bags of fine quality, "handle, alligator" and
fancy gold bags. In tan and grey. Purses, \$3.75
Very Fine Leather Bags of seal or walrus, riveted steel
and fancy gold bags. In tan and grey. Purses, \$4.75
wine, brown, tan and grey. Priced from \$1.00 to \$4.50

ORNAMENTS
Full
Line
of
Hair
Combs
Hats
Pins
at
All
Prices

FANCY SCARVES, BOAS AND STOLLES
Black and White Lace Scarves, with fringe
each \$1.75 and \$1.50
Silk Embroidered Lace Scarves, in blue, white
and grey. Each \$3.25
Spanish Lace Silk Scarves in black and cream
an ideal Christmas gift. Each, from \$1.00
to \$5.75
Fascinating Scarves of Black Satin, with white
and Paisley linings, heavy silk tassels ends.
Each, \$4.25 and \$3.75
Choice Selection of Colored Pashmina Scarves,
in navy, with figured chiffon. Each \$1.50 to
\$3.50
Excellent Quality Cashmere Boas, in black
and white, each, \$2.50 to \$7.50
Marabout Stoles, in black and white, \$9.00 to
\$5.75
Marabout Stoles, all around, 2 1/2 yards in
length, navy, green and taupe, each, \$4.75
Marabout Stoles, neatly trimmed with ribbon,
black, grey and brown, \$9.00 and \$7.50

WE ISSUE GLOVE SCRIPT
Real Nappa Gloves, 2 dome, red stitching. Per
pair \$5.00
Fine French Kid Gloves—the celebrated Alex-
andra Glove—in black, white, tan, brown,
navy, green and grey. Per pair \$1.50
The Real Nappa Gloves, pigskin, in tan only.
3 domes. Per pair 90c
Dent's Glove, special. Per pair \$1.00
Fevre's Fine Glass Kid Gloves, 3 domes, in tan,
brown, black, white and grey. Per pair \$1.25
The English Cape Glove, with silk, 2 1/2
pair \$1.25
Dent's Glove, medium weight, soft and red
stitching, arrow points, 4 domes. Per pair \$1.00
Silk Evening Gloves, all shades, elbow length,
spread up from \$1.25
Lewes's Glass Kid Evening Gloves in black
and white, 12, 16 and 20 buttons. Per pair,
\$2.75, \$3.25 and \$2.50
Jury's Suede Glove, in black, white, green and
tan. Per pair \$1.50
Dent's Glove, all lined and unlined, in
brown and grey. Per pair 90c
Arrived yesterday—a splendid new shipment
of Maglion Gloves, in tan, brown, white, black
navy, green, helle, and pearl. Per pair, \$1.50

BLOUSE SPECIAL
Silk Blouses in fancy plaids, blue and plain
tulle, and head de sole. Regular values
up to \$9.75
TODAY \$5.00
Every one of these are up to the minute in
style and would make a very acceptable Xmas
gift.
Then we have a beautiful line of blouses in
fancy silks, crepe de chine, tulle, lace and
net at a very wide range of prices.

THE "KIDDIES"
Our Children's Special Department is com-
plete with everything to make the youngsters
look their daintiest at Christmas tide. Lawn
and Quilted Dresses, Shantung Dresses, sweet
little Coats and Wool Jackets, Booties, Miss
Galter Overalls, Bonnets, etc.

Handkerchiefs
Monten and Duches Lace Handkerchiefs, the gift superb, \$15.00 to
\$27.50
Real Armenian Lace Edge, fancy hemstitched \$3.75
Finest Lawn and Sheet Linen with embroidery, very dainty, \$1.25, 30c
and 50c
Extra Good Value in Embroidered Lawn and Linen Handkerchiefs,
for 15c, 20c, 25c and 35c
Initial Handkerchiefs in all linen, white, blue or pink, each 25c
Colored edge and colored initial 15c
Fancy Colored Handkerchiefs for Children, very good values, 10c and 15c
helle, champagne, 10c, 15c and 20c
Plain Sheet Linen, extra fine value, at 10c
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Plain Pure Linen, finest quality, 15c and 20c
Cashmere Huelin 15c
Pongee Handkerchiefs, colored at 10c

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In one of his speeches delivered during the campaign that has just closed, Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Minister, said that the Liberal programme in respect to the House of Lords was the curtailment of the veto pending the reconstruction of the hereditary chamber. It is proposed to do away wholly with the hereditary principle; to limit the number of members of the Upper House to 200; to make them elective by large constituencies; to give the new body equal powers in respect to legislation, excluding a money bill, as are enjoyed by the Commons and in the event of a disagreement between them to provide for a joint session at which the vote of the majority shall prevail.

Collier's notes that during the debate on the naval question, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's supporters left the burden of the defence upon his shoulders. This is indicative of the trend of modern parliamentary discussion and is the outcome of session rule. There was a time when every member of the House felt that he ought to take some part in the debate of important questions, but it has come about that nearly everything is left to a few leaders on both sides, although there is very naturally greater latitude on the part of the Opposition than on the part of the Government.

SALT SPRING BRANCH OF THE NAVY LEAGUE

Large And Enthusiastic Audience at Annual Christmas Meeting Hears Victoria Speakers

The following which we take from the special London correspondence of the Toronto Star and Ottawa Citizen will be read with interest, as everything is that bears even remotely upon the political situation in the Mother Country: "Lloyd George's budget, which is now accepted in its essentials by all parties, has produced a revenue more buoyant than its most sanguine advocates expected, and will become effective, owing to the delay in getting valuations through, so freely is money accumulating, that the super-tax on large incomes has been delayed in operation for a year, and a reduction in the taxes on the poor man's tobacco is promised for next year, as well as an immediate launching of a pretentious insurance scheme. One might expect the heavy breakfast table taxes on tea, coffee, and sugar would be the first to be cut, but cynics observe that tobacco reaches more voters anyway, the tobacco duties are now so high as to be beyond the maximum revenue-producing point. It is also rumored that in the next budget Lloyd George proposes to put customs taxes on the luxuries of the rich, such as motor cars and suits, simultaneously asking the manufacturers, who will be protected in consequence, to pay an excise corresponding to the amount of their protection into his insurance scheme fund." This may or may not be the actual state of the case, but it will serve to some extent to keep readers in touch with the progress of events and the varied expressions of opinion.

A head-line in the St. John Telegraph describes Mayor Evans of Winnipeg, as "the candidate of 'legalized vice.'" Presumably the Telegraph does not know Mr. Evans, or it would not apply such an epithet to him. We do not make this reference to defend Mr. Evans personally, but to protest against the mistaken notion that because a person stands for the living of vice, he necessarily favors it. There was a time some years ago in St. John when a zealous Chief of Police thought he was doing a wise act in breaking up the restricted district there. The result was the vice was scattered broadcast throughout the city. There were two large houses of ill-repute close to public schools in the very heart of the city. The Telegraph was urged by prominent citizens to demand the closing of these places, and the driving of their inmates back to the locality from which the police had ejected them. It did so, and they were driven back. Now may we ask our contemporary if it was then chargeable with being the advocate of legalized vice because it sought to remove pernicious influence from under the eyes of school children. We have had a similar case in Victoria of the so-called moral variety. Before it occurred a lady and even a young girl could go almost anywhere in the city at any hour without being subject to being accosted by strangers or followed by some one. Since this spasm of frequent reports of such things have reached the Colonist of ladies being spoken to or followed, if we should demand the living of the vicious element in this city, as the Telegraph successfully demanded it on the occasion mentioned, would we be open to the charge that we favor the legalizing of vice? As well charge the city with favoring fish because it provides average cans.

Major Barnes, the president of the Victoria branch of the Navy League, treated the subject only as a man who is a soldier, and knows what war means. He is rarely presented, he is presented upon his knees, the absolute necessity for taking measures for the defence of the country, their homes and everything that they love best in the world. "It was not," said the speaker, "for the defence of Great Britain that we were to build up a navy, but for the defence of Canada. As a nation within the empire we should be big enough and strong enough to look after our own interests and not to make a beginning in that direction, and though if the time ever came when the mother country should need it, our assistance would be at once, whole heartedly forthcoming, yet the very root and foundation of the navy league policy in Canada was the defence of Canada." The stage was capably decorated with flags, evergreen and flowers by Mrs. Frank Scott and willing lady helpers. During the evening a selection of songs were rendered by various ladies and gentlemen. The accompaniment and ovation were charmingly played by Mrs. Palmer. Miss Deary, Miss Brock and Mrs. Horrel delighted the audience by their singing. Dr. Houghton was in good voice, and Mr. George Hally brought down the house with his Harry Lauder songs in Highland costume. The presence of Miss McLean, who possesses a magnificent voice, was sorely missed, a cold preventing her from taking her part in the programme. After the meeting the annual Christmas party was held which was a success. Dancing being kept up till a late hour. Mr. Palmer, Mr. Ashol, Mr. Howard, Messrs. Campbell and Mr. H. Maxwell kindly volunteered their services and rendered delightful music. Mr. H. Woods acted as floor manager. The refreshments were kindly provided by the ladies.

J. K. Kennedy has been appointed police court prosecutor for Vancouver.

THE VICTORIA COLONIST

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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Great Christmas Eve Values - There Is Always a Rush at Our Store on Christmas Eve - Do Your Shopping Early - Look Over These Lists for the Last Time. Includes a calendar for 1910-DECEMBER-1910 and an illustration of Santa Claus.

Gifts for Her, Gifts for Him, Gifts for the Children, Useful Gifts for Everybody. Lists various gift items such as Nut Crackers, Arm Chair, Water Bottles, etc.

Most Gracious of All Gifts "Libbey" Cut Glass. THE CHIEF CHARM OF HER TABLE - IDEAL FOR A CORNER IN HIS DEN. Includes a list of Libbey cut glass items and prices.

Two My baby A little Upon the He can Of baby's And H pri And this That he That thou You ma That gra And g Ah, h May. Includes an illustration of a baby and a woman.

Weiler Bros Great Assortment. Includes the Weiler Bros logo and the text 'Your Last Chance'.

Two Christmas Mornings
By Jean Rushmore

My baby, on this day, long, long ago,
A little Child first opened wide His eyes
Upon the world—not knowing then the woe
He came to ease, but just the faint surprise
Of babyhood at feeling life's first glow;
And He was Mary's as you're my heart's
prize.
And this my longing soul's great wish for you:
That love like His may bide within your
heart;
That though the world-temptations shall ensue,
You may in some wise be His counterpart;
That grace of His may your dear life imbue,
And give you strength to do, and not to do.
Ah, baby mine, with lifetime just begun,
May you be true as Mary's little son!

SCOTTISH HISTORY

(Continued from Page Four)
one that could be given, was that Comyn give him the lie, whereupon he stabbed him with a dagger. Shocked at what he had done, he rushed out of the church and exclaimed: "I doubt I have killed the Red Comyn!" whereupon one of his followers shouted: "It would be a pity to leave such a thing in doubt!" and rushing into the church, completed the work which his master had begun. Bruce rallied his followers and prepared to make good his claim to the throne. He was crowned at Scone, a coronet of gold having been made for the occasion, the royal crown having been carried away by Edward, when he took the Coronation Stone to Westminster. But as yet Bruce was king only in name. Of friends he had many, but there was no part of Scotland in which his power was recognized. Earl Pembroke led a powerful army against him, and meeting him at Methven, administered a crushing defeat. Bruce fled to the mountains, taking his wife and other women with him, where they subsisted solely by the proceeds of the chase, harassed daily by John of Lorn and his followers. He was driven from refuge to refuge, and finally made his escape with hardly a follower to the Island of Rathlin, which lies off the coast of Ireland, and was held by the Macdonald sept, who remained faithful to the defeated king.

Meanwhile Edward advanced from England with a formidable army and crushed all opposition. Nigel, Thomas and Alexander Bruce, brothers of the king, were taken prisoners and executed. Among the prisoners also was the Earl of Athole. He claimed the mercy of Edward because of kinship, but the English king replied that the only way in which he would recognize his royal blood was by hanging him higher than the others, and so he met his death on a gallows fifty feet high. Bruce's wife, daughter and sister were sent as prisoners to London, and the Countess of Buchan, who had placed the crown upon the head of Bruce, was kept as a prisoner in a cage, where all the populace could see her. On June 7, Edward died, while engaged in his work of exterminating all opposition to his power. On his deathbed he enjoined upon his son and successor to continue the work he had begun, but that prince was too fond of pleasure and hastened to London to celebrate his marriage with Isabella of France. Bruce saw that his opportunity had come, and was prompt to seize it.

For several years we have used an artificial Christmas tree, instead of buying a growing tree cut from the forest. Such trees can be bought at city stores for from ten cents for a tiny tree, eight or ten inches in height, to two dollars for one four to five feet tall. A tree of convenient size sells for seventy-five cents, and may be used year after year, indefinitely. On account of the branches being stiff and strong, these trees are very easy to decorate, and tinsel festoons, gilt and silver fruits, make a brilliant display. Candles may be omitted, and thus obviate the danger of fires.

One year we had our tree in the corner of the room, and decorated the walls with garlands of artificial vines, holly and chains of sparkling beads. On another occasion, we placed it on a round table covered with a white cloth sprinkled with cotton. A pretty toy village nestled at the foot of the tree, with a mechanical railroad track around the circle.

After the holidays are over, we fold up our tree and pack it away with the pretty ornaments and trimmings, to be used again the next year.

THE SHEPHERDS' MASS, ALASSIO

(Continued from Page Three)

Then the rector takes from off the altar a waxen figure, representing the Christ Child in swaddling clothes, and, placing himself beneath the canopy, walks in procession to the presepio. In the procession are all the shepherds, walking two and two, and behind them the little shepherd boys with their lighted candles. Arrived at the presepio, the image is reverently deposited amid the swinging censers and the pealing of the organ, which passes into the singing of the Christmas anthem. The

rector then gives an address—simple, homely and direct, after which the procession is reformed and the image carried back to the high altar. After the image has been placed in the sanctuary, a lane is again formed down the centre aisle, and the rapt attention of the congregation indicates that the culminating point of the ceremonial is at hand. Amidst the solemn strains of the organ, there is seen advancing slowly up the aisle a tall, venerable shep-

herd, the patriarch of his clan. He bears in his arms, carrying it carefully and tenderly, a young lamb, snow-white. The whole congregation is in a state of strained attention. The shepherd boys press forward in their excitement; the older shepherds are anxious, and the shepherdesses hang on their husbands' arms, for to them this is a moment of supreme importance. The prosperity of their flocks during the coming year depends on the successful carrying out of the ensuing rite. If some ill-omened accident should now occur, if the shepherd stumbled, if the lamb struggled, or anything occurred that the superstitious could construe adversely—then their Christmas Eve would indeed be an unhappy one. But the shepherd, calm and direct, approaches the chancel steps. The priest meets him, and taking the lamb in his arms, sprinkles it with holy

A Newspaper Man's Christmas

ONE HAVING AUTHORITY

When you have sipped and are resting,
Full-fed in the Yule log's flare,
With your young ones a-babble about you,
And the hour is the jester of care—
When you most think you have earned it,
When you most feel it your due—
It is then I've a picture, life models,
A picture to show to you.

"Atkinson, hurry that copy,
We're not running weekly you know,
Lenox, there's just been a killing;
Some woman, they say, better to
"Sorry, Burke, like to relieve you,
I know the wife's lonely at home,
"So's mine. But we're running daily
In up-to-date Boston, not Rome."

Christmas Night! Hard to believe,
Saw the resignments run so,
Saw the happy-face parties,
Saw the reporters who wanted to see,
Saw the people in the office they're waiting,
Saw the man at the door, and they
Saw the man at the door, and they
Saw the man at the door, and they

Work 'till you drop, all the morning,
Stop for a sandwich at noon—
Parades, fires, epidemics, murders—
Shovel 'em out with a spoon,
Never mind waiting to wonder
Of Yale fires that burn far away;
Remember, we're running a daily—
And they tell you it's Christmas Day!

Others are gulping the turkey,
Sipping, all in a row,
Others are kissing their sweethearts
A bluish "neath the mistletoe."
Somebody's here at the door, sir!
"Bustling over the door,
Says he wants facts of the feast, sir;
Says he must hustle it in."

Remington went in the night,
Wife sat at home sewing his set,
He's hustling to get his stuff through,
Burns in a robe in a corner,
First Christmas he's ever saw,
"I'll hustle a bit in a year, though,
And won't count on Christmas Day."

Buck-up, and rattle the keyboard!
Scribes, one and all, let her roar!
Give the subscribers their daily—
A paper at everyone's door.
We of the pencil and darning,
The nerve and the gut and the go,
When four a.m. comes we can round up the
crumbs,
And call back "Good-night!" in the Row.

Some day, when the last paper's printed,
And the ink-roller wrinkles and dries,
Perhaps we shall rest and be quiet,
And take the shades off from our eyes,
And if we've been faithful, we'll meet it,
And if we have worked we shall get it,
And we all shall have folks and be happy
Old comrades, on Christmas Day.

So—when you have sipped and are resting,
You'll of the snug home life,
With your young ones a-babble about you,
And "Time is the jester of care,"
When you most think you have earned it,
When you most feel it your due,
It is then I've a picture,
The picture to show to you.

herd, the patriarch of his clan. He bears in his arms, carrying it carefully and tenderly, a young lamb, snow-white. The whole congregation is in a state of strained attention. The shepherd boys press forward in their excitement; the older shepherds are anxious, and the shepherdesses hang on their husbands' arms, for to them this is a moment of supreme importance. The prosperity of their flocks during the coming year depends on the successful carrying out of the ensuing rite. If some ill-omened accident should now occur, if the shepherd stumbled, if the lamb struggled, or anything occurred that the superstitious could construe adversely—then their Christmas Eve would indeed be an unhappy one. But the shepherd, calm and direct, approaches the chancel steps. The priest meets him, and taking the lamb in his arms, sprinkles it with holy

water, signs it with the Sign of the Cross, and returns it to the shepherd, who, with a reverent bow, silently and slowly walks down the aisle and passes out into the night to the hills. The flocks are blessed for the coming year, and a happy throng of shepherds and shepherdesses pass out to greet the Christmas morning, which is near at hand.—Travel and Exploration.

Grandma's Diary

By Florence Goff Schwarz

December, 1862

Monday morning went a-skating
On the ice with Thomas Brown.
Tuesday night we took a sleigh ride;
All the boys and girls in town
Laughed and sang; the sleigh bells jingled
Merry tunes; and William Small
Slyly squeezed my hand and whispered
"You are the sweetest girl of all."
Wednesday night I gave a party;
Sue Jones said (it wasn't so)
That she saw me very plainly
Making sheep's-eyes at her beau;
Thursday went to town for mother;
Friday to a quilting bee.
Saturday to choir practice—
Susie's beau came after me.
How she glared when we came walking
Up the aisle, but what of that?
Went to service twice on Sunday:
Wore my lovely purple hat.

December, 1910

I told my grandchild Marguerite
I think 'tis very shocking
That girls are never taught these days
To feel and to be stocking.
Their heads are filled with foolish things,
They're very vain and silly,
I see her from the window now—
She's flirting there with Billy.
When I was young the boys and girls
Were taught to know their places;
But nowadays girls primp and dress
And deck themselves with laces.
They have a beau for every night
And seem to deem it clever.
I think it a sinful sight,
I never did it—never!

A CHRISTMAS THOUGH!

(By C. L. Armstrong)

"O, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."—Matt. xxviii: 20.

O Lord, with what rich confidence
Thy servants walk in ev'ry land
Secure, to feel the guiding touch
And gentle pressure of Thy hand.

The way is rough, the day far spent,
And footsore, weary pilgrims tire
'Till Thou, with manna, feedeth them,
And leadeth with Thy post of fire.

O, heavy heart, look up, look up!
And follow on from day to day!
For Christ thy guide and friend shall be
'Till earth itself shall pass away.

SLEEP! HOLY BABE!

Sleep, Holy Babe, upon Thy Mother's breast;
Great Lord of earth and sea and sky,
How sweet it is to see Thee lie
In such a place of rest.

Sleep, Holy Babe; Thine angels watch around,
All bending low with folded wings,
Before the incarnate King of Kings,
In reverent awe profound.

Sleep, Holy Babe; while I with Mary gaze
In joy upon that face awhile,
Upon the loving infant smile
Which there divinely plays.

Sleep, Holy Babe; ah! take Thy brief repose;
Too quickly will Thy slumbers break,
And Thou to lengthened pains awake
That death alone shall close.

WHEN I VIEW THE MOTHER HOLDING

When I view the Mother holding
In her arms the Heavenly Boy,
Thousand blissful thoughts unfolding
Melt my heart with sweetest joy,
With her Babe the hours beguiling,
Mary's soul in transport lives;
God her Son, upon her smiling,
Thousand kisses fondly gives.

As the sun his radiance flinging,
Shines upon the bright expanse,
So the child to Mary clinging,
Doth her gentle heart entrance,
See the Virgin Mother beaming!
Jesus by her arms embraced,
Dew on softest roses gleaming,
Violet with lily chaste.

Each round other fondly twining,
Pours the shafts of mutual love,
Thick as flowers in meadows shining,
Countless as the stars above.
Oh, may one such arrow glowing,
Sweetest Child, which Thou dost
dart,
Through Thy Mother's bosom going,
Blessed Jesu, pierce my heart.

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- \$20.00
- \$30.00

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assortment.

HOW TO DEVELOP HEART AND GRACE

Expert on Physical Culture Gives Short Talk to Women—Tells of Necessity for Proper Exercise

The woman of nowadays experiences considerable difficulties in determining, during some period of her life, what form of exercise is the most desirable to cultivate.

It has been said by Mr. John Alexander, the American portrait painter, that the American woman seems determined to lose weight.

There are few women who understand the intrinsic value of fully stretching one's muscles in order to keep muscle free and ready to answer a call on its resources.

Many women who have to walk a little distance in a riding habit either appear to be ashamed to be seen and an air, carriage and assume that would be creditable to a cavalier.

POLO TOURNAMENTS IN CALIFORNIA

Number of Match Series Being Arranged in Different Points South—Representative Canadian and English Teams

PASADENA, Cal., Dec. 24.—Although only a baby in point of age and experience, the Pasadena Polo Club bids fair to become one of the big factors in arranging outdoor sport lovers in southern California this winter.

Everything points to a very busy winter in polo in Pasadena. Besides the home players a number of prominent poloists from various points in America and England expect to spend some time in Pasadena this spring.

The Pasadena club has fourteen good players, enough to make three teams, of which four of the best can be picked at any time to represent the club.

The famous Rockaway team from Long Island, which won the championship of the East during the summer will also winter here.

The English Hussars, who won the cup in California last year, will not be here, but in their stead it is known that the Windsor team, which won the country cup last summer, will place it at the head of the English polo team.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR FEDERALS

Mexican Government Makes Elaborate Preparations to Overcome Force of Insurrectos Near Chihuahua

CHIHUAHUA, Dec. 21.—One thousand government troops arrived here last night and started by railroad today for San Antonio, which is ten miles from the present battle at Malpaeso.

Immediately on arrival of the officers at Chihuahua they will report to General Hernandez and will doubtless receive orders to proceed at once to Bustillos, where the Sixth battalion is stationed.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—Fourteen friends and policemen, according to the latest count, have been killed and more than forty injured severely that they are in hospitals as a result of the burning of the factory.

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—Earl Grey is said to be planning an even more hazardous trip than the one he took this fall to Hudson bay.

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—Frank Leesman, a prominent resident of Lehigh, Alberta, Canada, was found dead here yesterday.

WHITE SLASHED BY NEGRO

His Refusal to Pay for Coffee Led to Violent Attack By Colored Man

Because he refused to pay for a cup of coffee which he had partaken in a restaurant on lower Johnson street, Michael Hayes was the victim last night at 7 o'clock of a vicious assault committed by the proprietor of the place, Harris Matthews, colored.

NEW YORKER WINS OVER LEW POWELL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Jack Goodman, of this city, gained the popular decision over Lew Powell, of California, in a ten-round lightweight bout here tonight.

DISPUTE BETWEEN RAILWAY COMPANIES AND ENGINEERS MAY BE SETTLED—STRIKE QUESTION DECIDED TODAY

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—With railroad managers and locomotive engineers on the verge of an open rupture, and the most gigantic strike in railroad history but a few hours off Labor Commissioner Nell has tonight decided the strike order and paved the way for an amicable settlement.

EARL GREY'S PLANS

Said to Be Contemplating Trip Down Mackenzie River and Back by Way of Yukon

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—Earl Grey is said to be planning an even more hazardous trip than the one he took this fall to Hudson bay.

WASHINGTON SHINGLE EXPORT

SEATTLE, Dec. 23.—Approximately \$6,000 carloads of shingles were shipped from the state of Washington during 1910, or about 1,000 more cars than were shipped last year.

MAIL SERVICE YET UNCERTAIN

Return of Sir James Mills to Melbourne—Victoria Government Decides to Sell Coal to Public

MELBOURNE, Dec. 21.—Sir James Mills, head of the steamship company whose tender for the Canada-Australia mail service was the only one received here today on his return from Britain.

BOSTON AMERICANS TRAIN ON COAST

BOSTON, Dec. 21.—The longest spring training trip ever undertaken by a major league baseball team is indicated for the Boston American players by the itinerary announced the other day.

JAPANESE ORANGES SPED

VANCOUVER, Dec. 21.—An assurance of 5,234 boxes of Japanese oranges is being made by Mr. Thomas Cunningham, inspector of fruit pests upon the ground that they are serious factors in every-day life amongst their fellow men and women.

KAISER'S DIPLOMACY

Persian Railroad Scheme Indicates Russo-German Rapprochement

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—Count Ernest Reventlow contributes a signed article to the "Deutsche Tageszeitung" stating that the recent visit of the Kaiser to Potsdam, when his Majesty was attended by M. Sazonoff, the new Russian minister for foreign affairs, has resulted in a new agreement between Germany and Russia regarding the construction of railroads in the middle east.

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MR. FIELDING RESUMES WORK

Returns to Ottawa in Better Health and Proceeds to Deal With Negotiations For Reciprocity

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—Hon. W. Fielding, Minister of Finance, has returned to Ottawa from his recent visit to the southern states.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT NOT LIKELY TO COME

King George Said to Feel Need of His Uncle's Assistance at Home—British Columbian Cases Decided

That the Duke of Connaught will not be the next Governor-General of Canada is the growing conviction of official circles in Ottawa.

SEATTLE, Dec. 23.—Ten minutes after Mayor Hiram C. Gill and the council had been served with a federal injunction restraining them from interfering with the operation of the Seattle, Renton and Tacoma street railway electric street car line, the council passed an ordinance today revoking the company's franchise on the ground that it had violated its terms.

DIAMONDS STOLEN

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 23.—Ten thousand dollars worth of diamonds were stolen from a jewelry store in the center of Cincinnati's business district tonight.

GOLD FROM ZILITARD

SEWARD, Alaska, Dec. 23.—Half a ton of gold was brought out over the trail on dog sleds by a party of five miners who arrived from the Iditarod trail yesterday.

INTERNATIONAL AERIAL RULES

Gathering at French Capital Endeavors Provide for Government of Air Ship Navigation in War and Peace

(By W. Hamilton Rhodes) LONDON, Dec. 22.—The international conference on aerial rights, which met in Paris on May 19 and adjourned on June 23...

Nationality of Airships The word "airships" (aeronefs) is taken to include all balloons, whether ordinary or dirigible...

On behalf of Belgium, Baron Guillaume expressed the regret of his government that a proposal made by it on May 27, with the idea of facilitating international navigation...

The nationality of an airship may be determined by a state either by the nationality of the owner or by his domicile on its territory...

A state which confers its nationality on an airship shall inscribe the vessel in a register, containing full details of its construction, distinguishing marks, owner's nationality, etc.

Peace River Lands Province Throws Open its Domain to Settlers—A Dominion Reserve

Owing to numerous inquiries regarding the homesteading of lands in the Dominion Government's reserve of 3,500,000 acres in the Peace River district of British Columbia...

COLWOOD SCHOOLS ANNUAL EXERCISES

On Closing for Christmas Holidays a Fine Programme and Santa Claus Pays a Welcome Visit

In closing the Colwood school for the Christmas holidays, the scholars on Friday evening the 16th held a public hall, Colwood, provided a splendid programme for the entertainment...

At the close of the programme Santa Claus made his entrance (the schoolmaster Mr. William L. Griffiths being greeted heartily by the assembled youngsters...

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FORESTRY CONVENTION

Mr. C. Hoard Endorses Scheme of Connecting Victoria With Barkley Sound By Main Highway

The feasibility of constructing a trunk road from Victoria to Barkley Sound receives strong endorsement from Mr. Clarence Hoard, who was the engineer employed by the Canadian Northern railway in the preliminary surveys which that corporation carried out on Vancouver Island...

TRUNK ROAD FEASIBLE, HE SAYS

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FORESTRY CONVENTION

Large Gathering Expected—Canadian Trade Commissioner to Argentine Republic

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—As the time for the opening of the Dominion forestry convention called by Sir Wilfrid Laurier of the city of Quebec on Jan. 15-20 approaches, it becomes clear that a meeting will be one of the largest and most important of the kind ever held in Canada...

An order-in-council has been passed appointing H. R. Poussette as Canadian trade commissioner to the Argentine Republic...

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MANY SUBJECTS AT FRUIT CONFERENCE

Provincial Growers' Association Aim at Still Further Standardization in Size, Weight and Grade

When the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association meets in its annual convention in the Sir William Wallace Hall, on Friday, January 6th, one of the most important subjects that will be taken up is that of standard packaging and grades of fruit...

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TURKISH DESIGNS IN PERSIAN PROVINCE

PARIS, Dec. 22.—The Temps publishes a letter from a correspondent at Tauris, in the Persian province of Azerbaïjan, in which he still occupies Tauris and it is fortunate for the inhabitants that they do so for were it not for the presence of a Cossack they would assuredly have been pillaged by the Shahshaven

tribe which has advanced to within 12 miles of the city after plundering a number of tons. The governor-general despatched a small body of Persian troops against the tribesmen who formerly put them to flight and continued their incursions. The road from Tauris to Teheran has been cut and the couriers plundered.

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CALIFORNIA CELERY—Large head 10c
CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS—Each, from \$1.00 to 5c
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ANOTHER LOT OF FRENCH PEAS just to hand. 25c
Two tins for 25c
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John C. office build where some across beyond the gulls were hour, the would find in the Hudson For a followed his desk, with had been suppose, un refuse to g asked me. spirit, and again, is all means very. "The Ch a thing no would find the getting see: to me families, w article is v three clubs, eleven-boy dozen court senger boy middle of D Tom-toms be ing to start tramps' dinn rested, crow mobile toys; mate business crowds;" as with a bang righteous ind "Well, the home" (the sciously). "I whole busine vigorous line Oak Hill, Ma boy from the note to mail papers." A day late his door upo dance hours, fire, and the and white picke soon lost in little space, homes that g garden plots until, half a crowded close "It is begin stroking the l that had foll legs affection his expressive it, even if it's always makes spirit of Chris "Ralph! Ra and he's comi the doctor re dancing step c figure crossed tor by his nea it, as a matter hand she held face. Mary Sandy sense of the v sons were old the world, and There was a s sible blendl at you from h her lips seeme thing that one Dr. Sandys his wife watch "How long is "Five, no, si he has asked to hear all the b good to the bo "I'm not a b but, when a b without reason home where h great risk to tr "But I think Ever since Mar went away, an think that it h here often. O a cousin, she s up with us all; different with J ever dreamed a with her goin life, and left on

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25c

25c

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A WAYSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE

John Curtin looked over his desk in the tall office building, out through the window, where some law houses let his sight travel across Broadway and down the Bay. Beyond the sea-wall of Battery park, the gulls were wheeling to and fro; another hour, the brief December sun having set, would find them snugly bedded for the night in the sheltered coves of Staten Island and the Hudson.

For a moment only, the man's thoughts followed his sight; then, throwing to his desk with an impatient slap, a letter that he had been reading, he said half aloud—"I suppose, under the circumstances, that I can't refuse to go; but I wish that Mary had not asked me. 'Come to us in the Christmas spirit, and let us play that we are young again,' is all very well to write, but what she means I do not know; however, Mary was never very practical.

"The Christmas Spirit! There isn't such a thing now-a-days. If Mary lived here she would find that it is merely a game for graft—the getting something for nothing. Let me see; to me it stands for a cent what every families, who gauge to a cent what every article is worth. Then a servants' box at three clubs, besides door-boys, janitors and elevator-boys, here and at my rooms. Next, a dozen courtroom hangers-on, and every messenger boy that comes to the office from the middle of December until after the New Year. Tom-toms beating in the street, and bells ringing to startle people into giving money for tramps' dinners. Fakirs that ought to be arrested, crowding the sidewalks with their automobile toys; and as for people—Bah! Legitimate business is almost stopped by the gaping crowds,"—and Curtin brought his fist down with a bang, in what he firmly believed was righteous indignation.

"Well, there is one good thing. If I go home"—(the word slipped out quite unconsciously), "I shall at least get out of the whole business." And the man, penning a few vigorous lines, inscribed "Mrs. Ralph Sandys, Oak Hill, Mass.," on the envelope, rang for a boy from the outer office, and, giving him the note to mail, was soon absorbed in his law papers.

A day later, as Dr. Ralph Sandys closed his door upon the last patient of his noon office hours, he put a couple of logs on the fire, and then, going to the porch, looked up and down the hill road that passed the neat white picket gate. To the north, the way was soon lost in the woods; but below, after a little space, it was strung with pleasant homes that grouped themselves amid their garden plots like friendly neighbors chatting, until, half a mile further on, the houses crowded closer and became a suburban town.

"It is beginning to snow," said the doctor, stroking the head of a black-and-white setter that had followed him, rubbing against his legs affectionately, coaxing for a walk with his expressive brown eyes. "Well, I'm glad of it, even if it's only a flurry; somehow, snow always makes the best setting for the real spirit of Christmas."

"Ralph! Ralph! I've a letter from John, and he's coming," called a woman's voice as the doctor returned to his fire. A light dancing step came through the hall, a slender figure crossed the study and, clasping the doctor by his nearest arm, encircled herself with it, as a matter of course, while with her free hand she held the letter before her husband's face.

Mary Sandys was still young, in the best sense of the word, even though her two big sons were old enough to have flown out into the world, and her hair was dashed with gray. There was a soft color in her cheeks, an irresistible blending of fun and sympathy looked at you from her wide-open gray eyes, while her lips seemed always curving to say something that one would like to hear.

Dr. Sandys read the letter gravely, while his wife watched him rather anxiously.

"How long is it since John has been here?"

"Five, no, six years; but then you know he has asked us to New York every winter to hear all the best music, and has been, oh, so good to the boys in getting them started."

"I'm not questioning his kindness, Mary, but when a bachelor of forty odd chooses without reason to keep away from the old home where he was born, it seems to me a great risk to try to force him to come back."

"But I think he has had a reason, Ralph. Ever since Margie married Fred Barnes and went away, and particularly since she died, I think that it has hurt John too much to come here often. Of course, to me, though she was a cousin, she seemed a sister, being brought up with us all; but I know now that it was different with John. He cared more than I ever dreamed at the time, and I think that with her going all the faith fell out of his life, and left only ambition.

"By the way, Ralph, after the holidays, would you object to my going over to the east end, to see if Fred's mother can give us his address? We have not heard a word from the children since last Christmas. I've bought gifts for the little girls, and I feel more strongly, every day, that the reason that Margie kept us at arm's length all those years was because she was often very near want, and did not wish us to know."

"I don't think it could have been so bad as that," said the Doctor, "for Fred was a clever fellow, even though he came from an unscrupulous brood; but I may as well tell you that I have been inquiring about old Mrs.

hill, and you said yesterday that you would be free this afternoon."

"Doesn't it seem rather odd to have a Christmas tree without any children to enjoy it, and our neighbors all have their own entertainments?" questioned, rather than objected, the doctor.

"No, for a part of it will be for us to go backward and be little children; and then you know, dearest, there is always one child at every Christmas tree—the Christ Child,—so that having it brings Him to us."

"Out into the pleasant crisp wintry air the two, tramped together, the doctor shouldering an axe, up the road and into the deep woods

down upon an old log, while Ralph plied his axe until, as the tree fell, she sniffed the pungence of its branches with closed eyes.

The homeward trip went more slowly, for the tree was heavy. The doctor carried the trunk, while his wife steadied the trailing top, like a reckless figure showing above its branches a reckless cardinal-bird above its nest.

An unexpected figure greeted them at their own door,—John Curtin, whom whom had brought a day before his time. For a moment he stood aghast at the sight of the two muffled figures and their burden; then, as Mary ran to him, he, also, was pervaded somehow by the mystic fragrance, and the set lines at his mouth corners began to relax and smile.

Next day they trimmed the tree, all three working together as eagerly as children might. That evening it would be lighted. At times, to be sure, John Curtin suffered a relapse of mood, and his tongue was moved to satire; but then he thought, "If it pleases them, it doesn't hurt me," until Mary's naturally cheery talk seemed to group the missing faces about him, without the usual pain.

When afternoon came, they found that the glittering star that tops all real Christmas trees was lacking. Would John go to town and buy one at the general store, also more candles? The trolley at the hill bottom would take him past the place.

In the well-stocked, if somewhat littered store, the city man stood spell-bound, fascinated. Here nice-looking people were spending, not dollars, but dimes and even pennies, with evident content. Instead of his usual cautious desire to avoid purchase, he soon became eager to buy; until a conscientious clerk, noting his rather clerical face, said, "If you are selecting for a Sunday-school tree, sir, I can get you a good discount, the holidays being so near over."

"Thank you, no, merely for the home children," Curtin said, quite unconscious of his answer.

Something halted the trolley suddenly several hundred yards below the Oak Hill road. Rather than wait repairs, for it was already dark, Curtin shouldered his heavy bundle and walked up the track toward a bright cluster of electric lights that marked the terminal. As he came abreast of them, he thought he heard childish voices, singing a tune, that seemed strangely familiar. Glancing toward the light-pole, he saw two little girls of perhaps six and ten who were standing close to the rails. So intent were they in looking at some object by the pole that they did not hear him.

Easing himself of the bundle, he paused to see at what they were looking. Through the blinking shadows, he saw a small spruce tree that was propped up just under the lights. It was broken and forlorn, such as might have come from the rubbish heap of a dealer, and its only decorations were a few scraps of red paper and a blemished apple.

"What are you children doing out there in the dark?" he said, surprised into gruffness. "Little girls shouldn't be out alone, especially on Christmas Eve."

"We came out because it was dark in the room, and we had no lights for our tree," replied the elder of the two, without a trace either of timidity or boldness, at the same time drawing the younger girl toward her. "You see that this does nicely, for the lights up there make a beautiful star."

"It isn't much of a tree, and there are no things on it, so why do you bother?" said the man who had forgotten what childhood was like, and did not understand.

"Of course, you can have things on a tree, but, if you haven't, you can do without," said the child quietly. "We haven't had things for two years, but, the last time we did, mother said, 'don't forget, dears, that it is the tree, and the star that really stand for Christmas.' And we didn't forget; but this year we couldn't have managed at all if we hadn't remembered these lights."

Something choked John Curtin. Here, at last, were children who asked nothing, expected nothing, and yet were content. What would he not give them, if for the mere novelty of the experience? The child's frankness to a stranger did not strike him as strange, but perfectly natural.

"How would you like to come with me to-night to a Christmas tree that not only has a star and other lights, but things on it besides? Tell me your names and, where you live, and I'll ask your people to let me take you."

The younger child clapped her hands in glee, but the elder stood perplexed, as if uncertain how to explain.

"We are stopping at the red boarding-house by the station," she said presently. "Father paid until to-morrow, but to-night we haven't any people, because father is tired and has a cough and some people took him to the

(Continued on Page Thirteen)

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL



All many gifts will pass today
From man to man,
From maid to maid.
But, there is one old gift, still new
Since ever Light and Life began.
Who gives or takes this gift will prove
The joy of days this day —
Tir Love.

Barnes, and she has moved away 'south,' to a daughter."

"How shall you amuse John?" he continued, anxious to change the subject. "I'm afraid that he will be terribly bored, for there is neither skating or sleighing, and I can't imagine him at a village party."

"Don't worry, my dear serious boy, for I've a plan," and Mary Sandys looked up at her husband with such a quizzical expression that the lines of his strong, clean-shaven face began to relax, and his introspective eyes sparkled in response to hers.

"We are going to have a Christmas tree here at home all among ourselves, as we used to long ago before all the sisters and brothers were scattered. I found a box full of those very ornaments up in the attic today, and they told me to use them once more. The tree must be big and gay, and we must have something on it for every one, no matter how far away they live; just as father and mother did, at the last, before you settled here, and they were quite alone. Moreover, we must go out and cut the tree ourselves; there are plenty of nice spruces left over on the north

that were fantastically draped by the soft snowfall of an hour. Before they had fairly lost sight of the highway, the spell of make believe had begun its work; and the couple were no longer Dr. and Mrs. Barnes, middle aged people of authority in the community, but Mary and Ralph, lagging behind a merry group of sisters and cousins, who were hunting ground-pine and evergreen ferns.

"Do you remember when you made me believe that a posion-ivy vine with white berries that clung to an oak was mistletoe?" she asked, blushing as suddenly as she had on that first momentous occasion.

"Yes, and we are under the very tree now, berries and all," he replied, promptly repeating history with youthful zest.

A rabbit scurried across the path, and they stood with bated breath. Under the shelter of some cedars, the partridge-berries glowed coral red. Mary must have some for her fernery. A winter wren scolded, merely from family tradition; chickadees followed them, chatting sociably until scattered by the shadow of a hawk. When the spruces were reached, Mary, radiant and breathless, sank

GREETINGS

To our friends and the public of
Victoria, we extend our sincerest
greetings and best wishes for a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May it be a joyous one of the
good old kind

DAVID SPENCER, Ld

T

VOL. L. N. 418

LORDS QUESTION EMBARRASSING

Asquith Government Must Soon
Face Problem Of Forcing
Through Programme Of Par-
liamentary Reform

WILL INTRODUCE
VETO BILL EARLY

Securing Of Liberal Majority In
Upper House Means Un-
wieldy Body Of Thousand
Members—Alternatives

LONDON, Dec. 28.—With the ap-
proach of the new year and the close
of the Christmas season, politics are
again the all-absorbing topic. In the
press and in all the political clubs
speculation is rife as to whether the
House of Lords will acknowledge de-
feat or will drive Mr. Asquith to the
extremity of securing guarantees from
the King for the creation of new peers
to carry the parliament bill in the up-
per chamber.

It is generally recognised that all
other business save probably the in-
roduction of the Budget will give way
to the Lords' veto bill which the gov-
ernment will bring forward at the
earliest possible moment.

By this action the government as-
sumes the support of its allies, the Lib-
erals and the Nationalists, who in
order to secure a change in the law re-
garding the passage of Labor meas-
ures and the passage of a Home Rule
bill of some sort or other, will place
their votes in the disposal of the Lib-
erals.

Whether they will continue to ex-
tend support to the government or not
depends on the result of the certain to
be when the precedence of govern-
mental measures is involved—is an-
other matter.

Conservatives are prophesying that
dissensions in the Nationalist and La-
borite camps are only a question of
months, and if these are not smoothed
over the existence of the coalition is
at an end.

What will happen it is impossible to
foretell—another general election be-
fore the coronation is not to be
thought of.

And yet, unless a second veto con-
ference reaches an amicable agreement
in the meantime no other solution sug-
gests itself. It is not likely that Mr.
Asquith will recommend the referen-
dum, seeing that it is his opponents'
proposal and that he had already de-
nounced it in unmeasured terms.

A Thousand Peers

On the question of the creation of
new Liberal peers, the Spectator says:
"In the first place the new House of
Lords, which would consist of over a
thousand members, would be exces-
sively unwieldy. When it had to sit
for the purpose of registering the de-
crees of the House of Commons, it
would be difficult to find any place
except Westminster Hall big enough
to hold it. In addition to this ques-
tion of size, there would be the strange
anomaly that the House of Lords would
be, as regards the Liberal party, in a
position similar to that which the Lib-
erals have always told us is so mon-
strous and disgraceful—namely, that
one party should have a permanent
predominance in that house. The
House of Lords after the creation of the
five hundred peers would be, at any
rate, during the next ten years, a per-
sistent Liberal house. For this then,
as well as for physical reasons, some
plan must at once be produced for fil-
tering the House of Lords and reducing
it to a body of, say, three or four hun-
dred members at most.

"In other words, the creation of the
peers would mean that the government
must at once tackle the problem of
House of Lords reform. They must
put this thorny and exhausting ques-
tion before the introduction even of
the Home Rule bill. No doubt the
Irish people would object to this; but
in case of this kind even Mr. Red-
mond's commands would, we venture
to say, have to be disobeyed. The
scandal of leaving the House of Lords
with a thousand members would be un-
endurable. It will thus be seen that
the government, even though they have
the power, have many very strong
reasons for not wishing to dare the
House of Lords to force them to create
five hundred peers, and thus precipi-
tate the question of the composition
of the second chamber. The govern-
ment would clearly prefer a compro-
mise under which they could get the
assent of the Lords to their bill with-
out recourse to the wholesale man-
ufacture of coronets."

Arrested in Seattle

TACOMA, Dec. 28.—Parmice Speer,
a prominent mining engineer of Van-
couver, B. C., was arrested at the
Olympus hotel today by the police at
the request of Canadian authorities,
who hold a warrant charging misap-