

Is There a Santa Claus?

By "TWO"

One afternoon a little six year old child, sitting on the floor of a room, was looking at a picture of Santa Claus. The boy of the house knew there was something bothering the child, and he went to see what was the matter. Little folk have their own way of figuring things out and on occasion they are just as well as let them talk for their own sake. After talking for a few minutes the child said, "Mrs. —, is there a Santa Claus?" One never knows what is in a child's mind and therefore, at times, an adult is unprepared with an answer. However, the woman felt perfectly justified in saying, "Yes, Mary, there is a Santa Claus." But then went on to say that Santa Claus was the figurative personality exemplified by the spirit of Christmas.

The spirit of Christmas is observed in practically all countries. In Santa Claus, many of the different forms, but he comes as a roly-poly old gentleman with long white hair and whiskers over his shoulder. There is a string of bells and a big sack filled with overflowing with toys. He wears a red outfit trimmed with white fur and is in a big cutter driven by reindeer.

How often, as children, we have been told to bed early on Christmas Eve. Sleep of course was out of the question. We have lain on our cot and have listened and listened for the sound of the reindeer and the music of the sleigh bells. Did we ever hear them? Many were the puzzling questions which passed through our little heads.

Unfortunately in this world there is always some one who has to spoil the memory of the memory of those young days remains with us. We would not give them up for anything. The time comes in all our lives when the spirit of Christmas must take the place of the jolly, fat old man. Then perhaps we learn our great importance. It is more blessed to give than to receive. From the earliest years of understanding all children should be taught that fundamental truth of happiness. Christmas will be just as happy as we make it, and the more we think of others the happier we will be ourselves.

When the oven got down the chimney with all the rest there will always remain a mystery. Now we have a trip on Christmas Eve to another home. As we drive up, looking at the number a dim light shines through the window. We knock and the door is opened by a very pretty little woman. We have to make ourselves at home on the blackness and darkness of that home. The family is living in one room. There is no sign of any love or decorations. One has to almost touch the stove to feel that there is any heat in it at all. The father sits dejectedly in one corner of the room. He tells us how he has tried to get work, but without success. The children are hanging on to the mother's skirt and are staring wild-eyed at the visitors. The whole picture is pathetic, beyond description.

So often we hear the remark that people are thankful and grateful. But that as it may, we will not discuss it on Christmas Eve. When one enters a home like that it gives the feeling that they would just like to transport that father and mother and their children to the home just spoken of. The husband we have brought contains food for a good Christmas dinner, and some more, but it seems so inadequate for the occasion. Before we leave we have to go out and bring fuel for the mother to cook it on the morrow. No matter whose fault it is, it is terrible, wasteful. How can one ever enjoy the spirit of Christmas and live like that?

There are many people who are not happy at this Christmas season. It cannot be blamed altogether on the war for never at this season are they happy. Why? There are many reasons which might be given. One of the chief is that they think all this Christmas giving and talk is nonsense. They will not give anything to make any one else happy and they go around grumbling about all things in connection with it. They form the unhappy part of the Christmas season. How much jollier they could be if they could just plan Christmas during the year. Even fifty cents laid by each month would help and as the Festive Season drew near they could, with this money make some one feel that they were not alone in the world.

Many parents today allow their children to receive an abundance of Christmas gifts and fail to teach them the spirit of giving is a much happier one than the spirit of receiving. A child will enjoy giving much more if he or she has earned the money to give the gift. There are children who go to their parents and ask that they be allowed to purchase a little gift for some child perhaps in not such good circumstances as they are and they receive a flat refusal on the grounds that they cannot afford it, and yet there seems to be money for other gifts apparently not as badly needed. By Christmas night many worth while toys and games have been thoughtlessly broken. Instead of discarding them have the children placed them to one side and later in the year send them to some place where these things are repaired for the needy. Advise all teach children to think of others particularly at this season of the year. If this were the case we would have more happiness, not only just now but all through the year. Another thing which makes us unhappy at Christmas is the fact that we want things which it is not wise for us to have. It may be that those from whom we expect them are not

is a beautiful picture to see. They say to us, "What do you think of this?" and we find that we are not disappointed and we are satisfied enough to make things unpleasant. Many a home on Christmas morning suffers from that sort of thing. They never ever had your child ask for a thing and the request has not been granted? May God forgive you if such has been the case. Every child should possess a Bible, one which they can feel free to mark as they please. Christmas time, the anniversary of the birth of the Saviour of the world, is a good time to give it. There are so many trivial things which can creep in to destroy the wonderful Christmas spirit. Let us place these all to one side and determine that we will make Christmas happy for some one. "I love to think that every house is full of cheer to-night; That everywhere on every hearth— Warm fires are burning bright. God give our homes the gift of cheer, For no one ought to grieve On such a holy night as this,— On Christmas Eve!"

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CANADIAN NATIONAL

Halton County Council Urges Subsidized Agriculture

No Decision on \$8,000 Road Machinery Purchase — Retiring Warden Lauded

The final meeting of Halton County Council was held in Milton last Tuesday, followed by the Warden's Dinner at night. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed and communications read by the clerk. The following resolution was passed by council at their last meeting, but withheld from publication until such time as it had been received by the proper authorities. It was moved by Leslie Kerns and seconded by W. N. Gilbert, and was as follows: "The Canadian people are anxious to make their maximum contribution to the present war effort; we feel that this is only possible by equipping ourselves on the part of every citizen of Canada, both rural and urban. Agricultural commodities are at their pre-war level, in contrast to increased prices for labor and nearly all industrial commodities, which is resulting in forcing us to leave their farms to take positions in industry to the detriment of agriculture. Be it resolved: We respectfully suggest to the federal government through the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, that immediate consideration be given to the temporary subsidizing of agricultural commodities, or the establishment of labor and industrial commodities at pre-war levels. And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and the several county councils of the Province of Ontario."

An unusual amount of correspondence was dealt with by the Council, most of it sent by other county councils of resolutions for consideration and endorsement by Halton council. All these special communications were laid over until next meeting by recommendation of the committee. A letter from the Ontario Municipal Board will probably give next year's council much food for thought. The letter reads in part as follows: "I am directed to advise you that the Board's desire is to have expenditures such as these in the future, included in the council's annual budget. This would avoid the issues of debentures and would provide for a pay as you go policy. Expenditures such as these" referred to in the letter, applied to the \$5000 debenture, for which by-law was prepared at the November meeting. Third reading was given this By-law (No. 225) and it was passed. The \$5000 raised by debentures was for county roads construction work.

Mr. Hillmer, Well, I have nothing to say against the road work; I think they are doing a swell job, but I don't see why this depreciation fund should come from our general rate. Keep it to the good roads account. The general rate, as it is, is already out of proportion to that levied for road work. Mr. Smith then explained at some length what advantages would accrue from this particular type of equipment. Savings on road work would be considerable and rental would more than cover the amount set aside for depreciation.

Dr. Heslop: Would we get Milton roads ploughed out with this equipment? Mr. Smith: Yes, after the County Roads are done. Mr. Hillmer: That's all right, but I still don't see why this depreciation fund should come out of the General Rate. Dr. Heslop: That's all you have said for an hour! (Laughter). Mr. Byers: We must admit the county roads are a big expense, but we must remember our County Road system covers 180 miles. I think possibly this machine would be a good buy. Mr. Smith: Perhaps I should explain that this machine would take the place of two pieces of equipment already in use. Mr. Cleave: I would like to congratulate Mr. Smith on the efficient way in which the County Roads have been looked after. We need good equipment these days, particularly as the people demand snow removal and we have to keep up with the times. \$8000 seems like a lot of money, but it may be a wise expenditure and the cheapest in the long run. Mr. Hume: I gather from what Mr. Smith says that our hands are tied. If the Department says this depreciation fund must be looked after by the general rate, then it must be. Mr. Smith: No, the Department does not say the general rate must look after it, but advises it. Mr. Gilbert: Well, gentlemen, this is the last meeting of the year, and I don't think we should commit ourselves, but leave the matter of new equipment to the incoming council. Council was in agreement and the matter was left over for the 1941 council.

Moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Hume, that Mr. Wm. Deans, as secretary of Old Age Pensions and Mothers' Allowance Board be made a grant of \$100 for efficient services as rendered to the Board. Moved by Dr. Heslop, seconded by Mr. Byers, that a vote of confidence be accorded Mr. Whitehead for his services rendered the county for the past year. Moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Wilson that the tender of Burrows Bros. and Denton, of Toronto, for the purchase of \$6000 3 1/2 debentures at \$102.68 be accepted, relative to By-law No. 678. Moved by Mr. Hillmer, seconded by Mr. May: "On behalf of the Deputy

LODGE SCORE PASS IN REVIEW AT AUTON ABBOTT'S

Four platoons of the Lorne Scots Regiment, "O" Company were inspected on Tuesday night, December 17th, by Major-General J. P. Constantine, Officer-Commanding Military District No. 2. The inspection was held in Adams Arena, and some Georgetown residents braved the hazardous roads to watch the regiment pass in review. About 150 soldiers participated, coming mainly from Georgetown, Adams and Milton. Major J. R. Barber and Col. H. B. Onholm were in charge of the Regiment. Second-Lieut. Ross Barber directed Georgetown's 13th Platoon; Lieut. A. J. Buchanan was in charge of the 14th Platoon, Acting and Second Lieut. Kelley headed the 15th Platoon, Milton. Second Lieut. Paul Barber had charge of the trench mortar platoon. Following the march past, in which General Constantine took the salute, each of the four platoons gave a display of platoon drill.

ODD FELLOW

"Chesley is one of the 'oddest fellows I ever saw.' "How so?" "Why, when a fellow borrows a quarter and doesn't pay it back, Chesley finally admits that it is the quarter he cares about and not the principle of the thing."

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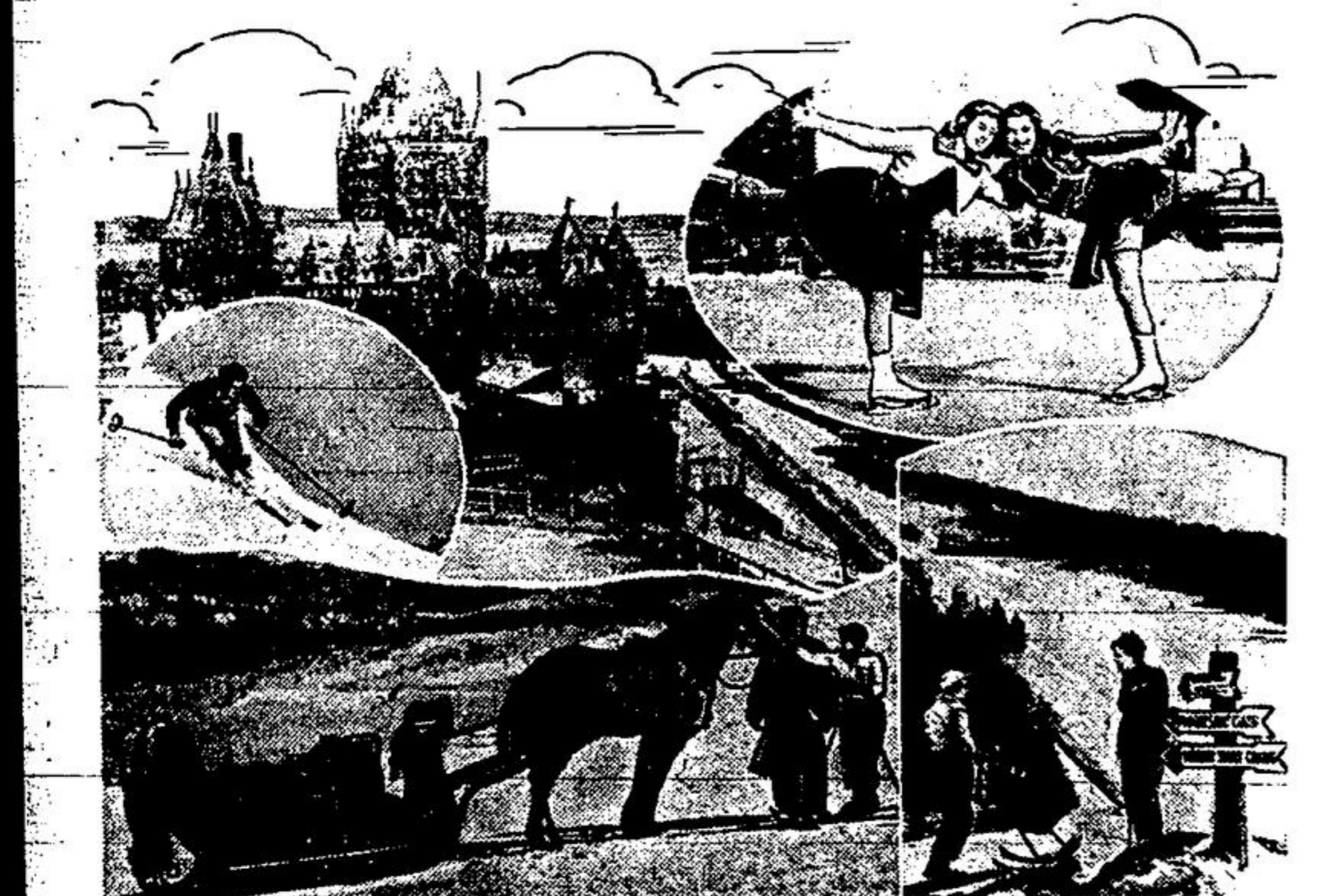
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CANADA'S FIGHTING MEN MEET BBC PERSONALITY



Here is Frances Day, glamorous star of the BBC North American programme, being introduced to an enthusiastic audience of troops by Gerry Wilmet of the CBC Overseas Unit. The photograph was taken as Miss Day was hostess of a broadcast for the Forces from the Palais de Danse in Hammersmith. "With the Troops in England" is broadcast over the CBC National Network on Mondays at 9.00 p.m. EDST.

WINTER SPORTS IN OLD-WORLD SETTING



Old Quebec City, whose four centuries of history have made it a favorite stopping place for summer tourists, has achieved equal prestige with the winter visitor in less than half a decade! The secret of this short cut to popularity lies in the sweeping growth of the ski habit, Quebec's glorious winter climate, its facilities for winter sports, and the snow-cloth hills of Lac Beauport, 10 miles distant. This year, with increased numbers of Canadians and Americans pointing their ski tips toward Quebec and Lac Beauport, the highlights of the Chateau Frontenac's gay winter sports season promise to shine more brightly

than ever. Headquarters for the famous Ski Hawk School and its equally famous instructor, Fritz Loevel, the popular Canadian Pacific hostelry will feature a gay programme of skating, hockey, curling, tobogganing, ski-joring, sleigh-driving, and skiing on the historic Plains of Abraham. The annual Dog Derby is scheduled for the third week in February. Connected by regular bus service from the Chateau Frontenac, Lac Beauport is a model ski development. It possesses a handsome new chalet, thrilling downhill runs, slalom courses and jumps of professional calibre. Mont Saint Castin, with twin slalom runs 2,200 feet long, 100

to 300 feet wide, and served by a ski-tow, is a rendez-vous for beginners and experts alike, while its neighboring Mont Tourbillon is reserved for the more seasoned ski artist. Here is located a professional ski jump, a downhill run of 4,000 feet and a 1,000-foot slalom run. Lac Beauport is also home of the scenic Sky Line Trail. Ideal weather and snow conditions are the main assets of the Lac Beauport snow-bowl. Deep, dry powder-snow offers the most favorable of ski conditions throughout the winter, snow depths registering as much as six feet, and providing good skiing from December 31st April and sometimes early May.

Boxing Day, December 26th

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