



## Major Construction Waits Spring Weather

Major construction work on the Toronto Terminal Project has been closed down until the Spring. John L. Cann, project director, told the Herald Friday. The Toronto Terminal Project includes a 1200-acre freight classification yard between Jane and Keele Sts., north of the Metropolitan Toronto boundary line and a 34-mile access line. Georgetown yard, being on a junction, will play a key role. All major highway and street bridges crossing the access line between Highway 400 and Yonge St. have been completed. Only the bridge carrying Highway 400 over the line remains unopened owing to cold weather which postponed paving. Highway 7 bridge between Jane and Keele Sts. will be open in the Spring. Highway 7 crosses entrance tracks to the yard. Contracts for work to take place in Spring have already been advertised. They include bridges over main and local bumps in the yard, CPR MacTier subdivision line, Woodbridge Road subway and the Humber river. Another contract for 5.4 miles of grading and drainage on the access line has also been advertised.

### Dickens Believed "Chimes" Best

Historians often credit Charles Dickens' immortal "Christmas Carol" as being perhaps the most effective single force behind England's return to the observance of Christmas. Yet Dickens did not consider it his

greatest work, nor was it the best seller during his lifetime. The most popular of Dickens' stories in his day was "The Cricket on the Hearth," the story of a father who tries to shield his blind daughter from the realities of life. "The Cricket" made its appearance in 1845 and was an immediate success. It sold twice as fast as the now-familiar story of Scrooge and Tiny Tim. Less than a month after "The Cricket" reached bookstands, dramatic versions of it were playing in 12 prominent London theatres. Despite the immediate success of "The Cricket" and the relative popularity of "Christmas Carol," Dickens did not believe either to be his greatest work. His personal favourite was "The Chimes," which he told friends would knock "the Carol" out of the field. Dickens, of course, was wrong. "The Chimes" and "The Cricket" have each taken a back seat to "The Christmas Carol," the cheerful Christmas story of Tiny Tim and his friends.

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### TIGHT SCHEDULE BUT SANTA FINDS TIME

SOMEHOW SANTA always finds time for those who will spend Christmas in a hospital bed. Friday accompanied by Lions Club committee men George Louth and Clarence Francis, he dropped into the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital and visited the patients with compliments of the season and gifts. Look at the expressions on the faces of Jimmy Wyatt and Dorothy Russell — they like their visitor.

### CHATting . . . with M. H. B.

## Movies is Thriving Industry in Pakistan

Part 6 of a Series

● Don't know why, really, but I was surprised when Florrie Warren told me that one of the most important industries in Lahore, West Pakistan, is the film industry. They have many studios where movies are made, and our Western movie stars often visit them. Ava Gardner and the late Jeff Chandler were two the Warrens just missed seeing.

● Main reason for the thriving industry lies in the fact that the Pakistani people are extremely fond of going to shows. The many, many moving picture theatres throughout the city are always crowded. Of these, only two show English-speaking pictures. The others all star Pakistani actors and are done in Urdu.

● Jim and Florrie paid their first visit to a Pakistani movie in the company of a good friend of theirs, a Pakistani movie star, who was starring in the picture they went to see. It was, in fact, the premiere of the movie, so for this special occasion, their host also brought as guests, two lady-cousins. They were in purdah, and had to sit behind them in one of the theatre boxes. Jim and Florrie were warned not to turn around and look at them as they peeked out from under their veils to see the picture.

The picture itself was like one of our old movies, with overacting, exaggerated gestures, and heavy makeup. But the patrons loved it. When the Pakistani people go to a movie, they believe in relaxing. They take off their shoes, and put their feet up. Throughout the picture, ushers stumble around in the dark, serving tea on little trays.

● Of course, it is mostly men who attend the movies. In Lahore, the vast majority of women remain at home, and on the few occasions when they go out, they are in purdah, or veiled. They love to cheat a little though, and who can blame them. The women go about in groups of two or three, and it is quite typical to see them peeking out from behind their veils at something which interests them, and having a good giggle.

● However, the women are slowly becoming more emancipated. Not all are in purdah these days. A few even attend university and work in the civil service. But they have a long way to go yet before they are treated as having equal rights.

● The marriage laws have just recently been changed, to allow men no more than three wives, and the husband must have his first wife's consent before he can take another wife into the household. He must also prove he can support them both.

● In spite of the fact that Moslem women have been educated for centuries to outwardly accept this idea as their lot in life, they could not be educated out of feeling such strong emotions as love, hate and jealousy. And therein lies the great weakness of the polygamous marriage system. The majority of Pakistani men have come to the conclusion that it is not worth all the trouble, emotionally, as well as economically, and as a result the custom is slowly dying out.

● Just as an example — the Warrens had a neighbour

who had just taken a second wife. The first, or old wife, was in her early thirties, and in spite of the fact that she had presumably given her consent, she resented being supplanted in her husband's affections. She also resented having to act as baby-sitter while her husband took his new bride out in the evening. On the other hand, the new wife, a young girl in her late teens, complained to Florrie that she felt uncomfortable and unhappy in the first wife's presence, and house. So there was a nice domestic triangle that would take more than a Dorothy Dix to solve.

● I asked Florrie how they kept up with world news while in Pakistan. She told me they were able to buy Time magazine regularly, and also took the weekly Globe and Mail. There was radio, of course, but no television. The most popular programs on the radio were the broadcasts of the cricket matches. ● Among the good friends the Warrens made in Lahore was a young man you might remember. He played the part of the cute little coloured boy in the Our Gang series of a few years ago. He is now head of the U.S. Cultural Society in Lahore. ● Also among their friends were many missionaries. Confirming what we have always heard, Florrie told us that in addition to being missionaries of their faith, they do a very wonderful work to improve the conditions under which the underprivileged people in Pakistan live. They are broad-minded, full of fun, and always ready for informal chats and entertaining.

● Punctuating all the entertaining, were the celebrations of the big Moslem religious festivals. Most impressive of these was Ramadan. This special period was marked by a month-long period of fasting during which faithful Moslems had nothing to eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. Only in the evening were they allowed to eat, and then only enough to keep themselves alive. They indulged in no worldly pleasures, and passed a great deal.

● Celebration of the end of Ramadan was marked with special services in the mosques, to which men and women wore their finest garments — bright silks, laces, and in the case of the women — much make-up and jewelry. Everything and everybody in the city had to be clean for the big day — which in itself provided quite a steam-bath effect. Sheep, which for the month previous, had been running around loose all over the city, with their wool tinted in a warm colour of the rainbow, were slaughtered, often right in the streets, so that every Moslem down to the very poorest would eat lamb or mutton, that day. Special delicacies were prepared for the meal, and there were big family reunions, and much visiting between friends. Bands of music, and everything was very bright and gay.

● In addition to being invited to government parties and receptions, and being included in the European colony's social events, the Warrens found that a member of the university staff

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## GREETINGS

May we add our very good wishes to the hosts of sparkling greetings fondly given and gladly accepted during this, the joyous Holiday Season of Good Will to All.

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# THE PEACE, THE EXPECTATION AND THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS ARE NOT GIVEN TO EVERYONE TO KNOW. LET US CHERISH OUR INHERITANCE WITH GRATITUDE



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