

On His Birthday

Wednesday next is Christmas. The day we pause throughout the Christian world to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace.

The past sixty weeks constitute possibly the most tremendous period in history. Almost constantly we have lived in fear, not knowing what the morrow will bring forth. Never has the future been so utterly unpredictable; we are not so much in a period of transition with belief in progress to push us on, rather we seem to be entering the realm of the unknown — The Satellite Age.

Have you ever noticed the striking fact that the political, economic, and social conditions of the world at the time our Lord was born were very much as they are today? Never before have two periods of history been so alike.

In those days there was an intense Nationalism in Israel, and a haughty Militarism in Rome. With Caesar there was a kind of dictatorship which absorbed individual rights. Economically the world of that day was disturbed as never before. Taxation was excessive and overpowering. Religion was on the decline; the Gentiles lost faith in their gods, and Israel had no prophet. Life was becoming a riddle, in which solitary hearts lost nerve, begot no songs and few children, became weary of old culture, afraid of

new gods, of fate, of the stars above and all strange signs in the sky.

Christmas is the season of the stupendous mystery of Omnipotence wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Divinity is always where you least expect to find it.

At the time of the birth of Jesus, and again at the time of His crucifixion, many there were who felt certain the world was at an end because of what they witnessed in the sky and the elements. The ultimate destruction of the world has been a matter of concern for many years.

The events of the past while, seem to assure that man's destruction of the world is now more certain than ever. The means have been provided and nothing stands between us and the destruction except the irrational vagaries of human nature.

But this is not the time to despair. The real key to holiday happiness is the simple fact that a long time ago the Saviour came and arranged it so that we are to live with Him forever — His kind of life. Christmas is His birthday.

So, when we wish you — as we do — a Merry Christmas, we are wishing you the successful accomplishment of the destiny of the King of Peace.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Champion, December 26, 1907.

At present the prospects for a satisfactory council for Milton for 1908 are not bright. The Mayor, reeve and councillors generally talk of retiring. To put the management of the affairs of the town in inexperienced hands would be risky. Taxes are high and careful, competent management is necessary to reduce them. The water supply is insufficient and it will be necessary to provide for increasing it. It is possible that a new industry or industries may be established in Milton within a short time and that their promoters may have arrangements to make with the corporation.

For these and other reasons, good management will be needed for next year. The present mayor and council have given good service. The longer they remain in harness and the more experience they gain, the more competent they will become and the better service they can give. It is true that their work is somewhat thankless, but it is to be hoped that few, if any, of them will retire at a time when their services are so greatly needed.

At County Council meeting on December 19, Dr. Buck moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, that the account of J. L. Baie for plank for the Norval bridge, amounting to \$5.55, be paid and that the clerk be instructed to bill the County of Peel for one half the amount. Mr. Swackhamer moved, seconded by Mr. Willoughby, that leave be granted to introduce a by-law for the purpose of appointing a county superintendent to supervise all work done on county roads and that by-law be now read a first time.

Mr. Higginbotham moved, seconded by Mr. Little, that the reeves of the municipalities be and are hereby authorized to oversee and attend to any roads in the county system requiring attention and to act till such time as a commissioner be appointed re same, expenses re same be paid by this council. Yeas: Buck, Featherston, Higginbotham, Little, McGibbon — 5. Nays: Alton, Allen, Ford, Swackhamer, Thompson, Wilson, Willoughby — 7.

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Canadian Champion, Dec. 23, 1937.

The first meeting of Christmas is that of generosity, inspired by the great gift of God to mankind. The selfish sway of the world is broken at least for a time, and the Christ spirit is born in our hearts. Sometimes the exchange of presents is carried too far and becomes a burden instead of a pleasure; but anything that makes the world unselfish is beautiful and good.

The final meeting of Halton County Council was held in Milton last Friday, with all members present except Mr. Hewson. Communications were read as follows: From Peterboro County Council, a request that the following resolution be endorsed: "Whereas the difference between the cost to the consumer of the agricultural products of the province of Ontario and the return to the farmer from the sale of said products is too great, be it resolved that the Dominion Government is required to appoint a committee to investigate existing conditions as speedily as possible and that the findings of the commission be supplemented by legislation for the improvement of said conditions."

From the Counties of Lennox and Addington, "Whereas it is understood that the Provincial Government has been considering the question of taking over the county road systems in the province; Whereas the present county road system is working out satisfactorily and at a reasonable cost, therefore be it resolved that Lennox and Addington go on record as being opposed to any change in the county road system that would lessen the authority of county councils with respect to the administration of County roads."

Andrew Fleming, suffered a broken left arm, during the windstorm, when a gate slammed against him as he drove out of a lane, near Milton.

Owners of radios in Milton and district have been delighted with the quality of the first broadcast from Radio Station C.B.L. at Hornby. It has caused no difficulty for reception of other programs by receiving set owners.

The Meaning of Giving

"And opening their treasures they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

It may seem a far cry from the gifts of the Magii to the infant Jesus, to gifts beneath the Christmas tree in the Canadian home. It is a long road, indeed, yet the underlying motive of both acts is the same.

Love of this nature demands sacrifice. And love demands expression of itself to the beloved — by words, by deeds, by gifts and tokens of affection. The gift is a visible sign from the giver of his regard, his affection and love for the one to whom the gift is given.

Our modern and plenteous age has widened, and perhaps diluted, the habit of gift

giving at Christmas time. But the true significance of the gift remains the same.

At times we place mental price tags on our gifts — both those we give and those we receive. The big gift, the expensive gift becomes our objective.

The best cure for that is to attend a school Christmas concert — any old school concert will do. Watch the little ones, the pre-schoolers and the first grade pupils, when they receive their gift. It may be a tin whistle on a doll's apron, yet for the little ones there is as much pleasure in receiving that as in getting an intricate expensive jet toy.

From the wee ones, we learn anew the true significance of giving.

A Memorable Christmas

Canada's best-known novelist, Mazo de la Roche, reminisces in a recent article, about a memorable Christmas which she and her children spent in England when daughter Esmee and son Rene (now grown), were seven and six years old.

They were living in Windsor, Miss de la Roche tells, and she had decided that Christmas should mean "something more to them than Santa Claus and presents". So she asked her chauffeur, who was "handy with tools and devoted to the children", to make a Christmas crib. Then, on a shopping trip to London, she chanced on a shop that displayed in its window "an exquisite group of the Holy Family that had been made in France". Included were the animals — "a little ass, a lamb and a benign cow".

Having emptied her purse on presents, Miss de la Roche asked the shop attendant

to put the figures aside for her. "I will send them to you", he said, "and you may pay for them when convenient".

The next day the figures arrived in Windsor. Ready was the crib, "of light wood stained brown, open on one side so that you could see the manger. It had a sloping roof of thatch. The floor was strewn with straw".

When Christmas came, the children admired the crib "even more than the tree or their presents". In the first year of the war, when they came to Canada, the crib came with them. Each year, Miss de la Roche recounts, "it is a ceremony with us to set it out, bring out and arrange the figures. The children, now grown up and married, still feel a special reverence toward this crib. To them, as to us older ones, it is the true symbol of the Holy Season".

Differences Here and There

As different as the clothes we wear are the ways in which people around the world traditionally celebrate Christmas. South Africans, for instance, take to the beaches to escape the summer heat, and eat a picnic lunch for their Christmas dinner. In the cities, Santa braves the sunny streets in his heavy robes and points the way to the elaborate department store toylands. For the natives of that land, Christmas is the beginning of a week-long carnival of singing, dancing and parading the streets with pipe and string bands that invite liling hearts as well as dancing steps.

In the Netherlands, "Saint Nicholas" Day is held on December 6. Old Nick himself robed in ecclesiastical red and white garments — not the white trimmed red suit known to American and Canadian boys and girls — comes to town. His attendant is a young Moorish servant, "Zwarte Piet", who leads Nick's white horse and carries his bag full of presents. This is the time when kinsfolk gather for gay festivity with all the trimmings,

and the traditional exchange of gifts.

In Greece, the Blessing of the Waters following Epiphany on January 6 is probably the most closely related event to Christmas. At Nauplia, the Archbishop throws a wooden cross into the water and the fishermen dive and struggle to possess it, for the one who does may visit all the houses in the village and levy a collection, which often brings in a large sum.

And in America too, feasts, hilarity and the usual exchange of gifts are the order of the day. A far cry from the quiet worship and solemn adoration of the shepherds when Jesus was born, is the noise, gaiety, and brilliance of the world's social whirl at Christmas.

The chances are that all but a handful of top Communists would gladly trade any number of artificial moons for decent homes, food and apparel. Under Soviet planning however no such choice is open to ordinary folk. —Campbellton (N.B.) Tribune.

For a United Nations Christmas

Your Christmas decorations can have a double value this year; lovely to look at—and interesting to talk about. Although the observance of Christmas is universal, individual traditions and practices are as varied as the countries from which they come.

Many of these customs are already a part of our Christmas celebrations, but there are many lesser-known ones which are, nonetheless, rich and meaningful. We mention some of them here with the thought that you will want to adapt them for decorations in your holiday-home.

How Far That Little Candle Throws His Beams

It is an old Irish custom to place a candle in the window on Christmas Eve to light the Christ-child on His way, and the use of a candle appears in many other lands and in many different ways. In Armenia, myriads of candles are used in the Christmas celebrations, and in Czechoslovakia tiny candles are set upright in nutshells and floated in pans of water.

This Czech custom is one that

you can easily adopt for a unique table centerpiece. Select one of your prettiest shallow bowls. Cut a piece of cardboard to fit the bottom and make a ribbon ruffle from three inch wide ribbon to fit around the edge of this cardboard. Attach it with scotch tape. Place water-filled bowl on this ruffled plate and set the candles floating in their little nutshell boats. Darken the room and light the candles just before your guests enter.

At church service in Labrador, each child receives a little lighted candle standing in a turnip (which is eaten later by the youngster).

In Norway, families arrive at church on Christmas Eve in sleds, each carrying a flaming torch. These are stuck upright in the snow while the good folk attend services, bathing the outside of the church in a warm glow of light.

Why not make use of the Norwegian custom, and stick candles in the snow on either side of your walk to light the way for your Christmas callers?

The Christmas Feast

Foods vary with each country,

too. In England, for instance, the "Wassail Bowl" is a traditional spreader of holiday joviality.

If your festive board is to be graced by a bowl of holiday punch, set it in the middle of a Christmas wreath, and you will have a decorative centerpiece as well as a thirst-quencher. If you haven't an extra wreath, just remove the one that is hanging on the front door or in a porch window. Make two or three red satin ribbon bows to tuck in among the branches for added color. After dinner, the wreath may be restored to its original position.

If you're not serving a holiday punch, you may prefer to fill your bowl with figs and raisins and walnuts and sweets—the traditional "end" of any Christmas dinner. In so doing, you are following, in part, an old Greek custom called "the Luck of Christmas"—for Greek youngsters go out on Christmas morning to collect the same figs and raisins and walnuts and sweets that crown our holiday tables.

A Visit from St. Nick

Santa is known by many names: Pere Noel (Father Christmas) in France; Kris Kringle in Germany (from Christ Knidl or Christ Child); St. Nicolas in Belgium (in Iceland, Santa comes in the form of a tiny elf, and though Syrian children have no Santa Claus, they know of a tiny camel that accompanied the Wise Men. They leave bowls of grain and water outside their doors for this weary little traveller and there, as here, the good children find gifts on Christmas morning.

A replica of Santa on your front door will serve notice to the neighborhood that the jolly saint has been in your house. Stuff a colored Santa mask with cotton; mount on colored poster board and surround with an assortment of seals or cut-outs. Hang from the door by means of wide ribbons, topped with a big bow.

The children will love it!

Down the Chimney St. Nicholas Came with a Bound

In olden times, the English had a notion that it was necessary to sweep down the chimney at New Year's in order that good luck enter the home. Perhaps this is where Santa got the idea. In any case, the chimney is now a familiar Christmas symbol.

A miniature chimney can serve many purposes in your holiday decorated home. To make one, stand a suitably shaped box on end and cover with "brick" crepe paper. Glue a layer of cotton "snow" around the top end and place the chimney on a small table in a foyer or entrance hall. Fill more "snow" around the base. Fill the fancy - wrapped little packages, each one of which has been tied to a long ribbon streamer which extends over the side of the chimney. As each holiday visitor enters your home, surprise him with a tiny gift pulled from this "chimney grab bag".

If you are planning a "sit down" party, with a specific gift for each guest, a chimney such as this can serve as a "jack horner pie" and a table centerpiece at one and the same time. Attach a small name card to the end of each streamer and extend them to each place; the cards will act as place markers and insure each guest receiving the gift intended for him.

With Boughs of Holly

To the ancients goes the credit for the lovely tradition of having greens in the house at Christmas. Holding nature in reverence, primitive man sought to bring a blessing into his home through the woodland spirits which he believed dwelt in all growing things—a custom which has resulted in the popularity of using evergreens of all kinds at Christmas.

To bring the "smell" of Christ-

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Minister
Rev. J. Lorne Graham, B.A., B.D.
Organist, Mrs. Harold Magee, A.T.C.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. & 11 a.m.
9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate and Senior Departments.
11:00 a.m.—Nursery, Beginners, Kindergarten and Primacy Departments.

There is a place for every child in St. Paul's Sunday School.

11:00 a.m.—Sermon subject, "From Bedlam to Peace", post-Christmas service.

7:00 p.m.—The Carols We Sang.
You will be warmly welcomed.

CALVARY TABERNAACLE
Pentecostal Holiness
132 BROUTE ST.
Pastor: J. A. Graham

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday — 6:45 p.m., Children's church; 8 p.m., Prayer meeting.
Wednesday, 2 p.m.—W.A. meeting.
Friday—8 p.m., Young People's.
You are welcome to all these services.

LOWVILLE - NASSAGAWEYA (ANGLICAN)
Rector: Rev. R. P. E. Jeffares, Campbellville Ulster 4-2577

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
St. George's Church
11:00 a.m.—Mattins and Church School.
Wednesday, January 1, 10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion (said).
St. John's Church
2:00 p.m.—Evensong and Church School.
Wednesday, January 1, 9:30 a.m.—Holy Communion (said).
Saturday, December 28, 8 p.m.—Church School Christmas Tree.

MILTON FULL GOSPEL ASSEMBLY
Affiliated with the PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
Pastor: Rev. M. Christensen

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Rev. N. Schlarbaum, the Dean of Men of the Eastern Pentecostal Bible College, will be the guest speaker at both services.
Tuesday, December 31, 10:30 p.m.—Watchnight Service.
Sunday services in the I.O.O.F. Hall, Main St.
Mid-week service, parsonage, 183 Heslop Rd.
All Are Welcome

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
REV. E. ORSBORN, Minister

Dr. Zankov P. Zankov, M.A., L.L.C.M., Organist and Choir Master

"Come thou with us and we will do thee good." Numbers 10: 29.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
10:00 a.m.—Senior School.
11:00 a.m.—Junior School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
Theme: "Where are you Going?"

GRACE CHURCH ANGLICAN
Milton, Ontario
Rector: Rev. D. A. Powell

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
11:15 p.m.—Christmas Choral Communion.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
8:00 a.m.—Holy Communion.
11:00 a.m.—Choral Communion and Family Service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
8:00 a.m.—Holy Communion.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Mattins and Litany.
7:00 p.m.—Evensong.

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Milton Heights, Ontario
Rector: D. A. Powell

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
1:45 p.m.—Sunday School.
2:30 p.m.—Evensong.

BOSTON AND OMAGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES
Minister: Rev. B. A. Nevill, B.A.
Telephone: TRIangle 8-9926

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
10:00 a.m.—Worship Service and Reception of new Communicant members — Boston.
11:15 a.m.—Boston Sunday School.
11:30 a.m.—Omagh Service, Sacrament of Baptism and reception of new Communicant members.

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957
10:00 a.m.—Family Bible School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
Guest speaker: Rev. Williams from Toronto.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship.
Guest speaker: Rev. Williams from Toronto.
Wednesday, January 1, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting at the home of Prayer meeting.
Friday, January 5, 8 p.m.—God's Workers at the church.

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