1940 OFFICERS ELECTED BY WOODBRIDGE UNITED W.M.S.

Woodbridge United W.M.S. members elected Mrs. K. Stevenson as president for 1940 at their annual meeting in the Parsonage Wednesday. Other results of the election, conducted by Rev. C. W. Barrett, conducted by Rev. C. W. Barrett, are: 1st vice-pres., Mrs. D. Shannon; 2nd vice-pres., Mrs. R. Watson; Sec., Mrs. N. G. Wallace; Treas., Mrs. J. J. Watson; Cor. Sec., Mrs. A. Hollingshead; Fin. Sec., Mrs. R. Sutton; Supply Sec., Mrs. G. D. Mc-Lean; Temperance Sec., Mrs. C. W. Barrett; Strangers Sec., Mrs. G. showed that the allocation for the year had been reached.

Items contributed to the meet-Madras conference report and a talk on temperance by Mrs. Barrett.

PRESBYTERIANS HONOUR

congregations of Woodbridge and Knox, Vaughan, on Monday evening. The event opened with a muslater by a social hour in the Sunday school room.

since 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Roe, who and sedentary generation? presented with a silver tray, Messrs.

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The Tradition of Christmas Feasting

CUSTOMS HAVE CHANGED SINCE DAYS OF DICKENS BUT THERE IS STILL GOOD CHEER

There are whispers going around, what of the modest scale on which Christmas dinner table. In recognition of their work they are consumed by this urban And this brings up another aspect

Gordon McGillivray and Wm. Dal- merge from the greatcoat, shawls day, for we have a vastly richer ziel officiating. Music included se- and comforters of the Muggleton variety of good things to choose lections by the Knox Quartette, coach and join us this year, bring- from-turkeys, geese, hams, wines, would be held on the Wednesday Messrs. Bill Lawrie, Stanley Harp- ing his codfish and oyster barrels cheese, caviar, truffles, smoked evening between Christmas and New er, Jack Nattress and Rev. J. S. with him? "Aha!" said Mr. Pick- salmon, pate de foie gras — very Mrs. Mae Bagg, Stanley Harper, wick. "Aha!" said the fat boy. But greedy some of the shop windows sonage and the invitation was ac-Jack Nattress and Gordon McGilli- what could the old gentleman think are looking just now. But where cepted. of us on closer acquaintance?

monds to whet our feeble thirsts? I (somebody once said they tasted Christmas to him was a feast of "like hare that has been fed on sheer abundance which lit up the darkest and bleakest month of the year, a day of colossal appetites and gigantic thirsts with "a five-and- swept them off the world's Christtwenty-mile walk to get rid of the effects of the wine," followed by more eating and drinking and dancing and story-telling, and so to sup-

Truly, to every generation its own Christmas. The beautiful Bethlehem story, which gives the great festival its ecclesiastical name and dress, has never changed and never can change. But all the rest is change, and never a more whirling kaleidoscope of change than during the dizzy century since Mr. Pickwick and his friends took the Muggleton coach to Dingley Dell.

Pickwickian Tradition

The Pickwickian tradition of Christmas feasting fell naturally into the rhythms of rustic life. Farm work declines in the dead of Winter, and there was every reason why a generation of red-nosed countrymen, muffled to the ears against the cold, should devote the midnight of the year to a feast of gargantuan eating and drinking, with plenty of green holly in token of the continuing vitality of nature.

But even in Mr. Pickwick's time the English towns were growing and country life was declining. The towns have continued to grow-and not only the English towns. More of us are townsmen to-day than ever before, and town life knows no midwinter interlude. If this were a strictly logical world, the Society for the Suppression of Christmas might easily have had a chance; but since it is illogicality which helps to keep humanity sweet, the modern townsman continues to honor ian feasting. Frequently, no doubt, he honors it more in the breach than in the observance, but still a second helping of mince pie is a reasonably good test of urban digestions.

Christmas, indeed, is a very curious blending of two ancient traditions - an austere ecclesiastical tradition and a pagan tradition of feasting which was anything but austere-and the story of Christmas-keeping was for many centuries a story of the constant warring of these two discordant traditions. To the ecclesiastical authorities feasting on such a day was positively irreverent. But to the rude Saxons and Scandinavians who seem to have been among the earliest of the Christmas-keeping peoples midwinter was a time for Bacchanalian feasting and shouting and gaming, and none of the early missionaries the reign of Charles II. Where the succeeded for long in suppressing Worshipful Company of Cutlers and

these heathen doings. wick who imported the Christmas to know. There are wild boar in feasting of the Saxons into England the Ardennes in Belgium, and it (though not into Scotland), and may be they come from there. But since then the English-speaking the Boar's Head carol with which peoples (but not the Scots) have the great dish is borne in, both at been as confirmed Christmas-keep- Cutlers' Hall in London and at Oxers as any of them. The thirty ford, is thoroughly English, and in-Presbyterian Scots prefer New deed the boar's head itself is one Year's Day, which has no ecclesi- of the oldest of festive English astical tradition. But note how dishes. As long ago as 1170, when harmoniously the two traditions Prince Henry, son of Henry II, was have settled down throughout the crowned, the boar's head was served rest of the English-speaking world. "with trumpets blowing before it, We go to church on Christmas morn- according to the ancient manner." ing, then home to the Christmas

turkey.

Good Cheer

writes Clair Price, to the effect that | True, we no longer pretend to Christmas, at least for the adults, drain flagons of mead in honor of Shore; Pianists, Mrs. A. E. Kearney is not what it once was. Nowadays, Wodin and Thor, as the skin-clad on part of the Local Leader work. and Mrs. G. D. McLean. Reports they say, there is never so much warriors did in their forests along snow on the ground as there used the Danube and the Baltic. Measur- the quilt being Bert Harrison of to be and never so much crimson in ed by their heroic standards, our Brampton with ticket No. 487. 2nd ing's program were items from the the sunset and never so many ber- feasting to-day is insignificant. But ries on the holly-excepting, of if the impression has been given course, the synthetic Christmases of that we no longer value good food the big hotels and restaurants, on Christmas Day, let it be correct-DEPARTING MINISTER where everything is made to order ed here and now. The good cheer The Rev. J. S. Roe and Mrs. Roe by experts. As for the Christmas that goes into hundreds of thouwere honored by Presbyterian turkey and cranberries, and the plum sands of poor homes at Christmas- joyed by all. pudding with the sprig of holly in time takes the form of hampers of the top of it and the mysterious Christmas fare-sufficient evidence ical programme and presentation in blue flame playing around it, these of the high regard in which we hold the Woodbridge church, followed are all in the proper tradition. But the tradition of the well-laden

> are the really old dishes on which Would our dyspeptic appetites the Christmas tradition of good food grieve him? Would it dismay him was founded? Where are the boars' fish"), and where are the stately old ceremonies which surrounded them before the white-fleshed turkey mas tables? And where are the wassail bowls?

> > Fittest Survived

Probably there are families in England who still pass around the wassail bowl while their assembled guests are singing and telling stories in front of the blazing Yule log. The method of preparing it seems to method of preparing it seems to vary, but the potency of this emblem of Christmas joviality seems crossing and recrossing the road. to be indicated by the fact that women content themselves with kissing the bowl. The recipe which was most widely popular down to the eighteenth century ran on this wise:

Mix warm ale with cream which has been boiled with cloves and has had the yolks of eggs beaten and stirred into it; add sops of bread and pour sugar and thick cream into the mixture; stick blanched almonds into it and add cinnamon, ginger and sugar.

Thus the so-called "lamb's wool" of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Darwin might easily have pointed out that Christmas in those days made for the survival of the

The peacock, as a Christmas dish, seems to carry with it a memory of the days when knighthood was in flower. It is the kind of bird that would add distinction to the Christmas table of the House, of Lords, if the lords had no tables of their own at which to dine on Christmas Day. It was prepared by disrobing it of its lordly plumage, the disrebing being done by carefully removing the skin with all the plumage adhering. The naked bird then disappeared into the oven to be roasted. This process completed, it was stuffed with spices and basted with the yolks of eggs, and a rich mutton gravy, containing the goodness of a whole sheep. was made ready. The fowl was then sewn up in its plumaged skin, even to its beak, and arranged on a golden dish with its head at one end and its magnificent tail feathers at the other. The highest noblewoman present had the honor of bringing in this dish to the strains of appropriate music. In this stately role, it seems now to be extinct in England.

Boar's Head

But the Christmas boar's head is not extinct, though the wild boar himself has not been known in a wild state in England, probably since Queen's College at Oxford get their It seems to have been Mr. Pick- boars' heads to-day, nobody seems

> That was something more than seven centuries ago, and seven cen-

EDGELEY

The December meeting of Edgeley Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Alf Bagg with a good attendance and five visitors. If I am out arrange dates with my A quilt was left in care of Mrs. wife." Bagg from the members of the Institute to be given to Mrs. Wilfred Symons (nee Nora Bagg).

The delegates who attended the convention at the Royal York Hotel in November were Misses Ruth Smith and Edith Jackson, both bringing back splendid reports. Edith Jackson also gave a paper There was a lucky number draw on Phone 211 the Exhibition quilt, the winner of ****************************** prize went to Mrs. S. Poole, No. 264, winning a 4 lb. Christmas cake. 3rd prize, Mrs. N. Peelar, No. 335, 2 lb. Christmas cake.

A bale of clothing was packed for the Rainy River district. At the close of the meeting a "Pot Luck" Supper was served and en-

KLEINBURG

The Kleinburg Y.P.U. held their regular meeting on Monday evening in the basement of the church of the great festival. Probably we with the President Mr. Newton Watleft for Burlington last week, were What if Mr. Pickwick could e- are greater epicures than ever to- son in the chair. It was decided that no Y.P.U. meetings would be held for the three following Monday nights but that the Social Evening Year's. Mr. Bailey invited them to hold their social meeting at the par-

Mrs. W. Benstead, the missionary convenor, had prepared the program for the evening but was unable to take charge of the meeting so Miss to find us resorting to salted al- heads, the peacocks, the cygnets Masel Shaw took the chair and the programme opened by singing a hymn after which Muriel Bell read a prayer. Alex Shaw read the scripture lesson. "On the Atlantic Coast" was read by Masel Shaw after which Annie Corless read "Landing on the Labrador". Alma Kerr and Ola Egan then played a piano duet after which Masel Shaw read "In a February Storm off Newfoundland". Jim Stevens read "A Winter Cruise on Sled and Snowshoes" and Miss I. McKenzie read a story entitled "A Little Bit of Christmas". The programme ended with a spelling match.

LEST HE FORGET

It was 3 o'clock in the morning, and the guard was rather suspicious of the man in evening clothes who walked slowly along the street. "Out rather late, aren't you?" asked the guard.

"Perhaps it is a little late." agreed the man, "but it's about the only chance a pedestrian has these days."

"Do you ever go camping?" "No; we get the same effect by taking the screens off the windows."

turies is a brief span in the story of the boar's head. That story has been carried back as far as recorded history goes, back to the Scandinavian Yule feast in midwinter at which the wild boar was the traditional sacrifice.

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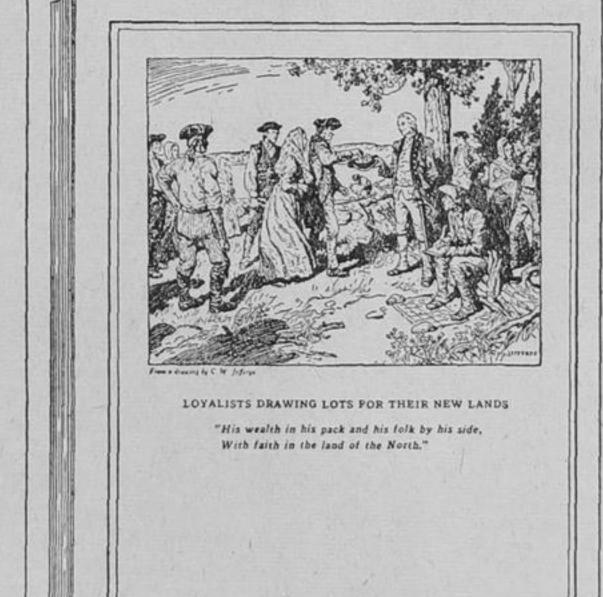
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New Songs of Canadian Life Set to tunes from the Old World



U. E. LOYALIST SONG 6 0 0 2 0 0 0 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 P P 1 50 84 000 DA 010 DAY 1531 PO DAY 1 1 1 the old and and the color of and all 11 His wealth in his pack and his folk by his side, With faith in the land of the North, The Loyalist took a new trail in his stride, And dauntless in exile set forth; He built a log cabin with chimney of stone And windmill for grinding the corn, The courage to which he was born. The chimney had hooks on a crane; A spit for the roast, and the doorlatch under A spinning-wheel act by the chair And hanging on rafters were rod and a gun; On wall was the pelt of a bear. The Loyalists live now in city and farm In Empire that none dream'd of then Such exile could happen again. The centuries roll but the Lovalists stand So Canada honours the Loyalist band United for Empire and Right.

Two pages of the new book of Canadian ballads by John Murray Gibbon and published by the Ryerson Press, Toronto.



attractive little book, beautifully known or which belong to a lan- England, and we find succeeding printed and illustrated and for guage that is not English. Mr. poets, including Burns, Scott, each ballad there is a pleasant Gibbon has written the ballads Stevenson and Moore writing balsingable old tune that Mr. Gibbon especially for these tunes. has dug from somewhere out of The writing of ballads to fit old New World Ballads is an ideal the past.

Canada -- sixty eers" and "Settlement & Indepen- words of broadsheets which he new songs of dence", while others sing of moun- sold for a penny. Shakespeare Canada have tains, rivers and prairies - Then knew them, and in the snatches come to life too, there are ballads of the canoe, over the past of the trail and of the seasons few months in short it is a very comprehenand now they sive book of Canadian song which are given to should meet with a hearty welthe world in come from Canadians everywhere. John Murray The tunes selected and printed Gibbon's new- with the ballads are lovely old est book "New melodies which have been brought so we find Christopher Marlowe,

cover different periods of Cana- throne of England in 1558, the homes.

Singing of dian history such as "The Pion-| balladmonger sang at the fair, the of song in "Hamlet", "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and "A Winter's Tale" revealed how much he owed to the ballad singers. Up to the time of Oliver Cromwell, lyric poetry was not yet considered as something apart from music, World Bal- to Canada by settlers from the Ben Jonson, George Wither, John lads" which British Isles and from Europe. Donne and Robert Herrick, all has just come Some of these are dance tunes, great poets, still writing verses to from the Ryer- some are tunes of which the old tunes. Later John Gay took son Press, Toronto. It is a most words are no longer generally tunes from France as well as lads based on a tune.

and well loved tunes dates from collection of songs to make the The songs are gathered into ten the time of Shakespeare. When music hour a memorable one in groups which, in a general way, Queen Elizabeth came to the schools and camps as well as in