



MERRY CHRISTMAS
We take this opportunity of extending to the citizens of this community the Season's Heartiest Greetings.

SULLIVAN & NEWTON
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE
Goldfields Hotel Block Timmins



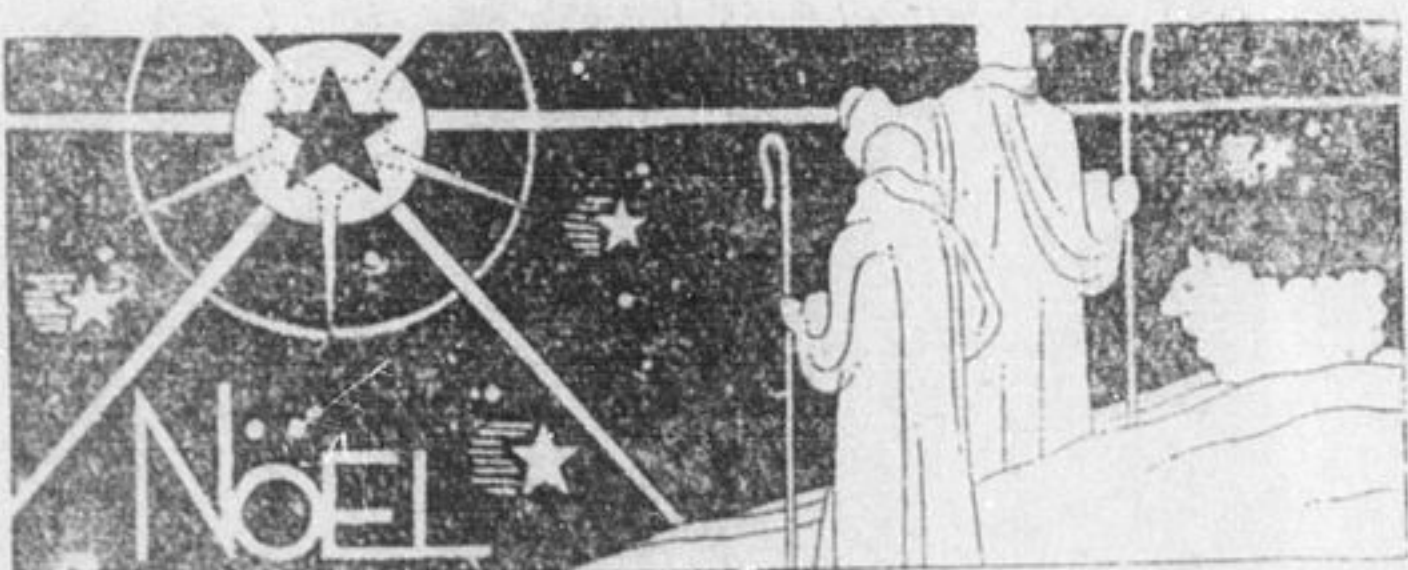
May Your Christmas be Bright and Happy and Every Day in the New Year be as Happy as Christmas for you

SIMMS, HOOKER & DREW
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE
Dominion Bank Building Timmins



We thank you for your patronage in the past, and very sincerely extend to all Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A. WILSON LANG
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE
Gordon Block, Room No. 1 Timmins



MAY GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS and all the blessings of Holiday Cheer bestow themselves upon our friends and patrons this Christmas Season and in the Coming Year.

EMPIRE CIGAR STORE
AND
EMPIRE FRUIT AND FLOWER SHOP
J. CARNOVALE, Proprietor

Christmas Belief in Old World Lands

Legends and the Customs that have Grown from Them in the Old Countries Overseas.

There are many quaint and beautiful customs practiced in the old world during the festival time of Christmas which have been handed down from sire to son, and which live on through the years in spite of the inroads that modernism has made. For these old customs and practices that have come down from a bygone age seem to have a strange fascination as the Yuletide season approaches and they hold and carry an appeal that reaches out to people of all ranks, and so today in many parts of the world we find them practiced in the lordly castle as well as in the humblest home of the peasant.

And although Christmas is the greatest of all Christmas festivals, many of the customs associated with it have come down from pagan times, becoming a part of the Christian festival as the people were gradually weaned away from paganism. For whatever of good or beauty was found in paganism the church adopted as far as it was possible, thereby making the conversion of many easier than it would have been if all the trappings that went with paganism were entirely abolished.

Few Christian stories that come from the old world fail to mention the yule logs and in England and other countries it still blazes on the hearth at Christmas time. This was one of the customs that originated with the Pagans, for it was first practiced in Scandinavia where a huge log was set on fire in honor of Thor, whose festival was kept at the time of the winter solstice. In many parts of Europe the dragging home of this yule log is one of the big events of the year and is a source of great excitement, especially to the children.

After it is brought home it is placed across the wide open hearth and on Christmas eve it is lighted by the master of the house and there it smolders and burns for several days. During this time there is much merriment in every home and at evening merry parties are held and songs are sung and tales are told and a good time is enjoyed by all.

Another custom which has come down from pagan times, and one which is now used in every country is the decorating with evergreens in honor of Christmas. In the pagan halls and castles boughs of evergreens were hung over the doors and windows for decorative purposes and also to ward off evil spirits. For this reason the early Christians refused to use them in decorating their homes and churches, but gradually the vivid beauty of the winter plant won out and they are now a part of the great festival in church and home. But even yet in many countries mistletoe is not allowed inside the house after the New Year for fear of some dire calamity.

In England the beautiful custom of carol singing is much practiced. Groups of people go from house to house, singing the beautiful old carols. One can almost sense the wonder and the beauty of that night in Bethlehem as their voices ring out on the still, frosty air.

God rest you merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, your Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day.

A beautiful custom prevails in Ireland on Christmas eve. In every home a lighted candle is placed in an open window and from there its rays shine forth into the night. This is done to guide any wanderers that might be abroad, least they should have to wander far seeking shelter as Mary and Joseph had to do at Bethlehem.

And in many parts of Ireland there is a legend told on Christmas eve that the mother of the Saviour often wanders abroad and often comes to the door of some house seeking shelter for herself and babe. So on this night in parts of Erin the latchstring is on the outside of the door for all.

In Scotland it is the custom to give double fodder to cattle on this night, and it is known in many parts of the British Isles as the night of two suppers, one of which is eaten before and one after midnight.

A Scotch legend tells that Saint Bride lived at the time of Christ's birth and was a little serving maid at the inn at Bethlehem to which Mary and Joseph came. Because of some service which she rendered to Mary when she came there seeking shelter she is known as "Mulle Críosta" which means foster-mother of Christ.

It is believed by many in the Old World that the gates of heaven are open wide on this night and are left open all through Christmas day, and that all who die on this day are bade to enter. It is also believed that no evil spirit of any kind can be abroad on this night to practice their wiles, for all are banished from the face of the earth, for on this night good triumphs over evil in everything.

In our own country there is no custom that gives more joy than the coming of Santa Claus. What little boy or girl has not lain awake nights dreaming of this wonderful being, thrilling with the thought of the wonderful things he may bring. The coming of Santa Claus originated in Germany, as also did the Christmas tree, the wonderful tree that makes little eyes shine and grow big with wonder and delight on Christmas morning.

But whatever the country, or whatever its customs or practices may be, Christmas festival always brings with it a wealth of happiness and good cheer; and into the hearts of mankind everywhere there comes a beautiful spirit of peace and goodwill toward all that makes earth like unto heaven on this day.

Famous Christmas Poem Re-Published

"Twas the Night Before Christmas" dear to Hearts of Many. By Request.

By special request the following Christmas poem, which has found a place of honour before this year in the columns of The Advance, is re-published at this time. One reader of The Advance says that this poem and the New York editor's answer to the little girl's question as to whether there was really a Santa Claus should be in every Christmas issue everywhere.

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced through their heads,
Mama in her kerchief and I in my cap

Had just settled our brains to a long winter's nap;
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter

I sprang from bed to see what was the matter,
Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash,
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow

Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes should appear

But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick

I knew in a moment it must be Saint Nick,
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,

And he whistled and shouted and called them by name,
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer; now, Prancer! and Vixen!

On, Comet! on, Cupid! on Dunder and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky,

So up to the house top the coursers they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and Saint Nicholas too.

And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof—

As I drew in my head and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack;

His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses; his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up in a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;

He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave men to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;

But I heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Norway, Sweden Babies Are Loaded with Gifts

In many districts of Norway and Sweden every baby born on Christmas day is the recipient of many gifts and bounties from all quarters. He receives a bounty from both the ecclesiastical and civil authorities and in some districts these bounties amount to a considerable amount of money, which is generally invested until the child is of age.

The children that are born to some classes of the people in Naples on this happy day are visited by "Wise men,"—who are selected by some philanthropic society and are presented with imitation stones which are valued highly by the children in later years, even supernatural qualities being ascribed to them.

"At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year,"—Thos Tusser, born 1527, died 1580.



Wish for all
A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year.

W. C. ARNOTT
MEN'S AND BOYS' FURNISHINGS
31 First Avenue Phone 740 Schumacher



Every Good Wish to All
for a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
and
Prosperous New Year.

GOLDALE CAFE
12 Pine Street South Timmins



SEASON'S GREETINGS

YULETIDE:—
A time of Joyous Wishes,
And in the New Year
May Prosperity and Happiness
Be Yours.

LUXTON CIGAR STORE
22 Third Avenue (next to Imperial Bank) Timmins



MERRY CHRISTMAS, FOLKS,
And may Good Health, Happiness
and Good Fortune be by your side
all through the Coming Year.

TIMMINS FLOWER SHOP
R. RICHARDS, Proprietor
20 1/2 Pine Street North Phone 225 Timmins