



We take this opportunity to extend Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes to our many friends. May joy and happiness be yours throughout the New Year.

### SMITH AND ELSTON

PLUMBING AND HEATING

Third Avenue

Timmins



It is our hope that you may have a Christmas filled and running over with the good things in life, including good health, happiness and prosperity.

### SULLIVAN & NEWTON

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Goldfields Hotel Block

Timmins



We wish for you and yours the very merriest of Merry Christmases. We hope that the Yuletide will bring new pleasures and joys to you all.

### SCHUMACHER HARDWARE AND FURNITURE COMPANY

31 First Avenue

Schumacher



We wish our patrons and friends all the joy and happiness that can be crowded into each Christmas stocking. May the Coming Year bring happiness to you and yours.

### JOHN W. FOGG LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE AND YARD

BRANCH OFFICE

Timmins—Phone 117

Kirkland Lake—Phone 393

### Facts About Christmas

(Written for The Advance by H. M.)  
One of the most ancient of English Christmas customs is that of mumming. Troupes of mummers still perform in certain Hampshire villages. It is the only form of mediaeval folk drama to survive.

The plays, put on by travelling mummers, are of very ancient origin. Some of them may be traced back as far as 800 years. For these centuries the words have been handed down orally from one generation to the next.

Some features owe their beginning to the Crusades and Christmas festival season but the main substance of the plays seem to date back to the days when England was a pagan country. Mumming is a throw-back to the ancient sacrificial and agricultural rites of the Druids.

The most characteristic drama presented is that of the slaying of the Turkish knight by St. George in order to rescue the daughter of the King of Egypt. After the rescue has been accomplished the knight is revived by a comic quack doctor.

Plays are usually presented in three sections, the prologue, the presentation and the ante-masque, with music. After the performance a collection is taken up.

Actors wear costumes decorated with strips of coloured paper. Often they black their faces.

During the last century mummers were seen in many parts of Southern counties of England, in Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and in Scotland.

The word "Christmas" is derived from "Mass of Christ." The origin of the celebration of December 25 as the birthday of Christ is misted in antiquity. The earliest identification of that date is a passage in Theophilus of Antioch, possibly spurious, to the effect that the Gauls contended that because they celebrated the Birth of Our Lord on December 25, Resurrection should be celebrated on March 25.

For some years in the Western part of the then civilized world (as late as 353 in Rome) the birth feast was appended to the baptismal feast on January 6. In Rome from about 360 to 440 the two were celebrated on the latter date.

In Britain December 25 was a festive day long before the advent of Christianity. The Venerable Bede relates in his writings, "the ancient peoples of the Angli began the year on December 25 when we now celebrate the birthday of the Lord; and the very night which is now so holy to us, they called in their tongue, "modra necht," that is, the mothers' night, by reason, we suspect, of the ceremonies which in that night-long vigil they performed."

The observance of Christmas was forbidden in England by Act of Parliament in 1644. King Charles II revived the feast but the Scottish people adhered to the Puritan view.

Outside Teutonic countries Christmas presents are unknown. Their place is taken in Latin countries by the "strenae." Presents are given on New Year's Day.

The setting up in Latin churches of a Christmas creche, that is a creche depicting the birth of Christ, is said to have been begun by St. Francis of Assisi.

### On the Morning of Christ's Nativity

(By John Milton (1629))

This is the month, and this the happy morn,  
Wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King,  
Of wedded maid and Virgin Mother born,  
Our great redemption from above did bring:  
For so the holy sages once did sing,  
That He our deadly forfeit should release,  
And with His Father work us a perpetual peace.

That glorious Form, that Light unsufferable,  
And that far-beaming blaze of majesty,  
Wherewith He wont at Heaven's high council-table  
To sit the midst of Trinal Unity,  
He laid aside, and here with us to be,  
Forsook the Courts of everlasting Day,  
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

Say, Heavenly Muse, shall not thy sacred vein  
Afford a present to the Infant God?  
Has thou no verse, no hymn, or solemn strain,  
To welcome him to this His new abode,  
Now while the heaven, by the Sun's team untrod,  
Hath took no print of the approaching light,  
And all the spangled host keep watch in squadrons bright?

See how from far upon the Eastern road  
The star-led Wizards haste with odors sweet!  
Oh, run; present them with thy humble ode,  
And lay it lowly at His blessed feet;  
Have thou the honour first thy Lord to greet,  
And join thy voice unto the Angel Quire,  
From out his secret altar touched with hallowed fire.

### Rules for Kissing Beneath Mistletoe

Usage Suggests the Idea of "Shop Early."

(From an Exchange)

Men who use the mistletoe at Christmas as an excuse for dalliance and light flirtation had better do their mistletoe kissing early if they wish to adhere to custom and technique.

Definite Rules, Alas

Delving into the time-honored tradition which permits a romantically inclined male to stalk a shy maid and plant a kiss on her ruby lips when she is standing under the mistletoe, reveals that there are rules and regulations which go a long way toward making mistletoe kissing conventional.

And, if the rules are religiously observed, a couple can't just park under the mistletoe and indulge to their hearts' content. There are restrictions which state definitely that the couple can't have more kisses than the number of pale berries hanging on the mistletoe branch.

Of course, there's nothing said about counting the berries afterwards, but the technique supposed to be followed in mistletoe kissing decrees that upon having reached their allotted number of kisses, the couple should walk away and take one of the berries with them. That leaves the next couple with one berry and one kiss less.

Serious Disadvantage

Besides giving the first couple all the breaks, the rules leave the last couple to come along at a serious disadvantage.

Of course, there's always the chance of the host or hostess having given some thought to the emergencies which might arise in connection with mistletoe kissing. In that case, there might be a spare branch thoughtfully provided.

If the last couple is sufficiently determined, it's quite proper for them to ask for fresh mistletoe even if it does put them to some embarrassment.

While there's no regulation to keep a person from stocking a whole carload of mistletoe, there's always the chance that the request for a fresh sprig with plenty of berries on it will bring the answer: "I'm sorry, but we have no more mistletoe." To prevent such a let down, it's better to do mistletoe kissing early.

Scandinavian Myth

In the language of the flowers, mistletoe means "give me a kiss." The authority for mistletoe kissing comes from a Scandinavian myth, in which Balder, the counterpart of Apollo, was given a charm by his mother, Frigg, or Venus, which protected him from harm of four elements—fire, air, water and earth.

Loki, one of Balder's enemies, made an arrow of mistletoe and placed it in the hands of the blind Helder, instructing him to launch it against the apparently invulnerable Balder. The dart struck Balder to the ground, and his mother's tears became the berries on the mistletoe. For the restoration of her son to life, Frigg, the Scandinavian Venus, goddess of love and beauty, is said to bestow a kiss upon anyone who shall pass under the mistletoe. It is from this legend that the kissing-under-the-mistletoe custom is believed to have come.

Chances of Marriage

But legend or not, in some countries, girls who fail to get kissed under the mistletoe on Christmas believe they won't marry in that year. So dear is the plant to Scandinavian antiquity that at one time enemies who met by chance under the mistletoe laid down their arms and made a one-day truce. From this may have arisen the custom of laying a branch over a door, pledging peace and friendship of those who entered, to be sealed by a kiss.

Monks, at some time or other, have named mistletoe the wood of the sacred cross, and it is probably that connection which caused Shakespeare to refer to it as the "baleful mistletoe". In Brittany, the berries are crushed and stained into oil, used as a cure for fever and to impart vigor.

In the same Brittany, if a maid meets a man under a bough from which mistletoe hangs, she plucks a leaf and a berry from the mistletoe.

For Binding Love

After eating the berry she retires to her room to place the leaf inside her corset next to her heart. It binds her love as long as it remains.

Worcestershire farmers once gave a bough of mistletoe to the first cow that calved after the new year. The practice, it was claimed, averted bad luck for the whole dairy. In Holstein the mistletoe was considered good for all green wounds, ensured success to the chase, and gave strength to wrestlers.

But most of the legendary customs to which mistletoe is associated are handed down from paganism, when forest worshippers looked upon the oak as the tree which embodied the spirits of the gods. The mistletoe, the parasite which grew on the oak, was thought closely akin to the gods and deserving of blood sacrifices.

KEEP CHRISTMAS

Whatever else be lost among the years,  
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing;  
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,  
Let us hold close one day, remembering  
Its poignant meaning for hearts of men,  
Let us get back our childlike faith again.



### A Merry Christmas

Christmas would be incomplete unless we expressed our deep appreciation for your patronage, and wished you and yours the most of Christmas Joy.

### SWIFT CANADIAN COMPANY, LTD.

WHOLESALE

Phones 400 and 401

Timmins



May you find among your presents on Christmas morning the priceless gifts of Health, Happiness and Contentment. We take this opportunity to thank our friends and customers for a Prosperous Year.

### THE TIMMINS NEW METHOD LAUNDRY

Cedar Street North

Timmins



We offer Greetings and Good Wishes to all our friends in The Porcupine District. We sincerely hope that there are many pleasant surprises in store for you in 1939.

### FRANK BYCK

COAL AND FUEL MERCHANT

Spruce Street South

Timmins



May the joy and happiness of this Christmas season hover over you throughout the Coming Year. We pledge ourselves now to merit your confidence and loyalty.

### W. C. ARNOTT

MEN'S AND BOYS' FURNISHINGS

37 First Avenue

Schumacher