



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Christmas would scarcely be complete without expressing our deep appreciation for your patronage and Wishing you and yours the most of Season's joy.

STAR TRANSFER
JAMES F. PASSMORE, Proprietor

11 Spruce Street South

Timmins



NOEL!

May every home in Timmins and District be specially brightened by the good cheer that the season deserves through this holiday season.

PATENT'S BAKERY

Wilson Avenue

Timmins



Greetings

To all Old Friends
and all New Friends
in the North Land

A Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year to all

CANADIAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED

EXPLOSIVES DIVISION

Fourth Avenue

Timmins

When Waits Were Watchmen in Britain

Part of the Waits in Public Rejoicing.

(From The London Times)
We moderns connect the waits with Christmas, like carol singers and panto-mimes. The present-day waits make a transient and embarrassed appearance a week or two in advance of December 25 and display varying degrees of proficiency in their musical performances. But to the waits of olden times the festive season was just the same as any other. They played all the year round.

In 1762 Oliver Goldsmith noted that "on a stranger's arrival at Bath he is welcomed by the voices and music of the city waits." That expression, "the city waits," is significant. It means much; as for centuries the waits were municipal officers, and highly-thought-of officers too. Every town had its waits, as had each ward of the City of London.

Of a special celebration in the fair and ancient city of York it is recorded "the sheriffs are preceded by the city waits in their scarlet liveries and silver badges playing all the way through the streets." This was in 1736. The liveries and badges were, of course, provided at the town's expense, and after a morning of blowing and drumming, the musicians were glad of a meal. This, too, was provided by their appreciative fellow-citizens. In many a municipal record occurs the word "waitmeat", meaning the viands supplied to the municipal music makers.

A foreign observer visiting England notes that "the cities maintain waits who play at noon every day in the principal place of the city, and at all public feasts." It will be seen that the tradition of waits with Christmas is of quite modern origin. The London waits were certainly active in the early part of November, for a record of 1553 tells us that "the new Lord Mayor went to Westminster, with waits playing and trumpets blowing."

These waits were notable players; and there is an amusing reference to them in Ben Jonson's comedy, The Silent Woman. One of the characters speaks of a timid citizen who is terrified when he hears brazen and martial music, and adds: "The waits of the city have a pension from him not to go near his house."

The cities were very jealous of their waits and did not allow them to entertain other places. In a municipal decree dated 1487, a certain town ordered that the waits were to remain within the town, but were allowed to visit the abbey and priories within 10 miles of the said town.

We do not find that these communities maintained their own waits, but great nobles and Kings undoubtedly did. In Royal palaces and aristocratic mansions musicians patrolled the corridors and passages in the night, marking the passing of the hours with soft music. These were called "waits."

Music in English Life
This kind of keeping check on the time was much pleasanter than the use of a strident alarm clock. But in those days music played a much greater part in the lives of the people than it does now.

Right up to the time of Cromwell we were a musical nation. Children were taught to sing correctly and to play some musical instrument as a matter of course. A young man or girl, whether gentle or simple, would have been ashamed to avow ignorance of flute, pipe, or viol de gamba. The very inns and taverns had an instrument hanging up, so that any guest who felt inclined could entertain the company with his playing. Citizens met at each other's houses of an evening and rendered concerted music.

Rich men kept their own bands of musicians — witness the "minstrels' galleries" in so many old country mansions and in the halls of the London Guilds. To see how music permeated English life one need only read Chaucer. Every one of his characters in the "Canterbury Tales" is an amateur musician of some power of accomplishment. So it went on from Chaucer's time through Plantagenet, Tudor, and Stuart days until the Puritans came.

Occasions of Festivity
Music thus being so much a part of the people's very life, it follows that the waits were important functionaries and esteemed according to their importance. Even the learned universities kept their waits, and when a certain monarch went to Oxford "the waits cheerfully and melodiously welcomed Her Majesty to the City with their best voices." From the reference to voices it will be clear that the old-time waits were vocalists as well as musicians, unlike their modern descendants.

The modern waits do not attempt to sing, leaving vocal efforts to the children, who treat us to "Hark! the Herald Angels" and "Christmas Awake" in sundry keys for about six weeks before Christmas, and to the various bodies who go out carol singing for charity or to raise funds for some church.

This reminds us that in bygone days the city waits would reinforce the church choirs on special occasions. They were in great demand for weddings. The waits not only played and sang during the service but also at the subsequent festivities.

In fact, at any time of rejoicing, whether public or private, these popular music-makers were prominent. At Christmas time, of course, when the seasonable festivities lasted all through to Twelfth Night, they were very busy, and were proportionately rewarded. Nowadays, alas, the Christmas season

is the only time when successors of the original waits are heard.

Old-time Instruments
The moderns do not play on the same kind of instruments as their predecessors. These were skilled executants on the sackbut, on the hautboy, on the pipe, on the flute, on the lute, on the harp, on the fiddle, and on other musical instruments of which the modern generation does not even know the name. To-day's waits are content with "brass" and do not play strident instruments, as of old. The old "wind" was softer and more mellow in tone than modern horns and trombones, and the use of percussion instruments, like drums and tabors, added considerable variety to the ensemble.

Back-wood Days

(Verses by the late David Airth, of Renfrew, Ont.)

I often think on backwood days,
When scrimp o' meat and scant o' caes,
Wi' naught but cawtats, meal or maize
To fill the wame,
And hard it was the funds to raise
To get the same.

Nae houses then wi' stoves to warm,
But open shanties, like a barn,
While roun' the fire they did a' swarm.
Like hiving bees;
The auld folks whiles would spin a yarn,
The bairns to please.

They could na knit at night, nor spin,
The 'oo' was scarce, the light was dim—
Sometimes they'd join a sang to sing.

To pass the time,
Until the shanty wa's would ring
Wi' ranting rhyme.

I've seen the youngsters sair put tae
Wi' hack it feet and leg sac bla—
As through frost and snaw frae day tae day.

They limpt and ran;
And aye for them my heart was wae
When night was cam.

As roun' the chumby they did creep—
Tired wi' their fun they fell asleep;
But soon were arcused to wash their feet.

And sent to bed;
Puir things how they would sab and greet,
Wi' hearts like lead.

How parents for their weans did then,
Folks little nowadays do ken,
To clad them a' frae stern to stem.

Was nae sma' task,
And how they could provide for them,
You weel might ask.

For luxuries they had to want,
They werna fashed wi' folk o' rank;
Nae Trust and Loan nor Merchants Bank

To draw upon;
Yet aye got something i' their thank
To help them on.

I mind it weel, the times were tough,
While folks could hardly get enough,
And what they got was poor and rough,
To make a living;
But for their work they took such stuff
As they were given.

No flouring mills were near to them,
Where they their wheat and corn could send,
Yet tried a' schemes to serve the end,
Wi' patient wills,
They ground a' that they needed them
In coffee mills.

A toilsome job it was at night,
To shell the corn and grind it right—
And poke the fire to raise a light
So they might see;
Each took his turn wi' a' his might,
Baith big an' wee.

For a' their little wants and needs,
They carried on their backs like steeds,
And implements for planting seeds
That they did grow;
The cultivator for the weeds
Then was the hoe.

Nae mowers then to cut the hay,
Nor reapers down the wheat to lay,
Where one could sit the live long day
And tune his whistle.
A kind o' work, or rather play,
That needs no gristle.

Oh, neighbors! they were neighbors then,
Though shy to borrow, free to lend,
Weal and anthers wants did ken
In times o' need.
In turns their lads and lassies send
To plant the seed.

But men were honest in those days,
Their actions spoke their loudest praise,
They scorned a' mean deceitful ways
To gain their ends,
Nor money would they beg or raise
To ruin friends.

Those pioneers o' whom I write,
Their forms are bent, their heads are white,
And others gone to mansions bright
Beyond the sky,
Where all, I hope, will reunite
With them on high.

KEEP CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

(By Phillips Brooks)
Then let every heart keep
Its Christmas within—
Christ's pity for sorrow,
Christ's hatred of sin,
Christ's care for the weakest,
Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness,
Christ's love of the light—
Everywhere — everywhere —
Christmas to-night.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

A simple phrase which can best express our wish for you throughout the year.

OSTROSSER & CO.
MEN'S WEAR

Pine Street North

Timmins



Christmas Greetings

Christmas is a fitting time
Old Wishes to renew
We hope it brings you happiness
To last the whole year through.

MOISLEY & BALL
DRUGGISTS AND PHARMACISTS

Third Ave., Timmins

First Ave., Schumacher



SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Officers and personnel of

**Northern Ontario Power
Company, Limited**

Extend Heartiest

**Christmas and New Year's
Greetings**

To all their Customers and Friends

In the Porcupine District.