

Greetings to All.
A Merry Christmas
and a Glad New Year.

A.J. Shragge
LIMITED

Bardessono Block

Timmins



Season's Greetings

From the Staff and Management
of the

EMPIRE BOWLING ACADEMY
B. G. SMITH, Manager

11 Balsam St. S. Timmins Phone 2145

"May all your Headpins be Strikes"



CHRISTMAS CHEER

It is our hope that your Christmas
may be replete with the good things
of life and that the Coming Year
may bring good health, happiness
and prosperity.



EMPIRE HOTEL CO., LTD.

Corner Spruce and Fourth

Phone 92



May this Christmas be full of joy and
contentment for you. We are grateful
for your patronage during the past
year and hope we may continue to have
it in 1941.

SMITH & ELSTON

PLUMBING AND HEATING CONTRACTORS

71 Third Avenue

Timmins

Phone 327

The Day Before Christmas

Ever since there has been a Porcupine, the day before Christmas has been a big day in Timmins, South Porcupine, Schumacher and Old Porcupine (Golden City). It has been a busier, livelier day than Christmas—much more so than the day after. Even in what old-timers term the "First White Christmas" in Porcupine, the day before Christmas was a busy time. That "First White Christmas"—to distinguish it from the Christmas celebrated in Porcupine by the Indians and the other Scotsmen in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company—was in 1909. That was the year that Gibson and Stirling started the first store at Golden City for the accommodation of the people flocking in here in the gold rush at that time. It was a busy time for Gibson and Stirling, who were busy getting the store ready, bringing in goods, etc. It was a busy time for the twenty-five other men who were all that was left in Porcupine of the scores who had come in here. The others had gone home for Christmas. The few left here were busy planning how they could make a merry Christmas in this new land that year.

Messrs Gibson and Stirling turned their store over to the men here at the time as a sort of hotel or stopping place for the twenty-five or so men left here to spend Christmas. The store was used as Christmas headquarters, so naturally it was a busy place, getting ready, the day before Christmas, 1909.

Every year since 1909 the day before Christmas has been one of the busiest days of the years in the Porcupine camp. And there are many other busy days in Porcupine at that. Despite the fact that there has been a regular campaign every year, urging all to "Shop Early," the day before Christmas is one of the biggest shopping days of the year in the towns of this part of the North. This makes it a busy time indeed. There are all the usual last minute things to be done before Christmas, so the day before Christmas is a day worthy of note because of the many calls upon it—the rush—the worry—the friendliness—the good-will—the cheerfulness—the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Day

Christmas Day is always well observed in Timmins and the Porcupine. While it is particularly a "Home Day", the other features of the celebration are not forgotten. There are always special services in the churches that attract comparatively large congregations. The attendance at Midnight Mass at St. Anthony's church in the earlier days of the camp meant the gathering of a record crowd each year. Attendance was not restricted to members of the church, many others finding interest in attending the service. There were many also who found interest in simply watching the crowds come from the church in the first hours of Christmas morning—cheerful, happy people, wishing each other and everyone they met a "Happy Christmas."

The people of the North have the deserved reputation of being kindly and a friendly people. Accordingly, Christmas is a time that makes special appeal to them—just the sort of occasion that they celebrate with enthusiasm and sincerity. Christmas Day in the Porcupine always has been a time of goodwill, friendliness, kindness, generosity—a real Christmas. All that is true of the past in respect to Christmas is still true this year.

The call, "Merry Christmas!" will ring out here in this year of 1940 with the same old friendly and sincere tones. Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!

The Day After Christmas

It is over twenty years ago that The Advance first suggested, half in joke and half in earnest, that there should be a three-day celebration of Christmas—a day to prepare, a day to celebrate and a day to sober up. The fact is that the Porcupine has really observed a "three-day Christmas" since the early days. For many years here the day after Christmas was more or less a holiday unofficially. If the day before Christmas was one of the busiest days of the year, the day after Christmas was not so. In recent years the day after Christmas has been officially observed as a holiday. At a recent meeting of the Timmins town council, a resolution was passed authorizing the mayor to proclaim the day after Christmas a public holiday. Similar procedure has been the rule for several years here.

In Great Britain the day after Christmas is observed as a sort of holiday. It is a bank holiday in England, Scotland and Wales. Of course, on that day (named "Boxing Day") there are some who work as usual, perhaps harder than usual, but it is very pleasant occupation.

The name "Boxing Day" is said to come from the custom of opening the church poor boxes on that day and sharing the proceeds among the needy. That was a custom that went back into the distant past. In later years errand boys and apprentices employed by tradesmen were allowed to call upon customers to solicit donations to their Christmas box—on Boxing Day. Nowadays the postmen do it in the Old Country, after the Christmas rush. In this country, while the idea of having the day after Christmas a holiday is a very popular one, the other aspects of Boxing Day have not been featured. Here, it is still the custom for "Christmas boxes" to be given before, rather than after Christmas Day.

Christmas Blossoms

(By Lieut.-Colonel H. Chas. Tutte, S.A.)
Though flowers bloom in the summer,
When the days are long and bright,
When the warm rains cleanse the verdure,
And the dews refresh the night;
Yet Christmas has its beauty
As fragrant, tender and sweet;
They are found in the Christmas duties
We lay at the Christ-child's feet.

The blooms of Christmas are lovely,
As any the summer can show,
For greater than outward beauty
The graces of spirit glow.
At Christmas grows such flowers
As the blossoms of charity,
And love at home has its bowers
Of heavenly ecstasy.

How choice in its fragrant blooming
Is kind generosity,
Which everything perfuming,
Makes life sweet as can be,
And the poor receive the presents
On the joyous Christmas morn;
Like the gold and the myrrh and the incense
When the Lord of love was born.

I often think of the Flower
God gave that Christmas Day,
When sang the angel choir,
And the kings from far away
With the shepherds came to worship
To the manger where He lay,
What a proof of love and friendship
God gave the world that day!

That Babe was a flower-token
Of a great, undying love,
For the Father's heart was broken
When He sent His Son from above
And that precious, heaven-born Flower
May be planted in your heart, too,
There enshrined in a sacred bower
When the Christ-child comes to you.



To our many friends—we wish all
of the Season's Greetings. May
their hearts be light on Christmas
Day and throughout the New Year.

MARK BOWIE & COMPANY

17 1/2 Pine Street North

Timmins

May the homes of our friends and patrons
be bright with the glow and contentment
and good cheer on Christmas Day and
through the Coming Year.

L. HALPERIN

JEWELLER AND OPTOMETRIST

7 Pine Street North

Timmins



We extend to you—the old wish—a
Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

VOGUE SHOE SHOP

Pine St. South

Timmins



CHRISTMAS

An old wish—but new in its
sincerity and earnestness—
"A Merry Christmas and
A Glad New Year."

SIMMS, HOOKER & DREW

INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE

13a Pine Street North

Phone 112

Timmins



**The Chief and Members
of the
Timmins Fire Department**

at this festive season of the year take
the opportunity to thank the public
very sincerely for co-operation and
good-will throughout the passing year,
and to wish one and all

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy
and Prosperous New Year**