



CHRISTMAS

May Every Gem of Happiness be Yours
This Christmas and in the New Year

A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

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and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Best Wishes to All for a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Sincere Wishes to all for a
Merry Christmas and Hap-
piness throughout the New
Year

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**The First Christmas
In The Porcupine**

When was the first Christmas celebrated in the Porcupine? Most people will answer—in 1909. But that is out more than 250 years. According to tradition that appears very reliable, Sieur D'Iberville and his followers celebrated Christmas Mass in this area some 254 years ago. Sieur D'Iberville and a band of explorers journeyed from Quebec to Moose Factory to conquer the Hudson Bay post there. The immensity of that journey can not be even imagined by the people of this century, accustomed as they are to swift trains, aeroplanes that travel hundreds of miles per hour, and the other methods of rapid modern transportation. Most of that epic journey was made by canoe and long portages, and it occupied months. Only the pioneers of the far North who had to travel by water and by land, with dog teams the swiftest mode of travel, can conceive the hardships of the journey of Sieur D'Iberville and his fighting men. They succeeded in capturing Moose Factory and held it for some years. During that time bands of these men roved all through the North, visiting the Indian communities in the area. Particularly, tradition says, they called more than once at the Hudson Bay post at the present site of Barbed's Bay, and at another Hudson Bay post known now at Matachewan. As The Advance said some years ago in commenting on the visit of Sieur D'Iberville and his gallant explorers to this area:—"On many a Christmas, the woods and the lakes and the rocky slopes of this great North heard the songs and service of Christmas, and the Northern lights flashed upon scenes as truly glowing with the Christmas spirit as any of modern times or modern places."

Even to those who would confine Christmas observances in the Porcupine to more modern time than those of the French explorers, it must be that still the first even of modern Christmas celebrations was not held here as late as 1909. For a century before 1909, missionaries of both the Roman Catholic and the Anglican churches were stationed in this territory. Rev. Father Paradis travelled this part of the North for several years before gold mining started in this area and every Christmas he conducted Christmas Mass in some part of this Northern district.

Of course, to the old-timers of the New North the "first Christmas in the Porcupine" was in 1909. Earlier in that year, the Dome, the McIntyre, the Hollinger, and other mining properties had been staked and all over the area there was great prospecting work. Recalling those days of the "rush to Porcupine" should leave no doubt in the minds of any as to who gave this great camp its birth and strength. It was the prospector. To-day the prospector is almost the forgotten man. It is well at this Christmas time to remember that the Porcupine owes its life to-day to the prospector—to men like George Bannerman, Tom Geddes, Jack Wilson, Harry Preston, Bill Davidson, Hardrock Smith, Alex Gillies, Benny Hollinger, Tom Middleton and a gallant company of other good men. When George Bannerman went out and recorded some claims in Whitney township, a regular "rush" had started into Porcupine. There were literally hundreds of people in the area, including not only prospectors but the scores of others necessary to found a mining camp. Practically all of these left Porcupine to spend "Christmas at home" in many cases, and in other cases to spend the season in larger centres, for the prospectors came from all over the earth and could not always "get home for Christmas." There were only about twenty-five men left in Porcupine at Christmas, 1909. They had a very merry Christmas, despite the apparent chances against it. There was a store at Porcupine (Golden City) owned by Alex Stirling and Silas Gibson, with Dayton Ostrosser as manager, and the hospitality of that store was so widely known throughout the whole area that everybody who could not "get out for Christmas" simply travelled to the store and had a happy Christmas there. There was a turkey dinner, with most of the trimmings and the men ate and drank and smoked and talked and sang and there was a memorable happy time for all. Speaking of this Christmas some years ago, Mr. Ostrosser said:—"It was a happy Christmas, and I will always remember the true and deep friendship that seemed to express itself, as the gathering clasped hands and sang, "Auld Lang Syne."

The Porcupine Christmas of 1909 was strictly a Golden City event, but just a few years after, South Porcupine became the centre of celebration. For several years, the most of the pioneers went "down below" for Christmas, but there were always many left and it became the habit to gather at South Porcupine for Christmas Day. South Porcupine was always a friendly, hospitable town and the observance of Christmas in that town was something to be long remembered. Many are the true stories of tiny houses at South Porcupine that entertained from ten to twelve guests at Christmas time. The people had the true spirit of Christmas—the spirit of friendship, of kindness and goodwill—and with this spirit there will be a merry Christmas anywhere and always.

In 1912 Timmins came into the picture of Christmas in the Porcupine and showed that like Schumacher and South Porcupine, it had too the gifts to celebrate Christmas as it should be honoured. It would be unfair not to mention here that Schumacher from its earliest days, like Timmins and South Porcupine, made much of Christmas and celebrated the occasion right royally. The people of Schu-

macher always had the generous and thoughtful and friendly spirit of the man whose name the town bears. F. W. Schumacher, pioneer of the North, but now resident of Columbus, Ohio, for thirty years has made a special point of remembering Christmas. Every year, without fail, each and every pupil of the public and high school at Schumacher receives a Christmas gift from F. W. Schumacher. The gifts are always fitting and appropriate and valuable—sleighs, dolls, skates, toys, books and other valuable gifts. Through the years the town of Schumacher has celebrated Christmas in the true spirit of hospitality, kindness and goodwill. No man or woman or child is a stranger in Schumacher at Christmas.

From 1912 onward Timmins has never failed to have a very special observance of Christmas. In 1912 the population was possibly 500 with most of the people away for Christmas, and in the following years as the population increased, the number going away for Christmas increased, though the number staying here for the festival always increased. Just how the Christmas hospitality of this town worked is evidenced by the noted case of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Faithful. Their house was a small one, 22 feet by 25 feet over all, yet they entertained 20 guests one Christmas in the early days, and every guest looks back upon that Christmas as one of the most delightful ever enjoyed. "Wasn't it a little crowded?" one of the guests was asked years afterwards. "Sure, it was crowded," he answered, "crowded with fun, fest, jollity, joy, with melody, music, humor and happiness!" A feature of the old-time Christmas time in Timmins was the Charity Turkey Stag conducted by "Lap" Laprairie. That was a double Christmas event. It was itself a joyful occasion, and the proceeds prevented a single family in Timmins or district from going without the joys of Christmas. Sometimes the event made so much money that it was possible to send big hampers of Christmas cheer as far away as Nettle Lake.

In more recent years, Golden City, South Porcupine, Schumacher and Timmins have celebrated Christmas in more modern ways as well as in the gay old-fashioned friendly manners. There have been gay decorations and coloured lights in all these towns to show that these Northern centres honour Christmas, observe Christmas, and make much of it. The Christmas carol singing here by the Cornish people has always been a special feature. Of course, the churches all celebrate Christmas in special way, as in other places, but here it is the Christmas spirit of all the people that is the most notable and outstanding.

HELPFUL HINTS

Chilblains—To prevent chilblains rub damp salt on the hands and feet.

Placing Rugs—Many accidents have occurred through a poorly placed scatter rug.

Organdies—Gum arabic is excellent to use as a stiffening for delicate organdies and muslins.

The North Room—To make the room on the north side of the house more cheerful, paint it or paper it a daffodil yellow.

Reading in Bed—One should not read when lying down unless propped up sufficiently so that the page is held at right angles to the line of vision.

Blood Stains—If the finger is pricked while doing a piece of fine needlework and the article is stained with blood, a little ammonia will remove the mark.

Baking Cake—The cake will be lighter if the batter is beaten longer before the baking powder is added. Beat very little after adding the baking powder.

Cutting Cheese—Before cutting rich cheese, dip the knife blade in boiling water. By doing this the cheese can be cut into even thin slices without sticking to the knife.

The Double Boiler—The cooking can be quickened if salt water is put in the outer part of the double boiler. It will create a greater heat than if ordinary water is used.

The Canary—The canary will not scatter seed over the floor if a cheesecloth bag with an elastic at the top is pulled over the bottom of the cage, just covering the feed cups.

Rinse Well—The successful laundress pays particular attention to rinsing everything thoroughly. It gives colored clothes a bright, clear color, and helps make the white clothes "snow white."

Mashed Potatoes—Nutritive value will be added to the mashed potatoes if the potatoes are boiled in their jackets, the skins then removed and the potatoes mashed until fluffy. What is left over will make excellent potato cakes.

Stepladder—If there is an old worn-out rubber overshoe around the house, cut out a few small rectangular pieces to fit the bottoms of the stepladder legs and tack or glue a piece to the bottom leg. It may prevent the ladder from slipping on a wet floor.

SUGGESTED RECIPES

YULETIDE FRUIT BARS
(Mrs. S. T. B. and Mrs. J. C.)

1 cup flour, all-purpose.
1 tsp. baking powder, ½ tsp. salt,
1 cup light brown sugar, ¼ cup melted shortening, 1 tbsp. grated orange rind,
2 eggs, 4 cups cranberries, 1½ cups citron peel, cut fine.

Sift flour, measure, sift again with baking powder and salt; combine with sugar. Add melted shortening and orange rind to well beaten eggs; combine with dry ingredients. Put cranberries through coarse grinder, add with peel to first mixture; mix well. Pour into shallow well greased pan 11 by 7 inches, bake in electric oven (350 deg.) 50-60 mins. Cut in bars while warm. Makes 24 bars.



To All Our Friends and Customers
and a
Happy New Year

We thank you for your kindness and hope to
continue to serve you in the future

TIMMINS VALET CLEANERS

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To all our many customers and friends, we extend the
heartiest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Glad
New Year, with the thanks of both Management
and Staff

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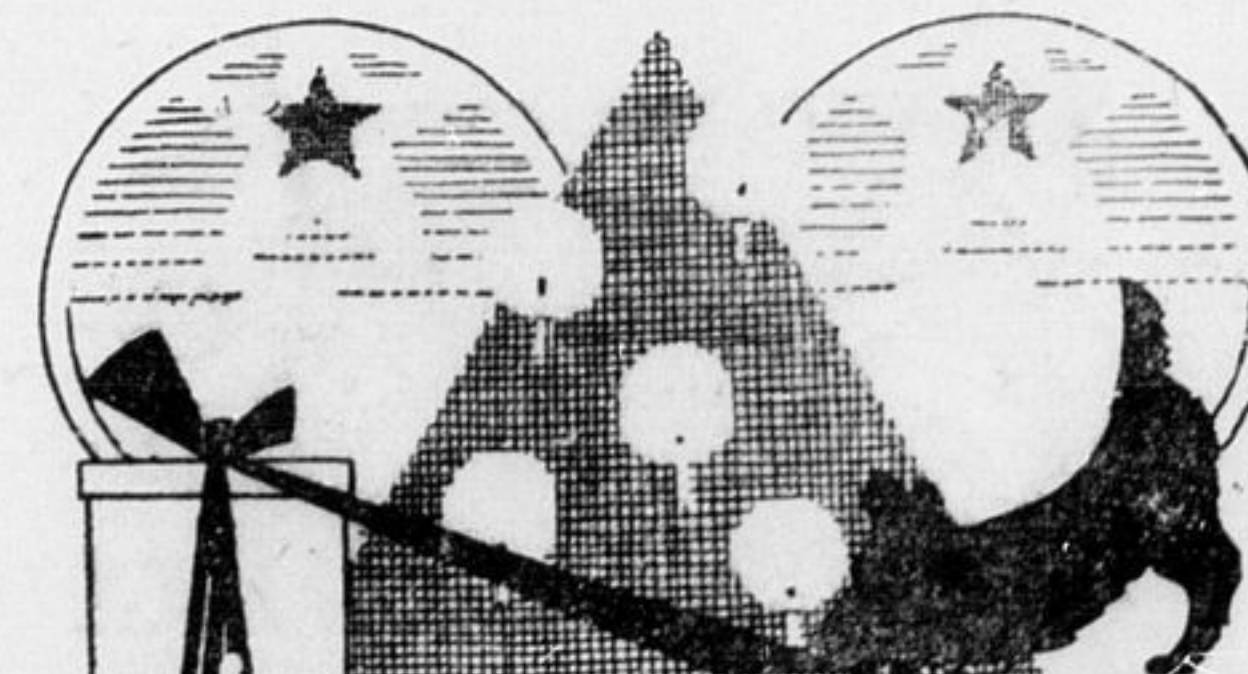
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service is a big help to Santa Claus at this
time, and we deliver herewith his special
Message:—

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

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patronage and kindness during 1945 we wish all a
Very Merry Christmas and the Best of Luck in 1946

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