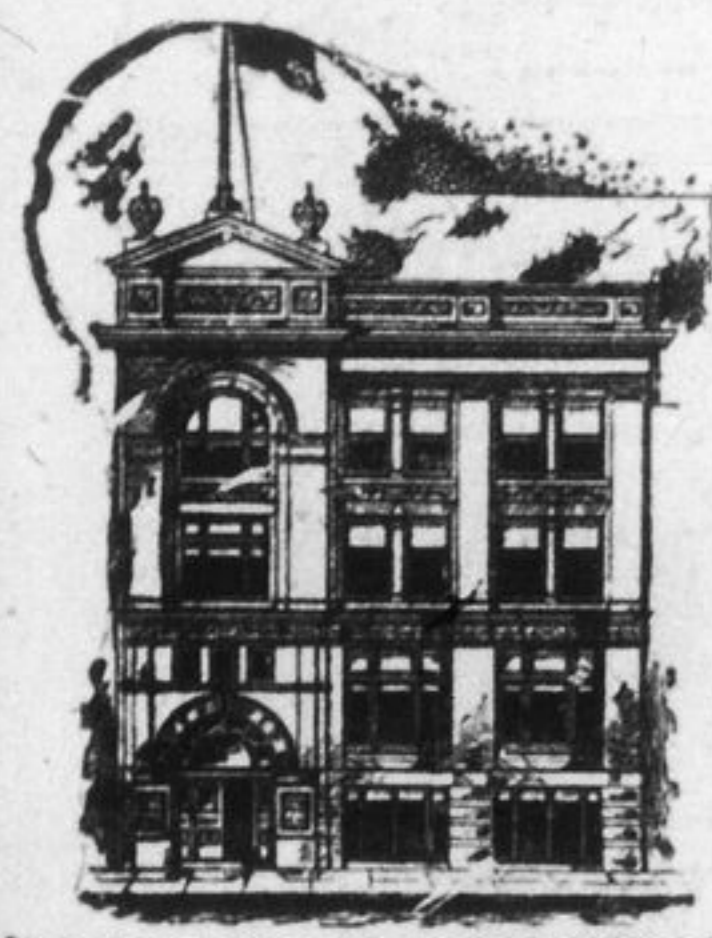


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THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

"Peace on Earth; Good Will to Men." The song of the Angels has come down through the ages, awakening in the hearts of men the sweetest and tenderest memories.

Two of the great nations, now at war, have declined to make merry, and for very different reasons. Germany, embittered in spirit, bereaved, depressed, cannot sing the old songs, and her people are advised not to attempt it.

England, on the other hand, presents the rare combination of optimism and contentment. There have been disappointments and reverses in the war, but John Bull, typical of his race, is not cast down nor dismayed.

"Peace on Earth; Good Will to Men." While the war clouds hang threateningly over the land this sounds like a mockery. It was never designed that Christian nations should be in deadly conflict, that they should pour out their life's blood in useless sacrifice.

Frank Darling, of Toronto, writes to the press to say that recruiting is retarded because the pensions offered to disabled and returned soldiers are inadequate.

NEW TROUBLE LOOMING UP.

The registration of the men of Britain was regarded at the time as the prelude to conscription. The men were enrolled according to ages. They were then divided into groups or classes. The first calls were upon the unmarried, and those without domestic burdens.

Now comes the surest test of the Act. The country, through the War Council, decides that it will be necessary to add one million men to the army, and it is to be done by draft upon the registered manhood.

The Irish trouble is looming up again largely. Mr. Redmond and Mr. Dillon did not wait for the word conscription to be used before they declared that they would be against it under any circumstances.

Germany was to pay the cost of its war out of the indemnities it collected. That was the announcement of her financial expert. Now there is to be increased taxation, to raise the money for war purposes in

imply a useless sacrifice of men at the front through inefficient leadership. They see the ground for this in the reports from the west of Europe and from the Dardanelles, where there appears to have been considerable loss of life through misunderstandings which should not have occurred.

It costs something to live well in Germany at the present time. Coffee sells at \$2.40 per lb.; bacon, \$1.60 per lb.; eggs, \$1.60 per dozen. The people are famishing according to the latest reports.

COMPARISON OF NAVIES.

At a time when so much attention is being concentrated upon the American navy, and in connection with a scheme of naval development, the article of Frederick Palmer is remarkable. It appears in the New York World, and deals with the lessons of the European war.

Off the coast of Chili Admiral Cradock failed because he had not the warships with a speed and range necessary to cope successfully with the ships of the enemy. Off the Falklands Admiral Sturdee met the same German ships and because he commanded a fleet that had the range and the speed sent the other ships to the bottom.

Again, and finally, in January of this year, the German battle cruiser squadron ventured out of its retreat. It included the light cruisers and a flotilla of destroyers. But the British navy sent force enough out to defeat the Germans.

Others follow. We, who by our nature, ought to be the most up to date, are the most backward. We are only ten years behind the other. Add two years for construction of a battle cruiser, if we lay one down, and we are twelve.

The American Naval Board under Admiral Dewey does not read the lesson of Europe in the same way. The battleship is decided to be the principle reliance of the navy. The report of the Navy Department "warns against an exaggerated value of the battle cruiser."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dr. Merchant recommends a technical high school for London. Technical education in Kingston will never amount to much until there is special accommodation and equipment for it.

London Free Press says there "must be a general election or none at all." It does not want any contested by-elections. Why? The Government might be defeated in them, and that would never do.

Taking into account the great reserve that must be maintained in order to meet the wastage of fifteen per cent, it will be necessary to train an army of 3,500,000 in Britain during the next year. England's contemptible little army grows.

Germany was to pay the cost of its war out of the indemnities it collected. That was the announcement of her financial expert. Now there is to be increased taxation, to raise the money for war purposes in

the absence of the thousands of millions that the Allies were expected to pay. In anticipation of this, the German people are groaning aloud.

It is reported that 500 aeroplanes and air battle cruisers will some of these days raid the German battle-ships at Essen and Kiel. Bosh! Raids of this kind are not advertised.

Dr. Richardson is having the most encouraging support from the electors as a candidate for the Mayoralty. The people are warmly tendering him their support, and he appreciates this very much.

Horse flesh has been declared by the New York Board of Health as legal for domestic use. This decision was largely based upon the declaration of Dr. Ackerman, who found that horse meat from England was selling at higher prices in Brussels than Argentine beef.

The British Government loaned \$200,000,000 to British business men who had suffered at the outset of the war. Most of this money has been paid back. So that the loan of wheat to the farmers of Canada, and the proposed loan of money, is not a new thing.

SANTA CLAUS.

Santa Claus is a little, fat old man who lives just across from the North Pole and doesn't do a thing from one year's end to the other but make toys for good little children. On the day before Christmas he gathers these toys together and starts out to deliver them to children who have attended Sunday School regularly ever since December 1st.

Santa Claus does not use an automobile, for fear that he might have a puncture and disappoint some little boy or girl. He uses reindeer instead, for the reindeer is not liable to run out of gasoline and leave Santa Claus stranded on the roof of some house.

Santa Claus never comes in through a door or window, but always slides down the chimney feet foremost without getting soot in his whiskers. He then goes to the biggest stocking, which is usually little brother's, and crams it full of things that little brother has wanted for four weeks.

Christmas is the accepted time for all children who are scattered from coast to coast to return home in flare skirts and purple top coats and lean heavily against one of mother's plain, homespun dinners. Mother's Christmas dinner usually makes a severe course spread at Sherry's look like the withered fragments of a Dutch lunch, and on this account it is highly prized by children who have held sweet communion with the college boarding-bill for nine straight months.

Christmas is always preceded by one day which is the busiest in the year for the average husband. The most difficult task which a man has to perform is to pick out a Christmas present for a wife who can't think of a thing she wants but love and affection and possibly a scalpskin saque. Many a man has bought his wife a handsome carpet-sweeper for Christmas, only to be asked later by some aggrieved relative why he didn't throw in a sack of flour.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is a violent epidemic of unselfishness which happens only once a year. It is the one day in which the world forgets the business of grabbing and learns the beauty of giving. If everybody would live in the spirit of Christmas Day the whole year around, there would be no incentive to join the church in the hope of getting to Heaven. This might depopulate the churches, but it would make it easier to raise the pastor's salary without slaughtering three or four innocent home-talent plays every season.

THE SPEED MANIAC.

All men should lift their feet and kick against the cheerful lumatic, who gives his car no end of power, and burns up sixty miles an hour. We see him whiz by our abodes; we meet him on the country roads; he kills our geese and cats and dogs, and spoils our Poland China hogs.

They've found that speeding is a bore, and now they're looking for a goat; they seize that driver by the throat, and take him to the donjon keep, where he may gnash his teeth and weep. They fine him forty-seven wheels, with trimmings added, so he feels, when he's permitted to withdraw, there surely ought to be a law. This happens every day or three; the criminal too oft goes free, while motorists who'd not offend, must pay the fiddler in the end.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Bad Example. (Port Arthur Chronicle.) Sir Richard McBride is a classic example of a man with a brilliant future behind him.

Wages And Drink. (Bramford Expositor.) The high wages earned by the British workers on munitions, giving them a never-dreamed-of prosperity, seem to have doubled their drink expenditure in many cases.

The Outlook. (Montreal Star.) From the spirit of discord which reigned in the Ford peace party up to an hour before landing, it looks as though one-half of them would be in the trenches against the other half before Christmas.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

E. J. B. Pense was appointed treasurer of the Diocese of Ontario. Members of St. James' Church Bible class collected at the residence of their teacher, George E. Hague, of the Merchants Bank, and presented him with an elegant gold-headed cane.

F. Conway has purchased a fine lot on Brock street, adjacent to Dr. Fowler's residence.

RANDOM REELS

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

Once in a while Santa Claus finds time to be at the Christmas tree at the church in false whiskers and a cotton batten stomach, but there are so many more children to bring presents to now than there used to be that it keeps him busy trotting up and down chimneys practically every minute. Some children sit up and wait for Santa Claus to come down the chimney, but the Sand Man almost always gets ahead of him.

Some people say there is no Santa Claus, but you can't fool the children. Whenever anybody tells them that their father is Santa Claus, they look at father's stomach and smooth chin and laugh. Besides, they know that father couldn't get down a chimney with his long legs without using a ladder and a rope. Just because nobody ever caught Santa Claus in the act of filling the stockings is no sign that he didn't do it, and besides, he always put the right present in the right stocking, which proves it.

The main purposes of Christmas is to make the children happy. Any Christmas which fails to perform this important function becomes a tragedy. People who have no children of their own generally manage to find a few in the neighborhood who are not overstocked with toys, and sneak up on the back porch after supper with an armful of suspicious-looking bundles. These kind-hearted folks miss the biggest joy in life, however, by not being present in the morning when the children wake up and find their stockings choked with Noah's arks, toy pianos, hobby horses and peanut candy. The enraptured look on the face of a baby girl when she first catches sight of a wobbly-eyed French doll on Christmas morning is worth more than all the war loans ever floated.

Rippling Rhymes

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What! is the Kaiser's first and foremost ally, the Almighty, suspected of desertion? Wilfrid Franklia Baker and Miss Mabel Elizabeth Vasilatine, both of Brockville were married on Tuesday.

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Happy Christmas TO ALL. No work Christmas Day. Don't forget to order your Christmas Coal today. Crawford, Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.