

A Message From Santa Claus

BOOKS THAT BOYS AND GIRLS WOULD LIKE

BONNIE PRINCE FELLAT—
The story of a Pony and His Friends, by Marshall Saunders

LITTLE WOMEN—
By Louisa Alcott.

THE CHILDREN'S BLUE BIRD—
By Maurice Maeterlinck.

FIFTY FAMOUS FAIRY TALES—
By Miss Mulock.

THE LITTLE LAME PUSSIE—
By Miss Mulock.

STAMPKRAFT BOOKS—
Fit the picture to the story.
See our Children's Book Department.

R. Uglow & Co.

INCREASE IN CONVICTS

There Are at Present 652 in the Portsmouth Penitentiary.

The population of the prisons and penitentiaries in eastern Canada has increased alarmingly during the past year and upon inquiry at the Portsmouth penitentiary it is found that the number of prisoners at that institution alone is fifty per cent greater than it was in January, 1916, just five years ago, the increase was most marked during the past twelve months. The exact number in the prison on Friday was 652. This is the largest number of inmates at Portsmouth penitentiary since 1898, the year before the Ticket-of-Leave Act came into force. By the adoption of this act the daily average of men in captivity was rapidly reduced and was not, therefore, a reliable index to the condition of crime in the country, but with that act still in operation the rapid rise in the daily average shows that crime is increasing enormously.

When questioned as to the cause, Warden Ponsford said that he did not attribute the present increase to industrial disturbance, but to quite different social cause. Among them came first a disregard for law and a disposition to live without work. He did think, however, that within the next six months there would be a further increase due to unemployment in several of the large centres. When asked the predominant ages of the prisoners now in Portsmouth, Warden Ponsford said that the majority were between the ages of 20 and 30 years, and laborers represented the largest number. This would indicate the need for technical schools throughout the country where skilled trades and the habit of industry might be taught.

Moscow Wedding Anniversary.
A pleasant event was celebrated at Moscow, on Dec. 10th, on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Morley Huffman, when they were "At Home" to their many friends during the afternoon and evening. A buffet lunch was served. Mrs. Amey poured the tea and Mrs. Bell cut the wedding cake. During the afternoon and evening, seventy-five guests called. At the conclusion of the reception the gathering was called to order by Alf. M. Bell, who, after some remarks of the occasion, called on Henry Huffman, who read an address and Mrs. Alfred Bell presented Mr. and Mrs. Huffman on behalf of their cousins, with a beautiful silver tea service.

Cheer Up!
The Bad Boy threw a snowball at the Optimist and knocked the Optimist's hat into the street. "Oh, well," smiled the Optimist, as he brushed the snow off his hat, "Youth will have its fling!"

Paw Knows Everything.
Willie—Paw, what is Utopia?
Paw—Utopia is a place where men are as perfect as their wives expect them to be, my son.

Wuff!
She tries to sing like Mary Ann. And we all shed a tear: She has an ear for music, but She can't sing with her ear.

Gosh!
A despatch from Toos, W. Va., informs us that a Norfolk and Western brakeman named Bass had his foot injured near Toe.

Letters to the Editor

G.W.V.A. Feels Grateful.
Kingston, Dec. 17.—(To the Editor): I trust you will permit me to use your column for the purpose of tendering, on behalf of the G.W.V.A. and the tournament committee, our very sincere thanks to the many citizens who contributed by their kindly assistance to make what was undoubtedly a success of the tournament at the armories last night.

Special thanks is due to Brig-Gen. King for permission to use the armories, his patronage and presence; Major-General Sir A. C. Macdonnell and officers, Dr. F. J. O'Connor, the press, the timekeeper, referee, seconds and everyone else who were on hand to help out. Special reference is due to the Queen's Athletic Association for their kindly help and co-operation. Last thought not least are the boys who put up the ring at the armories and the boxers and wrestlers.

The tournament was more or less in the nature of an experiment on the part of the G.W.V.A., and from the sporting point of view the result was most gratifying; so look out for some real good things in the near future.

Kingston wants plenty of good, clean sport and with the co-operation of the G.W.V.A. is out to encourage it by any means in its power.

After last night's exhibition and the evident appreciation of the audience, I am convinced that the Athletic Association, which is about to be formed in Kingston is just what we want.

Why should Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa have their Athletic Associations and Kingston? Let us get busy, not any group or class, but every citizen who loves clean living and the best guarantee of clean living and have for our slogan, Kingston to the front everything and all the time.

A decided compliment was passed to the sporting element of Kingston by the professional boxers and wrestlers, who expressed their opinion that in all their experience, they had never performed before a better crowd of clean-cut sports than those composing the audience at the armories last night.

A. McDONOUGH,
Vice President G.W.V.A. & Chairman Tournament Committee.

IN NEED OF ROLLING STOCK

Hold Out Promises of Great Contracts for Concerns Outside of Russia.
Reval, Esthonia, Dec. 17.—Since Trotsky, the Bolshevik war minister, took over the Russian railroads and put them under the personal direction of Sverdloff, there has been a marked improvement in transportation conditions. Sverdloff lived for several years in America and had the advantage of association with the Stevens railway experts in Russia. He is not a politician but an economist and executive who has been identified since the Bolshevik regime with the Russian Co-operative and the Russian Red Cross.

However, the improvements made in rolling stock, have been temporary rather than permanent. By forced labor and the stripping of disabled locomotives and care to repair others an excellent showing has been made. This enabled the Russian forces to drive against Poland but even the Bolsheviks do not claim the improvement was effected by manufacturing repairs.

A statement of transportation conditions, published by the Russian Economic Life, shows that, according to Bolshevik figures, 6,677 locomotives were operating on Russian railroads in September. The attempt to have locomotives repaired in private shops and 9,685 were in repair shops, was an acknowledged failure. Efforts to have repairs done in Esthonia also failed to bring desired results, and the contract with the Vulcan Repair Works in Germany was not a success. The premium system in Soviet shops speeded up repairs, but was not without its faults as it encouraged too hasty work and locomotives were frequently turned out in such condition that they broke down in a short time.

This situation makes it clear why all the Soviet commercial agents talk constantly about locomotives and railway repairs and hold out promises of immense contracts to the United States and England, the two countries which could supply rolling stock in the immense quantities Russia will require.

Strange!
"This is a strange world, seems to me!"
Remarked Woodchopper Tupp:
"For, each time I chop down a tree, I have to chop it up."
Things To Worry About.
Inheritance taxes can be paid with Victory bonds at their full valuation.

TWICE TOLD TALES

News of Kingston

TEN YEARS AGO.
The Senior O.H.A. schedule has been drafted with Kingston, Varsity and Argos in Group 1.

Few people are aware of the fact that the Rev. W. F. Fitzgerald was captain of the football team of Trinity College, Dublin, at one time.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fry, Newburgh, celebrated their golden wedding on Dec. 9th, and Mr. and Mrs. George Kitson, of Verona, three days later.

"Bert" Menzies has passed the junior examinations of the Ontario College of Pharmacy with high honors. The student boarders of Mrs. Pidgeon, Elm street, presented her with a full set of aluminum kitchen utensils before they left to spend Christmas at their homes.

Charles Webster and bride returned home from their honeymoon trip to Washington.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.
W. J. Bryson was elected president of Branch No. 483, I.C.B.U., with W. Taylor and P. Donoghue secretaries.

Last night's city council meeting was attended by Aida, Curtis, Drenner, Meek, Martin, McKelvey, Stewart, Strange, Richardson, Newlands, Tait, Gaskin, Walkem, McMahon, Mandell and Rigney.

Captain Lee gave a wonderful lecture, with illustrations, on the Battle of Waterloo in the opera house last night. Capt. Lee is instructor of strategy and tactics at R.M.C.

Hugh Nickle contemplates putting kennel under the seats for those people who persist in bringing their dogs on the street cars.

The players to represent Queen's in the coming American tour are: Curtis, Hiscock, McLennan, Harty, Weatherhead, McKay, Cunningham, Rayside, Irwin, Merrill and Brock.



MAKE YOUR GIFTS With Footwear

HOCKEY BOOTS—for the Boys.
SLIPPERS—for the Men.
PARTY SHOES—for the Girls.
—BEDROOM SLIPPERS—for Women.
SLIPPERS, MOCCASINS, RUBBERS and FANCY SHOES—for the Kiddies.

Abernethy's Shoe Store

Angrove's Repairs

Scales, Talking Machines, Bicycles, Baby Carriages, Lawn Mowers, etc. We do repair work right and guarantee satisfaction.

187 WELLINGTON STREET

BRITAIN PLANNING WORK FOR THE IDLE

If Building Trade Refuses to Negotiate Government Will Operate.

London, Dec. 18.—The National Federation of Building Trade Operatives has decided not to accept invitation to meet Labor Minister Macnamara on Monday to discuss a scheme for absorbing 50,000 unemployed ex-service men in the building industry. In view of the fact that the building trade is in need of many thousands more workers, the government has been negotiating with the unions concerned with the purpose of securing a dilution of labor by the introduction of the unemployed ex-service men.

The government's proposals have been readjusted several times to meet objections raised by the unions, and the government's "final proposals" were to have been discussed at Monday's meeting. Thursday's discussion of the operatives brought matters to a head, and it is understood if the hitch in the negotiations is not quickly overcome the government is prepared with plans for proceeding with direct building work, in which thousands of unemployed ex-service men would be absorbed.

The operatives have given no official reason for their refusal to meet the labor minister, but it is stated they took particular objection to the suggested finality of the proposals, which they claim should have been submitted to them for consideration before any meeting took place.

BRITAIN'S DIVORCE COURT CONGESTED

Proposal Made That Cases be Heard at the Ordinary Assizes.

London, Dec. 17.—The pressure of work in the Divorce Court has led to various suggestions for relief, and it is now made clear by the Administration of Justice Bill, which the lord chancellor has introduced, that a serious attempt is to be made to reform the legal system by a process of devolution. The first section of this measure provides for the trial of matrimonial cases by any commissioner of assize. The class of cases to be tried will be prescribed by the lord chancellor by order made with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, and the President of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division.

The second section of this bill gives a high court judge a discretion, on the application by either party to an action, to order the action to be tried without a jury. But there are important exceptions. In actions for fraud, libel, slander, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, seduction, and breach of promise of marriage the consent of both parties must be obtained to trial without a jury. This section is not to affect the right of any party under section 28 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1857, to insist on having contested matters of fact tried with a jury, or the similar right of an heir-at-law in probate action.

We Hope It Is Contagious!
Dear Luke: I see that 60,000 of champagne are coming to this country for "Medicinal Purposes." What disease do I have to get to get "Invalid."

"IN THE PUBLIC EYE"
By J. J. Stewart

THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

CORRECT EXAMINATION

THE only safe foundation upon which to build better eyesight is a perfect eye examination conducted by an experienced optometrist. He will test you for your far and near focal range and to see if you are afflicted with astigmatism. After his diagnosis the lenses that will clear your vision will be ground for you and comfortably mounted.

J. J. Stewart
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Opens Tuesday and Saturday nights until after Christmas, to take Photographs.

Hours 7.30 to 10 p.m.

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Phone 1318w. 92 Princess Street.

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Cash Grocery

SPECIALS THIS WEEK

Stewing Figs . . . 3 lbs. for 25c.
Canned Pumpkin . . . 10c. tin
Princess Soap Chips—reg. 15c. line. Our price . . . 3 packages for 25c.
Laundry Soap 7c. bar

We still have that good Black Tea . . . 3 lbs for \$1.00

We have a full line of Christmas Candles, Fruits, etc., at best prices in the city.

Montreal and Charles Street.
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Goods delivered to all parts of the city.

Two well heated, unfurnished rooms; Heat, Hot, Telephone Building, Apply to
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Has Been Taken Over By G. A. WRIGHT'S MACHINE WORKS
We specialize in Welding broken parts of Automobiles, Cracked Water Jacket, etc.
All work guaranteed.
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THOMAS COPLEY
Telephone 987.

Wanting anything done in the carpenter line. Estimates given on all kinds of repairs and new work; also hardwood floors of all kinds. All orders will receive prompt attention. Shop 28 Queen Street.

Oh, Very Well!
The sun is setting in the west, And yet we do not fuss or fret; We know that it is for the best, It has no other place to set.

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An Appropriate Practical Gift—

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Nothing is more appreciated than Footwear. We have a suitable gift for every member of the family; useful and acceptable presents.

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- Moccasins.
- Overgaiters.
- Boudoir Slippers.
- Dress Shoes.
- Hockey Boots.
- Leather Slippers.
- Overshoes.
- Rubber Boots.
- Evening Slippers.

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Open Evenings.

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From Christmas to Christmas your gift of Furniture will be remembered. It's going to be a Furniture Christmas. Why? Because people know that there is nothing that will be more appreciated by their friends than a Work Basket, Tea Table, Piano or Parlor Lamp, Smokers' sets, Doll Carriages, and Children's Desk and Chairs.

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R. J. RODGER
132 Princess St.

Baggage is Baggage.
Dusty Miller has discovered that B. A. Satchell is a baggage man on the B. and O. Railroad and runs out of Cincinnati.

No Joke.
A married man can sing this song. This ballad of expense: Your dollars will not last you long Unless your wife has sense.