

Famous Kingstontians Abroad

Kingston Men Who Left Home To Gain Fame

No. 33

William Tomkins, Executive Secretary, San Diego Chamber of Commerce

Still the stories of the Kingston boys, who have gone out into the world to show people what the Limestone City product can do, come in to us. This is the latest and has been saved for the Christmas edition because it is particularly good. All the famous Kingstontians have earned their titles well, some in the business world, others in the professional, and many in the sphere of politics. Occasionally, however,



WILLIAM TOMKINS

There appeared a case like the present when the story tells not only of success but of many ups and downs and travels all over the world. We have received several accounts of the lives of Kingston boys abroad, which, although told lightly and as if the most natural course of events ever known had led them to their present standing, yet under the surface lies the story of a long, hard fight with dashes of comedy and tragedy about evenly interspersed. It will suffice to say that this is one of the best of them because the work happened to suit him, Mr. Tomkins started out on advertising work. He travelled all over Canada and the United States many times on big advertising, promotion and publicity campaigns, and came to be recognized as a leader in this particular line of work. During the year 1916 he was Director of Advertising of the Panama-California International Exposition. From what we can gather from his remarks about himself, Mr. Tomkins at last found the city of his dreams when he landed in San Diego, California.

in baseball either, but perhaps he had the joy of watching the bare-handed, hard-hitting old-timers of the Orientals, or the Park Nines, in action. In the winter he very likely skated on the lake, on Caton's or on the old Quarry Pond on Collingwood street.

What we know for a certainty is that his father was alderman of Victoria ward for fifteen consecutive years, a fact which in itself would entitle him to a place in this series. There are not many of the young old boys of this city who do not remember Alderman or Councilman Robert Tomkins, or "Bob" as he was better known. He had three sons, one, James, who has since died, went to Buffalo from Kingston and thence to New York where he was with the Western Union Telegraph Company until the time of his death. Another boy, Robert Jr., went to the Dakotas and started in the cattle business. Later he changed to Chicago and started up in the fertilizer and tallow business in which he is still engaged in that city as S. R. Tomkins.

The third son is the subject of this sketch. Two years after he left Kingston he found himself in Dakota Territory, in the Sioux Indian country. Here he followed up a variety of occupations. For a great while he was a genuine, dyed-in-the-wool cow-boy and romped around the western stretches with as much ease as he had formerly traversed the vacant lots in Victoria Ward. For a considerable time after he had gained experience he acted as an interpreter between the Indians and the whites in matters of business, pleasure and fighting. Then, advancing still more, he took up the cattle business himself.

Tired of the monotonous life of raising cattle, and still more cattle, he sought further diversion and experience. With his knowledge of beef on the hoof and off, he was valuable to any packing firm, and accepted a position with Morris & Company, Chicago, as manager of their Northwestern district. This satisfied him for eight years, but he again became a fated with the desire to seek for an earthly paradise.

With the end in view, probably, of looking for the ideal city of the world, or more likely because the work happened to suit him, Mr. Tomkins started out on advertising work. He travelled all over Canada and the United States many times on big advertising, promotion and publicity campaigns, and came to be recognized as a leader in this particular line of work. During the year 1916 he was Director of Advertising of the Panama-California International Exposition.

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nia. In 1913 he was made Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and has held that position ever since with the exception of the one year spent with the Panama-California Exposition. With his adopted city San Diego as the present combination of his work and pleasure, Mr. Tomkins certainly has every reason to be contented, if some of the prospectuses of the city which we have seen tell half half the truth. Although this son of Kingston is living in one of the finest cities in the world, and although the advancement of that city and its present high standing are in some measure parts of his past work and will be his work in the future, yet he always finds a place in his heart for the old Limestone Town in Canada, as do all her sons abroad. He retains a most kindly memory of his birthplace and "untold appreciation of the excellent scholastic system which has been to my mind one of the greatest assets of Canada."

CHRISTMAS SAYINGS

Don't forget the mistletoe. Romance still lives. Don't forget that it ought to be a merry Christmas. Don't deny the little ones' ideas about Santa Clause. Don't scoff at the lingering superstitions of the good old days. Don't refrain from giving because you can't afford to give much. The intrinsic value of a gift counts for nothing. It is the thought which prompts it that matters. Don't let the wife give you a Christmas present in the form of cigars. If she persists in doing so, don't smoke them—give them away again, without letting her know about it, of course. Don't, if you get up on your wrong side, make everybody else miserable. Don't forget to think at least once during the day what Christmas really means. Don't give a present unless you want to. Better not give at all than give insincerely. Don't forget that the giving of Christmas boxes, like charity, should begin at home. Don't if you are a girl, stand under the mistletoe until you see the right chap approaching. Don't kiss somebody else's best girl, even though she is under the mistletoe. There might be a row. Don't work on Christmas Day if you can avoid it. If you have to, however, don't make a song about it. Don't give Johnnie a trumpet and Peter a whistle and expect to have a quiet time. It's unreasonable. Don't put off buying presents until the last minute. You'll get better value and avoid the crush if you shop early. Some people leave old Common Sense in the stable for weeks at a time. But they do not forget to exercise old common sense every day. It doesn't matter how cold it gets, the girl who is wearing her first diamond ring doesn't need gloves.

WORK OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY DOING ITS "BIT" TO GIVE CHILDREN CHANCE THEY DESERVE.

From time to time a report of a meeting of the Children's Aid Society appears in the newspapers telling of the number of wards placed in foster homes. These are the statistics in the case, but behind the figures are stories of young lives rescued from destitution, from sordid surroundings, to be given their right to develop, to enjoy the world, and fill in its places of usefulness.

Intertwined with these stories are threads of heartache often, sometimes even of tragedy. Tears have been shed copiously over the days of slavery in the south when families were scattered and hearts wrung over separation. Few good people, even while they support the great work for children, the Children's Aid, stop to take into account the strength of the ties that bind together the mothers and fathers, and their little ones, brothers and sisters, who because of circumstances must go different ways, that the children may get their chance in life.

The Children's Aid Society has been carrying on a work that calls for warm praise. At the annual meeting of the Association held recently, it was reported that the work of the year had been most successfully carried on. John Pollock, the energetic agent, has had quite a list of cases to attend to, and to each one he has given the very best of care and consideration.

EMMANUEL. The earth is hushed in sleep, While shepherds watch their sheep, The vigil of the Christmas morn When, lo, an angel sings, Good news to man brings— "The Saviour, Christ the Lord is born."

The angel hosts reply "Glory to God on high, To men of good will peace on earth." In haste the shepherds go, And at the manger low Adore the King proclaimed at birth. The humble hear In reverential fear That Christ has come with them to dwell. So be our hearts all free From pride and vanity That He may be Emmanuel!

Where Ignorance is Bliss. A lawyer was conducting a case in court not long ago and one of the witnesses, a burly negro, confessed that at the time of his arrest, he was engaged in a crap game. Immediately the lawyer said, "Now, sir, I want you to tell the jury just how you deal craps." "Vass dat!" asked the witness, rolling his eyes. "Address the jury, sir," thundered the lawyer, "and tell them just how you deal craps." "Lemme outen heah!" cried the witness uneasily. "Fust thing I know this zem-man gwine to ask me how to drink a sandwich."

MISS EARLY SHOPPER GRABS THE BARGAINS

Postal and Express Employees Would Welcome Early Christmas Mailing.

"You are not that kind of a person surely!" came a chorus of dismayed voices the other evening, when a young woman calmly announced that the previous day she had tied up seven parcels, already to mail for Christmas.

"We always have thought you were human," remarked a member of the group, and another: "Are you in the habit of doing this sort of thing? Now, don't tell us you are." "It is positively the first time in my life I have been guilty of getting ready before the last minute," said the foreridden young woman, "but there are several reasons why I have taken time by the forelock this year. In the first place, last year, I was taken ill with quinsy, just three weeks before Christmas, when I had made a preparation made. I managed to enlist the help of a busy friend, but most of the last day, before December 25th were spent in writing apologetic letters. Looking back over previous years, I recall that my Christmas buying ran away with an alarming amount of money, for which there seemed to be no accounting. This year, I started in early, kept my eyes open, watched the advertisements in the papers, and have been comparing values. I know my money is going farther than it ever has before."

A new arrival at the party took up the theme of conversation. "I have become a confirmed bargain grabber this past month," she stated. "You should just see the stationery, books, holsey, gloves, woolies and other wonders of good buying I have laid away." And then there came another chorus of groans from the unwise virgins.

Not only are special sale offerings being snatched up by the far-sighted, but the people who value time as well as money are stocking up with dainty wrapping paper, ribbons, Christmas stickers, labels, tags and cord before the final grand rush for these supplies. "People save not only themselves, but they confer a great boon on us when they buy early the things that will have to be bought under any circumstances," said a manager of a shop that deals largely in Christmas wrapper supplies.

A post office employee, who was waiting at the counter, expressed the hope that the "shop early" movement this year would be extended to the shipping of parcels by mail and express. "After the rush of the last few days before, we are too dead tired to care what happens on Christmas Day," he said.

To Frighten Snakes. Natives in the southern part of Liberia, who have to travel in the snake-infested swamps, rub their feet with garlic and oil, and as they move along swish the air with light rods. Even the voracious and venomous boa constrictor will hurry away from the garlic, and the other species are terrified at the swishing.

THE REAL GIFT.

Christmas gifts are neither more nor less translated thoughts. A selfish or a careless Christmas gift is worth no more than a selfish or careless thought to the receiver, no matter what its cost in money may have been. That is why many a youngster and many a grown up also, finds Christmas day a time of bitter disillusionment and disappointment.

Presents bought in selfish hope of return, or in careless fulfillment of obligation, or even for the fleeting pleasure of the moment can never bring real appreciation to the receiver or real pleasure to the giver. For they lack the essential elements of "good will" and thought for the future.

None of us has had so much that we do not desire those dear to us to have more. None of us has lived so successfully that we do not desire others to avoid the mistakes we have made. The successful Christmas gifts are those which are not based on the selfish pleasure of the moment.

THE MISTLETOE BOUGH

There are several poems entitled, "The Mistletoe Bough." The one we print is by Thomas Haynes Bayly.

The mistletoe hung in the castle hall, The holy branch shone on the old oak wall; And the baron's retainers were blithe and gay, And keeping their Christmas holiday. The baron beheld with a father's pride His beautiful child, young Lovell's bride; While she with her bright eyes seemed to be The star of the goodly company.

"I'm weary of dancing now," she cried: "Here tarry a moment—I'll hide! I'll hide!" And Lovell, be sure thou're first to trace The clew to my secret lurking place."

Away she ran—and her friends began Each tower to search, and each nook to scan; And young Lovell cried, "Oh, where dost thou hide? I'm lonesome without thee, my own dear bride."

They sought her that night, and they sought her next day, And they sought her in vain when a week passed away; In the highest, the lowest, the loneliest spot, Young Lovell sought wildly—but found her not. And years flew by and their grief was told at last: Was told as a sorrowful tale long past; And when Lovell appeared, the children cried,

"The greatest Ice Cutter. A girl cashier in a quick lunch joint buttonholed the boss one day. "Look here, governor," she began, "I want a vacation. I've got to get my health back. My beauty is beginning to fade." "Why do you think so, little one?" the boss asked with an indulgent smile. "The men," said the girl cashier, "are beginning to count their change."

! the old man weeps for his fairy bride.

At length an oak chest, that had long lain hid, Was found in the castle—they raised the lid, And a skeleton form lay mouldering there In the bridal wreath of that lady fair!

O sad was her fate,—in sportive jest She hid from her lord in the old oak chest, It closed with a spring!—and dreadful doom The bride lay clasped in her living tomb.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS. "Christmas time is the best time because it is the kindest time. Nobody ever felt happy without feeling very kind, and nobody ever felt very kind without feeling a little happy. So, of course, either way about, the happiest time is the kindest time—that's this time. The most beautiful things our eyes can see are the stars, and for that reason and in remembrance of One Star, we set candles on the tree to be stars in the house. So we make Christmas time a time of stars indoors, and they strive warmly against the great out-of-doors; that is like the cold of other seasons not so kind—We set our candles on the tree and keep them bright throughout Christmas time, for while they shine upon us, we have light to see this life, not as a battle but as the march of a mighty fellowship."

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McIntosh Bros. The People's Store. FEATURING CHRISTMAS MERCHANDISE. From now until Christmas Eve, all shopping roads lead directly to this store, favorably known for the sale of less expensive merchandise. The buying public will support any enterprise which honestly give them more for their dollars—we give the people the best value for their money. You often hear people say: "That the McIntosh Store is always well-filled with customers." This is true. The reason so many people come here is because we give splendid merchandise, and ask the lowest possible prices. We do not say that you cannot secure good values elsewhere, but this we do know that through operating six stores with our large volume of business and buying in large quantities, permits us to give excellent values to everybody. We have a wonderful assemblage of Christmas merchandise suitable for gifts, and we are putting all our efforts into a big endeavor to make your dollar do twice (or nearly so) the work it ordinarily does in the purchase of holiday goods. Come prepared to share in the low prices that this popular price store offers whenever it is most convenient to come. McIntosh Bros. Manager P. Jesse

EASTERN DAIRY SCHOOL. KINGSTON, ONTARIO. (Courses 1921). REGULAR LONG COURSE JANUARY 3rd to MAR. 23rd. This course covers comprehensively all the practical and scientific phases of the manufacture of dairy products. At the close of this course, written and practical examination will be held and certificates granted. SPECIAL SHORT COURSES Special Cheesemakers' Week, February 21st to February 26th Buttermakers' Week, March 7th to 12th. The short course given the creamery men last year was such an unqualified success from every standpoint, and has resulted in such marked improvement in the quality of creamery butter that it has been decided to repeat this course again at this session of the Dairy School, and also to extend the same privilege to cheesemakers by setting aside one week for a discussion of cheese problems. Copies of the School Calendar, giving full information concerning various courses may be obtained on application to the Superintendent. GEO. A. PUTNAM, Director of Dairy Education, Toronto, Ont. L. A. ZUFELT, Superintendent Dairy School, Kingston, Ontario. HON. MANNING DOHERTY, Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, Ont.