

MY CHRISTMAS WISH



Here you see our Christmas tree, one of the best type, too, and while, dear sir, 'tis not a fir, yet it was made "fir" you. 'Tis true you see upon this tree no presents rich and rare; yet please be kind and bear in mind, in wish the gifts are there. We wish you all, the short and tall, young, middle-aged and grey, the poor, the rich, white, black as pitch, A MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY

L. T. BEST, DRUGGIST 124 PRINCESS STREET

A Good, Glad Christmastide, my friend, To you and yours is the wish I send. May all your tomorrows have skies of blue, And all your friends be loving and true.

First Christmas Tree

WHEN Ansgarius preached the White Christ to the Vikings of the North, so runs the legend of the Christmas tree, the Lord sent his three messengers, Faith, Hope, and Love, to help light the first tree. Seeking one that should be high as hope, wide as love, and that bore the sign of the cross on every bough, they chose the balsam fir, which best of all the trees in the forest met the requirements. Perhaps that is a good reason why there clings about the Christmas tree in my old home that which has preserved it from being swept along in the flood of senseless luxury that has swamped so many things in our money-mad day. At least so it was then. Every time I see a tree studded with electric lights, garlands of tinsel gold festooning every branch, and hung with the hundred costly knickknacks the storekeepers invent year by year "to make trade," until the tree itself disappears entirely under its burden. I have a feeling that a fraud has been practiced on the kindly spirit of Yule.

Wax candles are the only real thing for a Christmas tree, candles of wax that mingle their perfume with that of the burning fir, not the by-product of the burning oil or other abomination. What if the boughs do catch fire? They can be watched, and too many candles are tawdry, anyhow. Also, red apples, oranges and old-fashioned cornucopias made of colored paper, and made at home, look a hundred times better and fitter in the green; and so do drums and toy trumpets and waid-horns, and a rocking horse that need not have cost thirty dollars.

Washing Windows.

If windows are washed when the sun is shining on them they dry before there is time to polish them, and look streaky. Always dust windows before washing them. Add a little ammonia to the water to make the glass shine and polish well.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WHETHER we shout it or sing it, we must be sure to mean it; for if we really mean it when we say, "Merry Christmas, everybody," we will do all in our power to make Christmas a day of unselfish joy for all those within reach of our influence. Christ came into the world to bring light which brings joy. He came to bring deliverance to men; to solve their difficult problems; to inspire a higher hope in the spirit of men. That is the cause of the deepest joy to mankind. Yes, Christmas is a joyful day as well as a sacred day.

It is a day for doing good deeds, as well as thinking good thoughts. It is not a day for receiving gifts only. There are so many opportunities for doing good, that we may receive joy a hundredfold, with the expenditure of just a little time and thought. There are many who have little; many who do not know the meaning of this day as you know it; many whose spirits are crushed by disaster. Remember them!—Hors' World.

THE FEAST OF LIGHTS

THE lights on the tree are said to be of Jewish origin. In the month of Kislev, of the Jewish year, corresponding nearly to our December, and the twenty-fifth day, Jews celebrated the feast of dedication of their temple. It had been dedicated on that day by Antiochus. It was dedicated by Judas Maccabeus, and, according to Jewish legend, sufficient oil was found in the temple to last for the seven-branched candlestick for eight days, and it would have taken eight days to prepare new oil. Accordingly the Jews were wont on the twenty-fifth day of Kislev in every house to light a candle, on the next day two, and on the eighth and last day of the feast, eight candles twinkled in every house.

It is not very easy to fix the exact date of the Nativity, but it fell most probably on the last day of Kislev, when every Jewish house in Bethlehem and Jerusalem was twinkling with lights. It is worthy of note that the German name for Christmas is Weihnachts (the night of dedication) as though it were associated with this feast. The Greeks also call Christmas the feast of lights, the name given to the dedication festival, Chanukah, by the Jews.

WHY THE CHRISTMAS KISSES?

Occulation, Allowed by Custom, Celebrates One of the Most Charming Events in Tradition.

WHY should men kiss girls who stand under mistletoe? Because they like it and because custom allows it. Every kiss under the mistletoe, however, is a kiss which celebrates one of the most charming events in Christmas tradition.

The romance goes back to the days of the gods of Scandinavia, when Balder the Beautiful was shot by Loki, the Spirit of Evil, with an arrow of mistletoe. But his mother, Venus of the North, restored him to life by anointing with kisses all who passed beneath a branch held aloft in her hand.

Thus it became an emblem of love and happy celebration. Ancient races held the plant in great veneration, particularly the Druids, who went in procession into the forests to collect it. After New Year's day it was distributed among the people as a sacred and holy plant. If any part of the mistletoe touched the ground it was regarded as an omen of impending evil.



A FULL STOCKING.

HOCK—Santa Claus apparently has gifts to please everybody. ROCK—Yes, it seems that there is nothing he doesn't keep in stock. He brought one woman of my acquaintance a divorce with alimony and the custody of the poodle.

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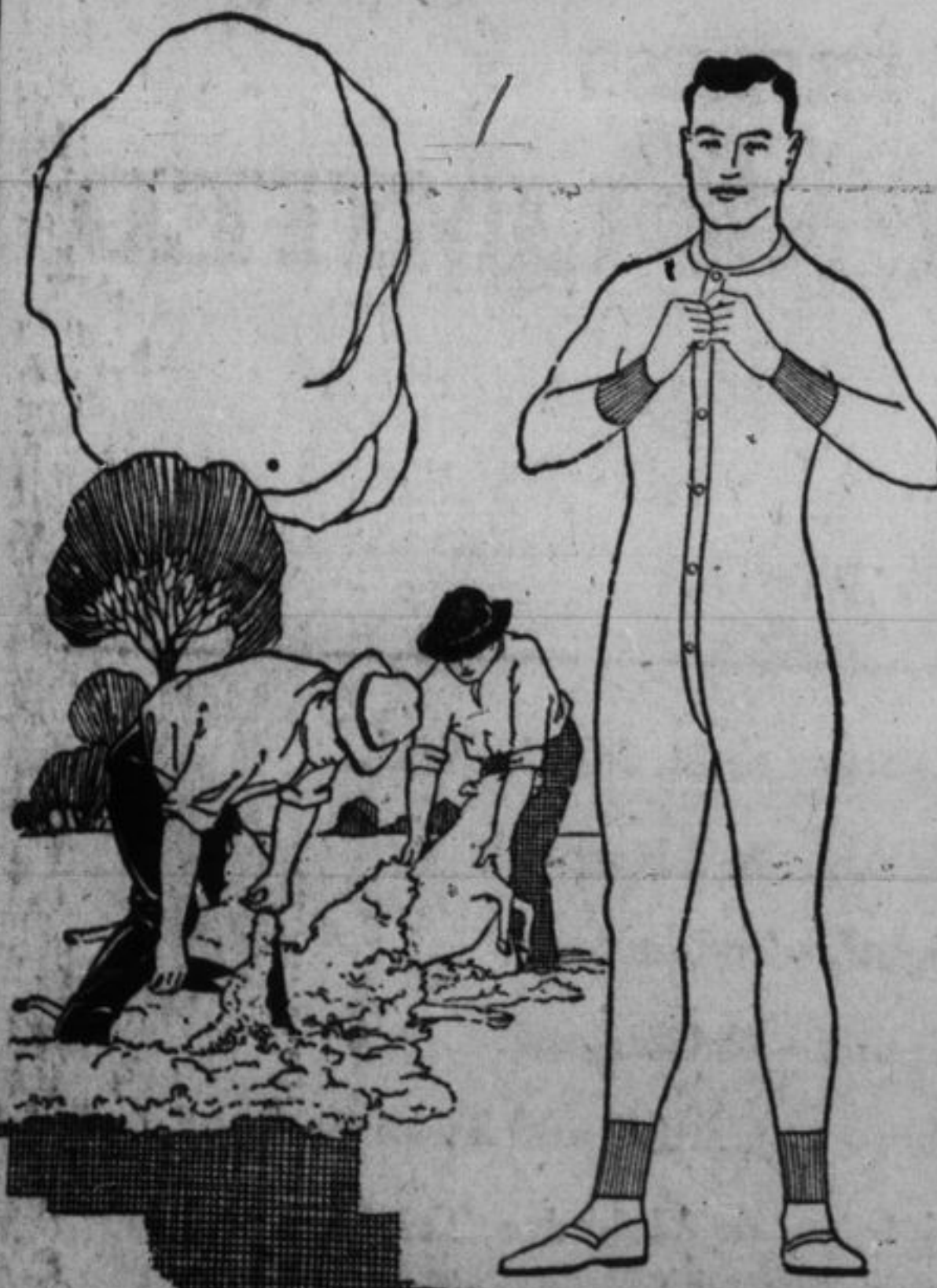
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Novelty Lamps. Doll lamps are in high favor this season as gifts and there's a charming new doll gaited as a bride in a white gown, that acts as a light shade for an incandescent lamp. Other doll lamps have gowns of rose pink or yellow silk diffusing a soft agreeable radiance. They make lovely gift lamps. Another gift lamp is a small piano lamp that lights the music and does not throw the light in one's eye. It applies direct lighting without glare. Its little piano lamp is made of metal, beautifully finished in mahogany. The Modern Version. Rub—He who dances must pay the fiddler. Dub—The jazz drummer, you mean.—New York Sun. Sauce for the goose may be sauce for the gander, but we never yet have seen a husband who would admit what was right for him was always right for his wife.