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Morning Daily (Founded 1887)
\$3.00 per year (in advance) delivered to City
\$4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to E. S. Island
\$5.00 per year (in advance) mailed to Canada and U. S.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1937

Christmas

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Pessimism finds no place in the celebration of the Christmas anniversary. Merriment and good cheer have been associated with it from time immemorial, and this surely is the natural and appropriate reaction to glad tidings. The challenge of Christmas to the workaday world is embodied in this spirit of freedom from the cares and worries that lie like besieging armies about us. We feel better attuned during this brief respite than at other times; more at one with our kind, less critical of the failings of our friends and neighbors, more hopeful of mankind in general.

We cannot, of course, shut our eyes to the ominous tendencies in our civilization; to the war spirit rampant in countries like Japan and Germany, or the economic and social abuses that exist nearer home and are equally at variance with our Christian ideals. The world unquestionably is out of joint; its progress morally and spiritually lags far behind its material achievements, and the result is all too apparent.

Let us not forget, however, that there are humanizing factors at work. More intelligent effort is being put into the task of preserving peace than ever before. Nations, it has been justly said, can drift into war, but not into peace. Peace is something that must be planned for. Unique in world history is the effort now being made by the British Commonwealth to further such plans, and with the co-operation of other peace-loving democracies to ensure their success.

Domestically, we have reason to celebrate with thankfulness as well as rejoicing this Christmas anniversary. If material prosperity is not within reach of all of us, at least we have the opportunities for happiness and contentment. The shepherds on the Judean hills had no more, on that first Christmas morning when their hearts were uplifted by the strains of the angelic symphony. If we catch but an echo of that message in the pealing of the church bells tomorrow, need we seek further reason or excuse for rejoicing?

A Merry Christmas, then, to all our readers, and especially to our Santa Pals and to all who have contributed through other channels towards making this occasion a happier one for others.

Carol Singing Revived

The Christmas season has been proclaimed in song for centuries, and the carol or hymn of praise played an important part in ancient and modern celebrations. One of the earliest carols on record dates from the fourth century. This type of song was a gradual evolution from the hymns and sequences sung in church services. In the beginning of the thirteenth century St. Francis of Assisi originated a form of sacred Christmas carol, hoping thereby to stimulate the interest of certain congregations, and his "Song of the Creatures" is generally considered to be the first carol, apart from church music, written with a popular appeal. Many of the older poets wrote carols to accompany dancing, the dancers forming a ring and joining hands.

During the middle ages carol singing came into prominence, and the first authorized collection of these songs was published in 1652. Some of the most beautiful examples of old carols were those of the "Lullaby" or "Cradlesong" group, especially those originally written in German, in which language the popular carol developed side by side with the Christmas carol.

In England for many years the most popular themes for carols were the Nativity, Annunciation and Incarnation, and several examples of these carols have been preserved. One of the best known of the old carols based on the Annunciation was written by an English monk about 1450 and begins with the line "There is no rose of such virtue."

Many carols of the 15th century have been preserved. These have the features of folksong, one of the most famous being the cherry-tree carol beginning "Joseph was an old man." Some of the best known folksong carols were based mainly on subjects drawn from mystery plays, pageants and legends, and included "I saw three ships come sailing in," "The Camel and the Crane," "Dives and Lazarus," "The Holy Well," "All under the Leaves" and "To-morrow shall be my dancing day." "The Boar's Head" carol, which was first printed in 1521, is still sung on Christmas Day at Queen's College, Oxford, though in slightly altered form.

Under the Puritan regime in England carol singing was discouraged in the same way that dancing and theatrical performances generally were. The Restoration, however, did not produce any lasting effect on carols or carol singing, although collections of these songs were published from time to time, and have continued to be, down almost to the present day. From 1700 to 1850 the carol, as a rule, was neglected, although carols were sung like ordinary hymns sometimes at church services.

Among 18th century religious carols perhaps the most famous is Charles Wesley's "Hark, how all the welkin rings," better known as "Hark, the herald angels sing."

The modern revival of carol-singing has produced a quantity of new songs. However, even these are mostly derived from mediaeval Latin Christmas hymns.

Editorial Notes

Christmas Eve.

A lot of people will try to keep awake to welcome Santa Claus—may he disappoint nobody.

The Christmas spirit is well expressed in the cards of greeting from our local merchants in today's Guardian.

City relief to the unemployed and deserving is to be given today, so that there may be no empty larder on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day services will be held in various churches from midnight onward. May they be largely attended by people thankful that they are still permitted to worship as their fathers before them in the land of the free.

There are not many Islanders abroad who attain laudable front page publicity but Mr. Wilfrid McQuade Baltimore, is one of them. This young lawyer, brother of Miss Agnes McQuade, Prince Street, is repeatedly in the limelight, and last week occupied considerable space on the front page of the New York Times in connection with an appeal to the Supreme Court at Washington.

Peace at Christmas-tide is assured by the attitude of the British Government in conjunction with the governments of the various Dominions throughout the Commonwealth and those of France and the United States. May commonsense and reason have free course in the case of the other nations that the Christmas assurance may be made permanent.

This is a word of thanks to our readers for the generous response made to the appeal for Santa Pals to make glad the hearts of those little ones Santa Claus might overlook. For a brief spell our Santa Pal Department felt a little discouraged, being inundated with a flood of names of deserving recipients, but faith never failed them, and in the outcome neither the little ones nor ourselves have been disappointed. All will have good cause to make tomorrow a Merry Christmas.

Prior to the Great War a subject for derision in British Military circles was what is known as the "Brodrick Cap", the undress head gear of the foot and artillery. The Hon. St. John Brodrick was then Minister for War and took all the blame without a murmur. He is now the Earl of Middleton, and a newspaper correspondence having again developed on the subject, the Earl writes it was not he but King Edward VII who chose the cap and also the Khaki uniform for the Guards. In 1900, on the recommendation of Earl Roberts, the army uniforms were pronounced out of date, and several new styles were submitted for approval when the controversy ensued. Lord Middleton writes: "I appealed to the King as a great arbiter of dress to take up and settle all these military proposals and hold me excused unless they involved increased cost to officers or the Treasury. King Edward rose splendidly to the occasion, accepted khaki for the army, selected a new greatcoat for his Guards and chose the undress cap which from your reproduction appears to have been of general application."

The leading commodities exported under the agreement during the 11 months ended Nov. 30 was as follows, with figures for the same period of 1936 in brackets: Newspaper paper, \$95,548,555 (\$75,273,870); wood pulp, \$30,841,088 (\$24,132,472); whiskey, \$18,176,521 (\$18,381,192); cattle, 293,255 head at \$13,406,429 (228,800 head at \$8,485,536); soft wood planks and boards, \$12,600,315 (\$10,290,489); pulpwood, \$10,787,144 (\$7,739,573); shingles, \$5,983,386 (\$5,369,165); artificial crude abrasives, \$4,893,000 (\$3,612,339); asbestos, \$4,822,562 (\$3,649,934). Cyanamid was worth \$2,795,077 (\$2,320,134); asbestos sand and waste, \$2,767,921 (\$2,124,441); nickel in matte or speiss, \$2,535,820 (\$2,104,140); fresh lobsters, \$2,277,239 (\$1,919,595); barn, shorts and middlings, \$2,169,233 (\$3,380,997); hardwood planks and boards, \$2,046,512 (\$1,282,664); acetic acid, \$1,689,470 (\$1,433,349); whitefish, \$1,468,704 (\$1,319,899); logs, \$1,399,204 (\$657,164); horses, \$1,279,167 (\$2,023,659); mink skins, \$920,324 (\$1,249,136); and cheese \$708,542 (\$1,535,173).

The production of raw furs in Canada during the twelve months ended June had a total value of \$15,464,883 as compared with \$12,843,341 in the previous season. These totals comprise the value of pelts taken by trappers and of pelts sold from fur farms, the latter representing approximately 40 per cent. of the whole. The number of pelts of all kinds produced during the season was 4,596,713 compared with 4,920,413 in the preceding season. The reduction is due chiefly to the smaller numbers of muskrat and squirrel pelts. The chief item of production was silver fox, practically the whole supply of which may be credited to the fur farms. The number of pelts shown for the season was 185,259 and the value \$6,108,104 as compared with 120,465 valued at \$4,343,823. Muskrat was next in order with 1,630,231 pelts worth \$2,148,605 compared with 1,983,747 at \$1,784,252, and mink third with 154,279 pelts valued at \$1,701,577 compared with 183,305 valued at \$1,540,684. There were 106,012 red fox pelts valued at \$791,448 as compared with 104,468 at \$781,709; 45,743 white fox at \$697,507 compared with 68,366 at \$1,043,028; 28,077 cross fox at \$674,919 compared with 32,799 at \$604,173; 22,456 lynx at \$636,205 compared with 22,014 at \$511,410; 44,600 beaver at \$451,070 compared with 50,175 at \$412,862 and 651,573 ermine worth \$403,700 compared with 577,688 of the value of \$276,000.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We've talked so much Peace in this country the past few years that Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and now Japan, that we are well-ings and afraid of them. Soft words do not carry much weight with dictators and were Britain, France, the United States and other decent countries to stand together as firm as Germany, Italy and Japan, war threats would soon be a thing of the past. —Durham Chronicle.

Co-operation with Britain on such terms is the one thing which neither President Roosevelt nor any other American can ever give. For the defence of British property, power, and privilege America will accept no obligations. Why should she? But for the defence of a decent rule of conduct in world affairs, for the defence of a new international civilization, the United States may be ready to do a great deal. Whether she does will depend on whether Britain is ready to accept obligation for the same ideal. —Daily Herald.

In the early days of the depression people disliked to accept relief. They were ashamed to appeal for personal assistance. Today able-bodied people have come to rely upon the municipal, provincial or federal governments for subsistence as well as assistance in a great variety of ways. We need to get rid of the idea that there is some magic way by which we can get along without work. Such an attitude not only undermines the character of our citizenry but in the long run it would force our country on the rocks. —St. Mary Journal-Argus.

A good deal of comment speaks of Italy being now out of the League. In actual fact she has to give two years' notice of her intention to leave. For all practical purposes, except in the improbable event of her thinking better of it, she is out. Whether she will pay her dues for the two years remains to be seen; it is unlikely. It would indeed be interesting to know whether she has paid her dues up to date. —Exchange.

Evidence that the London basin was inhabited by man in the late stone age is revealed by the large number of objects of that period recovered from time to time from the banks and bed of the Thames from Teddington to Tilbury. These stone age men living on the banks of the Thames, attained a fairly high level of culture, even so far back as 2000 B. C. They possessed a knowledge of agriculture, growing wheat and barley, and kept flocks of domestic animals. Their industries included spinning, weaving, pottery making, mining and flint napping. —P. L. A. Magazine.

Who can say that the change is not for the better, this cutting of army red tape? What was the war experience after 1914? The Dominions practically placed civilian armies in the field, and they came out of the welter held in the highest regard, also with the keen respect for the enemy. And yet the civilian aspect might be too much stressed as denoting lack of training. The United States army had too much of it resulting in unnecessary losses. But on the other side, there can be too much tradition and form in army regulation. The last war was not fought according to old rules; the next one will not be fought that way either. —St. Catherine's Standard.

It is becoming more and more clear that if the League be taken away, the world is back on its traces many centuries with sanctity of treaties and contracts lost, the terrors and brutality of war increased a hundred-fold and security, whether of armed defenses or any other means reduced to nothing. It is the hope of liberal democrats that those who remain as custodians of League ideals and its machinery, will continue their trust through the present interim of confusion in order that it may look forward to a time when the League will be available to ensure to democracy a voice and measure of control in the world. —Christian Science Monitor.

It would be a mistake for senators and representatives to assume because there is a great deal of talk about the need for congressional action that we are in an emergency requiring the enactment of a large mass of undigested legislation. The contrary is the case. Secretary Morgenthau pointed out in his address to the Academy of Political Science in New York that conditions have changed quite radically since 1933. The emergency in which it was thought not always with good reason—that government had to do everything that has passed. What we need now, as Mr. Morgenthau recognized, is for private business which the government has been carrying. —Baltimore Sun.

About this time of year certain United States newspapers point to the non-payment of war debts, and generally they mention Finland paying what she owes. This is intended as a rebuke to others. It does not, however, hold water. Finland was not in the war as a separate country and so contracted no war debt. What she owes and pays is on loans after the war; quite another matter. —Exchange.

A teacher in one of the primary grades at P. S. 110, down the corner of Broome and Cannon streets, decided the other day that an interesting discussion period could be whipped up by having each of the children tell what his father did for a living. Finally it was the turn of a stern-looking little Italian boy, who said he didn't know what his father did. "Isn't he working?" the teacher asked sympathetically. "Oh, he works, all right," said the lad

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of current questions of interest in Charlotteville Guardian does not assume the opinions of correspondents.

TEMPERANCE 70 YEARS AGO

Sir,—I was a member of a temperance organization some seventy years ago, and at that time it was not mixed with politics as it is today, and it did a great deal of effective work. The temperance workers of that time did not draw salaries from any funds. The labour was for love, for the people, and country, and as different from the present as day from night. I have very little interest in those matters now being in my eighty-eighth year.

I am, Sir, etc., OLD-TIMER

Sir,—There is an endearing custom on the Island of bringing slips or cuttings of favorite plants to friends and neighbors. Thus, indoors, now, we scarcely notice that it is not the growing season; every window is a-bloom with these so welcome tokens of friendship. The lilac tree and the little poplars are bare, but my view of them is softened by the "Joseph's Coat" that so rightly earns its name—a mass of multi-colored leaves, purple and bronze and green. The butterflies are gone from the fields, but they flutter, a hundred of them, shell-pink and yellow, over the thick silken foliage of the "wax" begonia.

How the "Hen and Chickens" have grown! There was just the "hen" and intriguing green rosette, when Mrs. J. brought it last summer, but now there are a dozen "hens" and scores of "chickens" craning their necks toward the white-edged spruces.

There couldn't possibly be a nicer geranium than this one. From a small slip, it has put forth one glowing flower after another, till today it seems to cast a bright shadow across the snow.

This plant is nameless, but it is very sweet, swinging in the kitchen window, its round etched leaves falling in airy clusters.

The "pepper-plant" has been a constant delight. True, it came from the florist, but it is not his personal interest that has kept it covered, winter, spring, summer, fall, and winter again, with countless tiny variegated leaves and countless lacquered "peppers" of Chinese-red? For a further touch of the tropics, we have the "Life-Plant." No parent stem fostered it. It was brought, a single leaf, and after weeks had gone by, another leaf grew ghost-like from its side. Out of the sod, where the old half-consumed leaf, and the new, were buried, sprang this tall, mysterious stranger from the south.

And if we sigh for more luxuriant blooms, we turn our eyes to the "Shepherd's Purse," full of tens of brilliant yellow, brown-flecked pouches, complete in every detail, their open mouths waiting to be filled with golden coins.

RUHANAH SCHEINFELD FRANK

SOYA BEANS

Sir,—Enclosed is a letter cut out of the Montreal Star published recently and written by James Robertson who evidently would like to see more Canadian farmers interested in the cultivation of the "Soya Beans" which is grown extensively in the United States and other countries, and is bringing the farmers handsome returns. This last season several Canadian farmers have taken the leading prizes raising these beans on this continent.

Knowing something about the climate of Prince Edward Island and the fertility of the soil, together with the industrious habits of the people, I honestly think that in a few years the Prince Edward Island farmers would benefit greatly by devoting some of their time and thought to raising Soya Beans. If I can get further information about this wonderful

managing to look a bit like George Raft, "but I ain't never asked what he does. I mind my own business." —New Yorker.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "ODE ON THE MORNING OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY"

Ring out, ye crystal spheres, Once bless our human ears (If ye have power) to touch our senses so; And let your silver chime Move in melodious time, And let the bass of Heaven's deep organ blow; And with your ninefold harmony Make up full consort to the angelic symphony.

For, if such holy song Enwrap our fancy long, Time will run back, and fetch the age of Gold; And speckled Vanity Will sicken soon and die, And leprous sin will melt from earthly mould; And Hell itself will pass away, And leave her dolorous mansions to the peering day.

Yea, Truth and Justice then Will down return to men, Orbed in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing, Mercy will sit between, Throned in celestial sheen, With radiant feet the tissued clouds down steering; And Heaven, as at some festival, Will open wide the gates of her high palace hall.

But wisest Fate says no; The Babe lies yet in smiling infancy, That on the bitter cross Must redeem our loss, So both himself and us to glorify; Yet first to those yehained in sleep The wakeful trump of doom must thunder through the deep.

—John Milton.

bean, I will duly advise you. I am, Sir, etc., JOHN J. LOUSON, Montreal, Dec. 20.

Sir,—I was very much interested in the news item in The Star of November 24, headed "Soya Bean Crops Held Farmers' Salvation." The speaker stressed the value of the soya bean in manufacturing, particularly in the automobile and plastic industries, but unfortunately overlooked the food value of this bean which has for many years been the staple food of the Chinese people.

The writer has just returned from a trip covering many points in the United States. In almost every town soya bean products were on sale. Soya bean sauces, food drinks, ice creams, candies and cakes were being sold and a most delicious loaf of bread made from soya bean flour was on sale in practically every bakery shop. Many different companies seem to be manufacturing these goods and I was informed that some 11 million acres were under cultivation, mostly in the central states and the corn belt. The farmers seem quite enthusiastic about the future and claim the crop is profitable, economical, and easy to grow. They claim that after the first year or so, the crop is practically self-fertilizing.

I was also given the very interesting information that the prize annual award at the Chicago Fair for the best soya bean had been won for the past two years by a Canadian exhibitor from central Ontario. Returning to Canada, I made many inquiries about this product and very few people seemed to be well informed about it. The farmers I talked to had heard about its value but seemed to know little about how to grow or market it. I also learned that the total acreage in Canada was less than three-quarters of a million acres, although most of the experts I talked to agreed that Canadian soil and climate were perfectly suitable for growing the bean.

I found a local company in N.D.G. manufacturing all sorts of delicious articles from the bean and was informed by them that they had to import practically all the bean used from the United States. In view of the fact that

BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO Everybody

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THE TWO MACS

E. A. Foster Central Drugstore



Christmas without greetings? One can scarcely imagine it! Yet the happy custom of sending cards began only 91 years ago. In 1846 the famous artist, J. C. Horsley, R.A., designed an inspired Christmas message for Sir Henry Cole of England, who distributed 1,000 copies.

This year The Mutual Life of Canada reproduces this design as a warm greeting to policyholders and friends. Its beautiful theme "feeding the hungry" (left panel), "clothing the naked" (right panel) and "creating good cheer" (centre), portrays the spirit of MUTUAL effort, not only at Christmastime, but year in and year out since 1869.

The policyholders are the owners of this Company, and they or their beneficiaries have received Sixty-Nine Million Dollars in Dividends and a total of over Two Hundred and Thirty-One Million Dollars in death claims, matured policies and other payments. How welcome this income must have been to families and individuals in time of need!

To make sure that your family will always have a Merry Christmas, arrange for life insurance protection through one of our representatives.

MUTUAL LIFE OF CANADA OF CANADA Established in 1869 HEAD OFFICE WATERLOO, ONT. "Owned by the Policyholders"

each year we seem to be encountering serious difficulty in the marketing of our wheat crop at a profitable figure and that this bean, which is so much in demand, will grow well in Canada, can be profitably and easily marketed, it seems strange that our farmers should be so slow in investigating its possibilities. JAMES ROBERTSON.

"The Messiah" Proscribed

(Halifax Chronicle)

There is, at least for many of us, nothing more majestic than the music of the "Messiah"; "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government of the world shall be upon his shoulders." When it was first played the King rose involuntarily and the whole audience with him as the reverberating strains rang out "King of kings and Lord of lords, and He shall reign forever and ever." It is music which touches even the least music and stirs the highest within them. At this season of the year when the Christian world commemorates the birth of Christ we have nothing more appropriate than the majesty and beauty of the Messiah.

for COUGHS Take half a teaspoonful of Minard's in molasses. Heat Minard's, inhale it. Also rub it well into your chest. You'll get relief!

MINARD'S "KING OF PAIN" LINIMENT

WHY NOT MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY?

One which will send your family a cheque every Christmas after you are gone—for say, 10, 15, or 20 years. (The larger the policy, the longer the income would last.) You may also provide that, in event of your wife's passing before the money is used up, the cheques would continue to your children.

A cheque from Dad every Christmas! Why not arrange for it now, while you are in good health?

For further information, consult

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