

THE WONDERS OF A CRACKER FACTORY . The Old-Fashioned Christmas

How a Bashful Bachelor Proposed

A riot of tinsel, tissue and spangles; of ribbons and silks as many-hued as the rainbow; Christmas toys, knick-knacks and curios scattered about in tens of thousands, as if poured out of some gigantic and magical cornucopia; Christmas motes flashing their genial greetings on all sides hundreds of deft hands busily ministering the next Christmas's pleasure.

Such was my environment on a midsummer day when I was privileged to go over Messrs. Tom Smith & Co.'s famous cracker-factory, the headquarters from which Father Christmas showers with prodigal hand his millions of gay-colored tokens of jollity and goodwill over the whole world.

"As soon as one Christmas is over," said my genial overseer, "we commence work for the next; and I can assure you it takes us all our time. In fact, we often have to work practically night and day during the latter part of the year to cope with the late orders. It will probably surprise you to hear that often half-a-dozen different countries have contributed something towards the contents of a single box of one dozen crackers; for the markets of the whole world are ransacked to provide the novelties and ornaments which are put inside them.

execute special orders. One very novel order I remember was for a box of crackers each of which was to contain a pair of ladies' or gentlemen's kid gloves, the sizes being marked on the outside so that a correct fit could be chosen. On another occasion we made a special cracker for a wealthy bashful bachelor, who could not summon up courage to propose to his lady-love. Inside the cracker was placed a valuable engagement ring, and I believe in this way the question was popped satisfactorily.

"We frequently have orders for very large crackers. At the present moment we are making several 5 ft. or 6 ft. long. In most cases these are dummies to be placed in large stores as advertisement. Among monster crackers I have heard of one 30 ft. long which was built for a millionaire in the North of England who was very fond of children. Over the framework was stretched paper which clever landscape-painters had covered with charming pictures; and through its centre ran a huge detonator, to which a cord, running through a pulley in the roof, was attached. When the cord was pulled with an explosion loud enough to wake the dead, colored fires blazed out enveloping the cracker in a rainbow sea of light, while at the same moment hundreds of fairy-lights converted the interior of the cracker into a kaleidoscope of many-colored and dazzling gems."

Shall we ever, one wonders, see again such Arctic Christmases as our forefathers of past centuries experienced? At Yuletide in 1814, for example, the weather was so Arctic that it was possible to hold a fair on the Westminster Bridges. Thirteen and Blackfriars Bridges, thirty booths did a roaring trade in beer and spirits; printing-presses were set working on the ice; and thousands of holiday-makers made merry with skittles, dancing and other diversions; recruiting their energies by feasts of "Lapland mutton" roasted on the spot, at a shilling a slice. In 1739 the Thames was so solidly frozen that hundreds of people camped on it, and coaches deserted the Strand and Cheapside to ply on it. The regulation ox was roasted; and half-a-dozen printing presses were kept busy night and day turning out reasonable pamphlets and verses.

Still more memorable was the Christmas of 1684, when coaches plied between Westminster and the Temple "as on the streets"; when hackney-carriages carried their fares from the Temple to Southwark, and all London held carnival on the frozen waterway. A miniature city sprang up in a day—streets of booths, each with its appropriate sign, through which the "Merrie Monarch," and his family, jostled with the crowds to have their names "printed on the ice," and later to join in an exciting fox-hunt; while his subjects were revelling in football, skittles, bull-baiting, and horse and coach races."

Santa Claus in Other Lands

In Italy, Santa Claus assumes a female guise, and as La Befana steals softly to the children's bedside to fill their stockings with seasonable gifts. There is, too, an Italian ceremony called Zopata, when it is customary for persons to hide presents in the shoes and slippers of those they do honor to, "in such a manner as may surprise them on the morrow when they come to dress"; and this, we are told, is done in imitation of St. Nicholas, who used at the night-time to throw purses in at the windows of poor girls for their marriage-portions.

In Flanders and Holland it is Knecht Cloves who, at dead of night, steals in to fill the children's shoes and stockings with the good things so dear to their hearts. On the eve of St. Nicholas' day, Austrian children put out plates and dishes to receive the cakes and other delicacies which the good Miklanz will fail to bring them in the dark hours of the night; but only if they have said their prayers properly before his coming.

In Germany, on Christmas Eve, it is customary for Knecht Rupert, disguised with a long beard and wrapped in a large fur cloak, to enter the room when the children are gathered together. He asks them whether they can pray, and if they stand the test to his satisfaction, he rewards them with apples, nuts and gingerbread; punishing, on the other hand, those with whom he is dissatisfied.

PATTER OF THE FEET UPON THE FLOOR

Oh, listen to the music Of the childish voices sweet; And harken to the patter Of the tiny little feet; The pitter patter, pitter patter, Thro' the open door; The patter of the little feet upon the oaken floor.

They climb upon the sofa, And make horses of the chairs; They bring the yellow mud in; And leave marks upon the stairs; And yet there's nothing to this life that is to us more sweet Than the pitter patter, pitter patter of those little feet.

They love to run and gallop, And make a dreadful din, They love to kick poor pussy, Nor deem it a sin. But when at night the little eyes are closed in sleep so sweet, We miss the pitter patter of the restless little feet.

Poor grandpa says "Be quiet, And let me read a minute; No matter what the mischief is You two are always in it." But when he is away from home he always longs to meet The welcome pitter patter of those noisy little feet.

Oh, little feet so eager; Oh, little hearts so true; Dear little hands so willing; And little eyes so blue; God grant that when we all shall meet upon the other shore, We'll hear the pitter of your feet upon the heavenly floor.



The Star

In the cold heavens, before the dawn, A star of wondrous beauty shone. Each still slept on; the winds were still; No murmur from the frozen rill. The starry throng o'erspread the sky. An innumerable company. But, brightest far of all the host, This star of promise charmed me most.

It told the night was nearly done; It heralded the coming sun. As listening for the angel's song, The song that still with sweetness fills

The memory of Judea's hills. I thought of those wise men of old, Whose lives are wrapped in mystery's fold;

And of the star that guided them To the dear Child of Bethlehem; Whose life had taught to every clime That lowly paths may be sublime. Again returns to glad the earth, The day made sacred by His birth. Again from out the ages dim Comes echoing sweet the angel's hymn:

Joy-bringing now, with promise bright, To cheer the woes of the night; Though mad and are its seraphic tones By clamor of discordant thrones, Yet nearer now the time than then Of peace and good-will unto men. City View. J. E. Caldwell.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Extra Train Service—Christmas Holidays.

To enable our people along the Railway to do their Christmas shopping, extra train service on the Island Division will be operated as follows:—

SUMMERSIDE—TIGNISH. Commencing December 15th and up to and including December 24th, Train Nos. 211 and 212 will operate daily instead of tri-weekly.

CHARLOTTETOWN—SOURIS AND GEORGETOWN. On December 22nd and 23rd and 24th the train scheduled to leave Charlottetown at 3.20 P. M. will be held until 4.00 o'clock.

CHARLOTTETOWN—MURRAY HARBOR. On December 22nd, 23rd and 24th the train will leave Murray Harbor at 6.45 A. M. Instead of 7.45 and returning will leave Charlottetown at 4.30 P. M. instead of 3.30 P. M.

DISTRICT PASSENGER AGENT'S OFFICE. 6735-12-17-61

Lest You Forget

Only a week and then all your hustling, worrying and selecting will be over for another year.

If you can't just decide on what to give him come in and let us give you a suggestion.

We can assure you that if it is anything in smokes done up in fancy boxes all ready for delivery we can solve your problem.

So if he smokes here you will find the gift he is sure to like.

LAMBROS BROS GRAFTON STREET

It Takes a Lot of Fussing



To make a good Fruit Cake and of course it should be baked weeks before Christmas to be properly mellowed.

Why bother? We make our Fruit Cakes of the best fruits, nuts, sugar, spices, fresh eggs and rich milk and bake them so as to develop that spicy, rich, flavor which makes our Fruit Cakes the best you've ever tasted.

STEWART'S BAKERY KENT STREET

ORDER EARLY

WRAPPED IN HOLLY PAPER AND BOXED

"Proper Food and Exercise," by ARTHUR A. MCGOVERN Former physical director, Cornell Medical College

Don't take more fuel than you can burn

FOOD is just so much fuel that is consumed by the body in its daily activity. Diet and exercise have a direct bearing on each other, and to a certain extent one should be controlled by the other. If your activities lead you into heavy or exhausting physical labor, more energy is burned up, and consequently more fuel or food is required than for the person leading a sedentary life.



MOST ALLMENTS COME FROM OVER-EATING

eat you poison yourself. Perhaps two-thirds of those who read this article would be benefited by cutting in half the amount of food they consume daily. The following list contains what may be called fuel foods. They consist of sugars, starches, and fats, and should be eaten only by those who get a great deal of exercise, or those who do heavy manual work.

Moasses, sugar, candy, corn syrup and all sweets. Foods containing starch: bread, spaghetti, oatmeal, potatoes, bananas, cornstarch, hominy, cornmeal, flour, rice, dried beans. The fats are: butter, cream, salt pork, milk, bacon, lard, oleomargarine.

The following are the elements of food that should be selected by sedentary workers. They are known as proteins. Any broiled lean meat, chicken or fish, skimmed milk, all fruits, vegetables, eggs, nuts, peas, beans. We should also add some hard food to our diet each day which insures vigorous use of the jaws and teeth. In certain foreign countries where people live chiefly on fibrous vegetables, fruits, nuts and the like, they have very little work for the dentist, as their gums and teeth are generally in healthy condition.

Here is a Typical Modern Diet

BREAKFAST: Grapefruit or orange juice, one egg boiled or poached, two graham or bran or corn muffins, coffee substitute, cocoa or weak tea. Between breakfast and lunch drink two glasses of water.

LUNCHEON: A vegetable luncheon consisting of any of the following: spinach, peas, egg-plant, string beans, turnips, asparagus or corn. Glass of milk, dark bread, and for dessert rice or tapioca pudding. Between lunch and dinner three glasses of water.

DINNER: One helping of lean meat, fish or chicken, broiled, green vegetable, a baked potato, be sure to eat the skin, and for dessert fresh fruit in season, nuts or crackers and cheese.

Mr. McGovern will answer your questions. A. A. McGovern

IT IS NOT TOO LATE

FOR BAYER

TO FINISH YOUR PHOTOS FOR XMAS

BRINGING UP FATHER



All Gifts BOXED FREE

This Store is Open Every Night Until 8.



Man-to-Man Gifts

SANTA CLAUS HAS ARRIVED WITH XMAS GIFTS AT CHARLOTTETOWN'S SMARTEST STORE FOR MEN AND BOYS

The Night Before Xmas

A happy occasion but a poor Shopping time

Select Your Christmas Gifts Now

He has waited for Christmas for some one to get him one of our lovely mufflers, Silk, Cashmere, Wool and Silk and Wool \$1.25, \$1.85, \$2.25, \$2.75 and \$4.95.

Handkerchiefs are appreciated gifts no one has too many. Initial or Plain Pure Linen 50 cts each.

Silk Broadcloth Pyjamas for lucky man in Mauve, Peach and White. Boxed \$2.40.

We suggest Neckwear. We have what he will like. The range is complete 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50.

We have gift Socks that he will like. Pure Silk, Silk and Wool, Cashmere, Plain, Fancy Stripes and Checks 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25.

The guaranteed Forsythe Broadcloth Shirts, with separate collars, all shades in a beautiful gift box. Priced \$2.40.

Someone on your list wants Suspenders and Garters, 85c, \$1.25, \$1.75.

A bathrobe or a House Jacket are splendid gifts. Bathrobes, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00. Jackets \$11.00.



For husband a real Umbrella with covers. Made of Silk and Wool \$5.00 and \$5.50.



J.W. ROBBLEE

135 GREAT GEORGE ST.

—By George McManus WHO SAID "THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS?"



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