

WE WISH YOU
A Very Merry
Xmas



and a
PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR

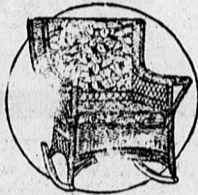
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TOYS
Of Every Description



FANCY PILLOWS

Xmas
Fancy
Linens

- | | |
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| Cushions | Scarves |
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of Sample Fancy Linens
ONE THIRD OFF!



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Tuesday being Christmas Day and a public holiday, The Guard-
ian will not be issued on Wednesday.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1923.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

The child who does not believe in Santa Claus, who thinks with precocious wisdom that he is "only just father," or "just mother," has missed much of the joy and the essence of the Christmas spirit. Many years ago a little girl wrote to the New York Sun: "Is there a Santa Claus?" Francis Pharcellis Church answered her letter in an editorial which is a Christmas gem and which shines ever brighter with the flight of time. It should be read to the children in every school at Christmas:

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as the love and generosity and devotion exist. And you know that their abundance and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childish faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. Nobody sees Santa Claus. But that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men see.

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. "No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia—say, ten times ten thousand years from now—he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

POLITICAL HONESTY.

If a political candidate in Great Britain should, during an election campaign, promise to have a road or a bridge built in his constituency and happen to be elected, he would be promptly unseated. If he offered a railway, a pier or an elevator he would probably be hanged, in any case he would be hounded out of public life.

It is only on this side of the Atlantic that pre-election promises are tolerated and, unless they are too utterly flagrant, as in the case of the bye-elections in Halifax and Kent county, they generally count for more than performances.

A government may, for example, build a car ferry and equipment

providing some millions of dollars and providing a means of transportation of incalculable value to the province and to the dominion at large and be turned down at the next election. On the other hand, if a party faces the electors with sumptuous promises of lower taxation, better markets, lower cost of living, and makes a general slogan of "the full dinner pail," we elect them.

This has occurred in the past; it may occur in the future, but experience has proved that the trickster in politics, like the "wicked" of Scripture, "shall not live out half his days." There is such a thing as public morality; the heart of the public is generally sound. It may be improved upon at times and discover its error too late. This also has happened in the past and may happen again, but there are many evidences that the day of the shifty, self-seeking politician in Canada is about over. There have been too many instances recently of promises thrown to the winds after they had served their purpose in deluding the people. The effect has been salutary, we trust, and with the severe lessons handed out by an outraged public there is room to hope that a real "golden era" is dawning in Canada, an era in which there shall be a kindlier and less selfish attitude towards the "righteousness that exalteth a nation."

WHO DID IT?

Considerable amusement, not unmingled with pity, was occasioned recently by the belated attempt made to offset the now universal charge that our "solid four" federal representatives are not earning their salt either at home or in Ottawa. The Railway Board, no doubt in order to economize towards the end of the year, ordered that the railway shops over the whole system be closed for two weeks. Some 1400 men were affected and immediately a protest was forwarded from the whole system, including a strong protest from the City Council of Moncton. The Kent County election was looming up and the authorities were inclined to be lenient and accordingly they reduced the order to two days closing. In Charlottetown this looked like an opening for our federal representatives to show their power and the claim was immediately set up that they had got busy and did it. They had no more to do with it than their respected uncle, the man in the moon. Anyway, as the Railway is entirely out of politics, what could they have done?

Notes By the Way

Much has been proclaimed broadcast about the splendid crops in the Prairie Provinces. But it must be admitted that Manitoba was less favored in that regard than the two Provinces to the westward. The Winnipeg Free Press comments upon the glowing reports sent abroad by pointing out that the big crops mean increased business and revenue for the railways, but the prosperity of the farmers depends upon their net revenue after paying the cost of production. And it goes on to state that prices for farm products are now about what they were before the war while the price which the farmer has to pay for everything he needs to buy is much higher.

where there is, in addition a crop failure the farmers are in a very bad way and many are forced to leave the land." There appears to be a general demand throughout the Prairie Provinces for lower freight rates on the railways and for reduced federal provincial and municipal taxation. This demand is as general and as insistent in Eastern Canada as it is in the West. Unfortunately during the war and for a year or two after its close farmers and others acquired the habit of spending money very freely while prices were high for what they had to sell, and now with receipts greatly reduced they find it difficult to keep their outlay within their receipts.

The call for hard work and close economy was sent abroad through Canada and other lands at



That
Body
of
Ours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

A THOUGHT ON BLOOD PRES- SURE

You have had your blood pressure taken during an examination for insurance, and the reading has been rather high.

You are not rejected, but the physician suggests that you come in at a different hour, some other day.

He speaks reassuringly and you drop in perhaps two days later. The reading is considerably lower and you are accepted without question.

What has made the difference in the readings?

Well the first day you were very nervous, much excited by the examination. It was your first examination possibly.

Perhaps you had just eaten a very hearty meal, and had gone directly to the physician's office after eating.

Perhaps you were somewhat constipated which would also result in a high reading.

And so physicians whilst still finding the blood pressure instrument of great use in diagnosing conditions nevertheless are recognizing that various conditions not necessarily serious can make a difference in the readings.

Because after all, your blood pressure if high may be only a temporary condition just as you can have a rapid pulse or high temperature during some slight illness.

As a matter of fact many people have a high blood pressure normally. It would appear to run in families and doesn't effect their general health as they have no disorder whatever with the heart or kidneys. You see high blood pressure simply means that the heart is working harder.

This may be due to some poison it is trying to drive out of the system. This something may be of just a temporary nature, and the heart, blood vessels, and blood pressure become normal again when it is removed.

On the other hand if it be persistent, is present at all hours of the day, and lasts for some time there may be some underlying cause, such as kidneys that are not working properly.

The symptoms are puffiness under the eyelids and frequent urination.

Perhaps it is of a hereditary nature as seen in large fleshy people.

Or it may be in old people about 65 who have worn themselves out. So high blood pressure should not alarm you whatever, unless some other trouble with heart, kidneys or blood vessels is present.

more prosperous days old-time habits of thrift and economy both with governments and individuals were largely thrown into the discard. The need of economy and retrenchment in both public and individual affairs was seldom if ever greater or so great as it is today. The war imperatively demanded a huge expenditure which is now a debt but apart from the enormous war cost our federal government and all our provincial governments in Canada went on in a riot of spending and nearly all of them piled up millions in debts and deficits. Such practices must be checked at once and with a firm hand or the consequences will be disastrous.

The cost of the federal government in Canada had enormously increased before the war and no hope is held out for a reduction in that quarter. A single instance out of many is the legislative branch of that body. In the First Parliament of 1867-1872 there were 181 members of the House of Commons and 72 members of the Senate. These were each paid a sessional indemnity of \$600. Today we have a House of 235 members and a Senate of 96. It cost to pay the indemnities of Senators and Members fifty years ago \$151,810. Now the annual cost of indemnities to Senators and members is \$1,324,000, or nine times as much and shortly to be increased by \$40,000 to pay for ten additional members of the Commons.

But the sessional indemnity of our federal legislators is only a small part of the increased outlay for salaries at Ottawa. The number of members of the Cabinet has been increased and their salaries increased. The Departmental civil servants now number an army and are paid proportionately to the members and cabinet ministers. The head of the Railway Board now ranks with the Governor General at a salary of \$500,000 a year. Surely it is time that a reign of real economy was established at headquarters in Ottawa. The cost of living, which was the pretext for increasing the indemnity of members of Parliament has been considerably reduced and there is



"Good will toward men—"

HIS is the spirit of Christmas, "good will toward men." Where there is good will, one toward another, and nation toward nation, peace naturally follows—and with it all those blessings which peace assures.

Good will within each toward all is the world's greatest need in the struggle to re-establish confidence, hope, and human happiness on an enduring basis.

On this side of the water we have advanced so far on the upward trend that we enjoy the dawn of a new era. Let us assess our blessings at their true value and respond to this new hope.

It is our wish that the spirit of Christmas may dominate us all, and that the New Year will herald a period of joy and happiness to you and yours.

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Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

IF YOU LOOK

By MARY CAROLYN DAVIES

There's a little bit of blue beyond the tree-tops,

There's a little bit of sun behind the hill:

Perhaps it will not show, but, after all, you know,

There are just as many chances that it will!

There's a little bit of song beyond the slowness,

There is a hearty always laughter past a tear:

Dawn is always on its way when sunset happens;

And we always have a summer every year.

There are friends-to-be that walk unseen beside you,

When by one you thought your friend you've been forsook;

There's a blue and smiling happy day above you;

But you'll never see the blue unless you look!

"OH, HARRY, we'd better be going; I'm sure I felt a rain-

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