

THE DAILY MAIL

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1917.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

In ordinary times Santa Claus is one of the biggest business producers in the commercial world. However, since Mars got into the running, he has made the efforts of the funny little man who climbs down chimneys shrink into insignificance. In pre-war days the business called into being by Christmas giving was the biggest single factor in our commercial activities. For months before the event, factories, stores, transportation companies and other commercial bodies speeded up their machinery in order to take care of the Christmas trade. This business was centred largely in gift giving articles, although during recent years it has spread to include a very wide and comprehensive list of other commodities. On this continent alone Christmas trade ran into billions of dollars, including as it did in its scope such articles as candies and confectionery of all kinds, jewellery, fancy goods, musical instruments, toys, books, magazines, stationery, as well as many special lines of wearing apparel, such as ties, gloves, handkerchiefs, slippers, lingerie, etc.

Under former conditions it was perfectly right and proper that this stimulus to trade should be a part of our every day commercial life. Since the outbreak of hostilities, however, there has been a considerable shrinkage in gift giving and in the spending of money for what may be regarded as luxuries and unnecessary articles. This was done partly from choice and partly from necessity. In some cases those who were bereaved through the loss of loved ones at the front could not enter into the spirit of Christmas and gift giving. In other instances the strain of war taxes and the necessity of economizing forced people to save, so that for the past four Christmases there has been less Christmas trading than in pre-war times. It is to be hoped that before another Christmas comes around the war will be over, and Santa Claus may resume his pre-war activities. At the present time, "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men," is not very much in evidence.

A CANDID FRIEND.

The election in Charlotte resulted in the return of Mr. T. A. Hartt by a majority of 300 over Mr. W. F. Todd. The latter was badly beaten on the mainland, but was helped out considerably by the vote on the islands. That there was much dissatisfaction with Mr. Hartt's course as a representative is shown by the following from the last issue of the St. Croix Courier, a Conservative organ:

"If old conditions had prevailed at nomination time and a Conservative party had been acting in convention, Mr. Hartt might and might not have been the choice for candidate of such a convention, for it must be confessed that Mr. Hartt had not given the attention that he should have given to his constituency. While at Ottawa attending the sessions of the house, he gave close attention to his duties and to his constituency, but while the house was not in session he was seldom seen or heard in parts of the county that were removed from his home. There are very few votes to be secured in close proximity to that camp at Pleasant Ridge, and some of his personal friends would be doing Mr. Hartt a real service if they would make sure that it was destroyed at an early date. A member of parliament has specific duties to perform outside of parliament as well as in,

and these cannot be satisfactorily executed if the member fails to keep in close personal touch with all parts of his constituency. All of this is written in the utmost friendly feeling toward Mr. Hartt."

The people certainly have a right to expect something in the way of service from a man who is elected to represent them in Parliament. The public man who travels on his shape, or is constantly pulling wires with the object of landing a snug berth for himself, is very apt to get the marble heart when he goes before his constituents for a renewal of public confidence. Had the election in Charlotte been run on an ordinary issue, Mr. Hartt would undoubtedly have been elected to remain at home. It will be a good thing for Canada if the cheap, swashbuckling politician can be abolished along with the patronage curse.

The foreign trade of Canada for the eight months ending November 30th, reached the enormous total of \$1,855,157,821, against \$1,499,255,842 for the same period last year. For the month of November the trade returns totalled \$268,000,000.

Premier Lloyd George in a recent speech declared that if Russia had made good in the war, the military power of Germany would by this time have been completely crushed.

Early returns from Australia state that the plebiscite has given a majority of 150,000 against conscription. Another million votes remain to be counted, including the soldiers' votes.

The Federal government has decided to vote five million dollars in aid of the Halifax sufferers.

Through Our Sieve

Can we eat Christmas candles? You can't prevent Christmas from coming round as usual.

Why not have the city's scarifier go "over the top?"

The Bolsheviks are willing to fight anyone but Germany.

Front street merchants are looking for a surprise attack from the scarifier.

It's getting so that when you order a cord of wood they send a little girl around with it in a match box.

The Lord may, as Yorick remarked, temper the wind to the shorn lamb, but don't leave any brass monkeys sitting out on the lawn these nights.

A modern poet makes "kultur" to rhyme with "slaughter." Not so bad. Possibly it should be spelled "kaulgher."

It is said that the disturbance occasioned when dynamite slips its tether is like a baby's sneeze compared with the commotion made by trinitrotoluol.

STAR OF THE EAST, L.O.B.A.

Officers Elected Last Night—Installation by Mrs. Nichols, F.W.M.

Star of the East, L.O.B.A., held its annual meeting last evening and elected the following officers for 1918:

Mrs. W. Gregory, W. M.
Mrs. A. Treadwell, D. M.
Mrs. R. W. Gregory, chaplain.
Mrs. J. M. Chappell R. S.
Mrs. Mabel Merryweather, F.F.S.
Mrs. Ashley Nason, Treas.
Mrs. W. T. Craigs, D. of C.
Mrs. John Jarvis, Lect.
Mrs. S. DeLong, I. G.
Mr. W. T. Craigs, O. G.
Committee—Mrs. W. Butcher, chairman. Mrs. J. Murdoch, Mrs. J. McCutcheon, Mrs. I. Burden, Mrs. L. Staples.
Mr. H. T. Brewer, guardian.
Finance and audit committee—Mr. W. T. Craigs, Mr. Selby Locke.

The officers were gracefully installed by Mrs. Nichols, P. W. M. followed by speeches from some of the members on the work of the order.

Mr. T. H. Quirt of St. John, is at the Queen.

MRS. M. PETERSON SERIOUSLY HURT AT MARYSVILLE

Fell Down Stairs at Her Home and Broke Several Bones —News of Personal Interest.

Marysville, Dec. 21.—Mrs. Moses Peterson who resides on Main street, was the victim of a serious accident at her home Tuesday morning. She was in the act of descending the stairway when in some manner her foot became entangled resulting in a fall the entire length of the stairs. Medical aid was hurriedly summoned and upon examination it was found that several bones had been fractured. She is now resting more easily, and her early recovery is hoped for.

Misses Minnie Titus and Florence Bird are visiting Mrs. Frank Boone at North Devon for a few days.

Mrs. H. A. Swaffin of Hatfield, Mass., is visiting relatives here.

Mr. William Everett left this morning for Minto.

ANOTHER PEACE OFFER COMING

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 21.—What purports to be an outline of the kaiser's much advertised "Christmas peace terms" has reached here through the same neutral diplomatic channels which earlier in the week received information to support intimations from abroad that a new peace offer is coming.

In the main the terms as described follow the lines of those said to have been written by Foreign Minister Von Kuehlmann last summer. At the time they were denounced as having been written purely for political purposes.

The so-called terms, which must be appraised only at their face value are said to include the following:

To leave the distribution of Alsace-Lorraine to a plebiscite of the inhabitants.

England to pay Germany for her lost African colonies and the money to be used for the rehabilitation of Belgium, Serbia, Roumania and Northern France.

Russian provinces bordering the Baltic, the Black Sea and Prussia to become independent under a German plan.

Poland to be called an independent state under Austrian suzerainty.

Disarmament, freedom of the seas and commerce to be left to the peace conference.

Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro to retain their original boundaries, with the right of access to the sea being granted to Serbia.

Turkey to remain intact.

CHRISTMAS TRADE REPORTED EXCELLENT

Fredericton the Shopping Centre of Large Section of N. B.—Weather Conditions are Favorable.

With but two shopping days intervening between today and Christmas, the holiday retail buying season is at its height. Fredericton merchants have little to complain of as far as the Christmas season of 1917 is concerned. The complaint heard often before, that the absence of snow was keeping the country away from the city, cannot be made this winter for seldom has there been a heavier snow fall early in December. The snow has enabled many people to travel to Fredericton and also has facilitated the movement of natural products. The recent weather conditions have been extremely beneficial to the retail trade for the period of zero weather of last week has been followed by days of comparatively high temperature which has made it comfortable to be out of doors.

Benefit from Railways.
The railways are becoming more and more a factor in the business of Fredericton. The city now has radiating from it six lines of railway, all of

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For the Frosty Fall and Cold Winter Nights that are before us, is found only in our "Cozy," Warm, Light and High Class

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BUY NOW, while the cold weather is ahead of you, while the assortment is good, and while the price is reasonable. Later on they are absolutely certain to cost you more, as we are getting advance prices continually.

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WHOLESALE

RETAIL

which serve populous and well-to-do sections of New Brunswick. During the present month the number of people coming to the city by railway for the purpose of shopping has been more noticeable than ever. The people from the St. John Valley both east and west of Fredericton have come in particularly large numbers.

Money Plentiful.

Money is plentiful according to the reports of the merchants. The demands for Victory Loan, Halifax Relief and patriotic giving have been met and there still is left enough for heavy Christmas buying.

SAYS SUGAR WILL BE PLENTIFUL

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Washington, Dec. 21.—A plentiful supply of sugar for the American people during the coming year was predicted today by Carl D. Babst, president of the Sugar Refinery Company, testifying before the senate investigating committee. He opposed placing a limit on domestic consumption, contending that any such plan would result in a larger surplus than the tonnage would permit to be shipped abroad.

The shops of Fredericton always have had a good appearance and have surpassed those of places of similar population. This Christmas they are ably sustaining their deserved reputation. The class of goods offered is high and they are well displayed.

F. J. PATTERSON

(Continued from page 8.)

Christmas Snowflakes, solo by Miss Vera Jonah, solo by Annie Sypher, physical drill by girls of Grades VII. and VIII.

Other Sessions.

The meeting will close this afternoon. Yesterday afternoon Miss Margaret Lynds gave an illustrative lesson on "Expression" using a class from the Provincial Normal School. There also was an address by Mr. R. P. Steeves, Director of Elementary Agriculture, on "Production of Citizenship." This morning Mr. Frank J. Patterson of the High School gave a lesson on "History and Geography in Relation to the War" and Mr. Russell Bennett gave a lesson on "Local Geography in Relation to Nature Work."



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