

WHY DID OLD SANTA CLAUS SETTLE IN THE FAR NORTH?

Why Santa Claus went up to the land of ice and snow and made his home there is a mystery. Perhaps he chose it because he knew that he would be uninterrupted there all year long while he made his toys—unless, of course, Arctic explorers dropped in upon him for a visit. Perhaps he thought that his reindeer liked the cold, and that he could always get a new supply for his sleigh when his first team became too old for work. Perhaps he thought it better not to risk too sudden a change of climate since his visits to the Northern nations always come in the winter time. Perhaps he just naturally liked the North Pole better than any other place. At any rate he has lived there for a great many years, and there seems to be no sign of his moving for a long time yet.

Santa Claus didn't always have the habit of bringing everyone Christmas presents. He learned that only late in his life, though that was long before any of the boys and girls of today were born.

He didn't always have the name Santa Claus either. Hundreds and hundreds of people called him St. Nicholas. Little French children used to call him "Bonhomme Noel." English children sometimes still call him "Father Christmas." Little German children, who used to think that it was the Christ Child who brought the presents, called him "Kris Kringle," and the little Dutch children who came out to this continent ever so long ago called him "San Nicholas." Now if you call him "San Nicholas" and say it quickly and not pronounce it exactly as it is spelled you can guess from where the name "Santa Claus" came. Incidentally, it was the little Dutch children who first showed him how to get to North America. Before they came he didn't visit this continent at all at Christmas.

Remarkable Infant.

Santa Claus, under the name of St. Nicholas, has had to do in his time a great deal of work that had nothing whatever to do with Christmas. When he was a tiny baby St. Nicholas showed that he was to be a great and holy man, for it is said that when he was only a few days old he stood up in his bathtub and prayed for two hours and he always fasted on Fridays. His parents sent him to school when he was very young and not long after he was made a bishop. It was that fact that led to the custom in many countries of appointing boy bishops in the Christmas season. That ceremony has died out now.

When St. Nicholas grew up he made such a name for himself as being a very holy and powerful man that he was chosen to be Bishop of Myra on the death of the former bishop, which occurred while he was visiting Palestine. There he lived for many years, doing good to everyone and helping to keep the powerful from oppressing the poor. He was noted for his gener-

osity and there is a story told about his throwing three purses of gold in a window, to help the three daughters of a man who was too poor to give them a marriage dowry and who, consequently, didn't know what he was to do about providing for their future. These gifts came unexpectedly and it was only afterwards that the father found out who had sent them. Naturally people came to say, whenever they received presents they didn't expect, that St. Nicholas had brought them, and, as his feast day fell on the 25th of December, he soon became the person who brought gifts on Christmas Eve and everyone followed his example and gave presents to all their friends.

That is how St. Nicholas learned to bring Christmas presents and, as it is a very pleasant habit, every child hopes that he won't ever forget it.

THE KITTENS' CHRISTMAS.

As it came near to Christmas Day, The Tabby overheard them say That Santa came to girls and boys Bringing them gifts of books and toys.

On Christmas Eve the children all Hung up their stockings on the wall The Tabby thinking of her kittens Resolved to hang up all their mittens

After the folks had gone to bed Came jolly Santa in his sled, He saw the mittens hanging there An daunting said "Well, I declare!

Tat Tabby cat is pretty clever! What an idea; well, I never!" Then into one he dropped a ball, For having sport out in the hall;

A candy mouse, a bell and string, For Santa Claus has everything; Right to the top he filled those mittens— He wouldn't disappoint the kittens.

On Christmas morn the kittens all Came running out at their mother's call; They mewed and purred with great delight,

At what was left for them last night. The children were astonished, too, For this was something very new; Their parents said 'twas very clever And Tabby was the best cat ever.

A Christmas feast the kittens had And every one was very glad That Tabby had hung up the mittens And given a Christmas to the kittens.

Sent in by Ruth Patterson, (aged 10), Warton, Ont. (Certified sole work of Ruth—Mother.)

Mrs. Pryor—Your husband is in business for himself, isn't he? Mrs. Guyer—Well, he seems to think so on pay days, my dear.

YE OLDEN TIME WAYTES CAROLLED MAINLY OF THE GASTRONOMIC NEEDS

Come, butler, come bring us a bowl of the best," sang the waits a few centuries ago with good results. Alas, the plain doesn't work any more! The old order has changed, though there are still a few representatives of the merry companies that once made the nights of the Christmas season joyous with their songs.

The lineage of the professional waits can be traced back to the early ages of Christmas festivities, when it was customary for minstrels, jugglers, mimics and other entertainers to assemble at the houses of grandees on occasions of rejoicing. The "wayte" was a minstrel who kept watch at night and at certain times "piped the watch" on his hautboy or pipe and visited all the chamber doors. King Edward III, had three "waytes" whom he paid twelve pence per day in time of war and twenty shillings a year in time of peace.

For a time they were regular attaches to the households of the wealthy and, in return for their services, they received, in addition to the small monetary rewards, suitable clothing, food and coals to warm them during the night watches, and they were permitted to share in any other gifts which might be made to the servants as a whole. One of their most prized duties was that of piping watch for those who were to be made knights of the Bath, during their watch-night in the chapel. The "wayte" was afterwards entitled to have in fee all the "watching-clothing" that the knight had worn for the occasion.

The importance of the wait as a household necessity gradually waned and his restless disposition helped to draw him back into the folds of the wandering minstrelsy. As the encouragement of his profession grew less in the houses of the great, his respectability also declined.

Some time later societies of waits and musicians were formed to go about the towns morning and evening and on winter nights to favor the inhabitants with such songs as "Hush thee my darling," "Ye Gentlemen of England" and "The Sea." Later still their activities were confined to the days of festival only—among which were numbered the twelve days following Christmas and the two which preceded it. The latter were occupied in the announcing of the approach of the Yuletide and in gentle suggestions to the world at large that copious hospitality would not be amiss. Christmas Eve found the waits singing songs of a more religious nature, though mention of the conviviality of the season was not entirely lacking. It was for a time a custom for the waits to visit the churches at midnight and "sing in" the day of Christ's nativity.

Songs of Stomach.

During their peregrinations through the towns, the waits were entertained by the persons outside whose houses

they sang. While this custom was in vogue, a great many of the carols were exceedingly frank in their expressions of the singers' desires in the way of food and drink, and of their distaste of certain dishes and poorer ales which the inhabitants might feel tempted to pawn off on their entertainers. Some time later refreshments ceased to be as generously provided and money was thrown out to the waits or given at the door.

The carols they sang were of wide variety, ranging from those of a deeply religious nature to the lively songs which helped to cause sundry early archbishops to pronounce against this wicked way of keeping Christmas. There were a number of carols grouped together as "Wassell Songs," which were composed in honor of the wassail bowl and intended to be sung when it was carried in with all the pomp originally connected with the ceremony. There were others connected with the appearance of the bear's head at the Christmas dinner table and there were still others celebrating generally the joys of the season.

The mixture of sentiment in these early compositions was apparent in the first printed collections and the fact that the grosser variety were frowned upon by a large number of influential people led a London publisher in 1563, to assure the world that the carols he had to offer were "very new and godly."

One of the earliest and most popular of the carols, in an age of many Christmas hymns and songs which have since died out, was "In Excelsis Gloria." Others now reaching a venerable age include "God rest ye merry gentlemen," and "Good King Wenceslas." Practically all the carols dealing with incidents in the childhood of Christ, the lives of Joseph, Mary, St. Stephen and others, embodying legends not always substantiated by Bible history have been weeded out by time.

CLAIMS THAT THE FORDNEY TARIFF WAS NOT AIMED AT CANADIAN CATTLE; MARKET MAY BE OPENED

Washington, Dec. 18.—Canadian cattle raised by Canadian farmers are being sold on the Toronto market at prices averaging about 3 cents a pound less than similar cattle raised by American farmers are being sold at Chicago. This is an important difference in price. It represents the handicap Canadian farmers are suffering under because of what is generally known as the Fordney tariff. This difference in price emphasizes the benefits which would accrue to Canada through an arrangement between the two countries whereby Canadian cattle would find a market in the United States.

There is every reason to believe that the Fordney tariff is not aimed at Canadian cattle so much as stock from South America and Mexico. This being the case, it is believed that more favorable arrangement might be worked out, particularly as there has never been a time when official Washington has shown such a strong disposition to foster friendly business relations with Canada.

Canada not only desires access to the American market for her cattle but—and this is perhaps even more important—if and when such access is secured the arrangement should be of a permanent character. The imposition and withdrawal of duties has in the past seriously disorganized the whole Canadian cattle industry. This is because the American demand is for a different type of animal from that which can be successfully marketed abroad; and it takes about five years to work out such change of type by process of breeding and feeding.

Prior to 1913 when there was a duty against Canadian cattle entering the United States the Canadian breeders produced a finished type of animal for the export market. Then came the withdrawal of the duty and there was a change to the stocker and feeder type of unfinished animals for the American market, these going to

American farmers who did the finishing, Canada with her cheap lands—particularly Western Canada—benefited through the production of this type on a large scale. The Fordney tariff again shut off the American market. Cattle of the type suitable for that market had to be sacrificed and the breeders were forced to return to the type suitable for export. In the years which have elapsed the situation has been slowly adjusted to the new conditions and the industry is now on a more healthy basis.

In brief, the situation is that Canada wants the American market for her cattle, but she wants it only with the assurance that it will be continued. Such assurance would be difficult to secure under the prevailing conditions where tariff policies may be altered by succeeding political administrations. There is reason to believe, however, that if the duties are not aimed chiefly at Canada, and in view of close trade relations, both countries would benefit from a treaty, which would insure free entry of our cattle without the danger of change with each succeeding election.

Fredericton Otis Train Service.

On account of Christmas travel special train service has been arranged by the C. P. R. as follows: On Wednesday Dec. 23rd, extra special will leave Fredericton at 4.00 P. M. Atlantic Time, arriving at Otis at 8.00 P. M. making all stops enroute. On Thursday, Dec. 24th, extra special will leave Otis at 8.00 A. M. due to arrive in Fredericton at 12 noon. On Thursday Dec. 24th, regular train No. 193 will be held to leave Fredericton at 4.00 P. M. and will make all stops enroute to Otis.

"Darling, shall we elope some night?"

"I should say not. I want father to buy our tickets and get a compartment for us."

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	Reg. Price	Sale Price
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Men's 6 in. Palmer Skowhegan Waterproof 'packs	\$3.50	\$2.95
Men's 10 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S.	\$3.00	\$2.15
Men's 8 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S.	\$2.50	\$1.95
Boys' 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned 'packs	\$2.75	\$2.25
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Little Gents 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned Shoepacks	\$1.50	\$1.25
Boys and Misses 6 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style Draw String. (Just the thing for Snow-shoeing)	\$2.25	\$1.85
Youths 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String 'packs	\$1.75	\$1.40
Little Gents 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String Shoepacks	\$1.50	\$1.25

The above goods were all manufactured by the John Palmer Co., and are first class standard brands and New Stock—no trash or imitations.

WE ALSO HAVE SOME

Men's 4 Buckle Overshoes. Splendid values, worth at least \$5.00. We are going to sell them at	\$3.75
Men's Heavy Khaki Wool Trousers, \$6.00 value at	\$4.50
Men's Heavy Khaki Wool Breeches, Leather bound at	\$4.50
We have a few Mens Macinaw Jumpers and Shirts, excellent qualities at greatly reduced prices, ranging from \$4.00 to \$5.00	
Men's All Wool Under Shirts. While they last going at	\$1.00
All Wool Home Made Socks and Mittens. Leather Gloves, Mittens and Pullovers.	
Ladies' 4 Buckle Overshoes, regular \$5.00. Sale price	\$3.50
Ladies' 2 Buckle and 2 Snap Button Overshoes, Regular \$5.00	
Sale price	\$3.75

APPEAL WAS DISMISSED IN HURON CASE

Toronto, Dec. 19.—The end of the North Huron election case is not yet, according to George Spotton the Conservative candidate, whose appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Wright, directing that ballots with counterfoils attached be included in the recount conducted by Judge Lewis of Huron County, was dismissed by the second divisional appellate court here, yesterday.

The Conservative candidate's legal advisers also estimated that the fight for possession of the seat would be carried further. But neither he nor any of his counsel, would state what steps it was proposed to take. They did suggest, however, that an appeal could be taken under the Dominion Controverted Election Act, which deals with corrupt practices.

It was pointed out that Mr. Spotton is in the position of having been declared elected over J. W. King, Progressive, in North Huron and that his election has not yet been upset, and that while the Progressive candidate had been placed in a favorable position by Justice Wright's order his right to the seat had still to be definitely settled.

Bride (consulting cookbook)—Oh, my! That cake is burning and I can't take it out for five minutes yet."