

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

It is believed the "butter trust" of Chicago, is broken and prices have fallen two cents a pound.

President Young says trains will be running into Corvallis on the Oregon Electric by April 1, 1913.

The War department will ask congress to establish a big army post at American Lake, near Seattle.

Banker Lewisohn, of New York, refused to tell about the oil syndicate's profits before the money trust investigation.

President-elect Wilson is said to be undecided whether to choose his cabinet for personal fitness or for political reasons.

Final estimates of the entire soil and animal products of the United States for the year 1912 place the amount at \$9,532,000,000.

Two distinct shocks of earthquake were felt in the mining camps of Marysville, Bald Butte, Bald Mountain and Jay Gould, near Helena, Montana.

In its suit against the coal-carrying railroads of the East, the government has won many points, and the attorney general says the price of coal will be lower in consequence.

On the day that peace negotiations between Turkey and the Balkan allies began in London, a naval battle was fought between Turkish and Greek warships, in which several Turkish ships were damaged.

In a desperate battle at Tomato Springs, near Santa Ana, Cal., an unidentified outlaw was riddled with bullets by a company of militia, after he had killed a sheriff and wounded several of the pursuing posse.

Two persons were killed and 15 injured when Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific passenger trains Nos. 23 and 24 collided head-on at Winnekah, Oklahoma. The scene of the wreck is seven miles south of Chickasha.

It is believed Austria has no serious intention of declaring war against Serbia.

The federal government has filed a civil suit against the alleged Horse-shoe trust.

All arrangements have been made for the new pacelaw law to go into effect January 1, 1913.

A Turkish commander reports a fierce engagement with a Greek force in which he defeated the latter.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier upholds Canada's offer of battalions for England.

Susan Lincoln Mills, founder of Mills college at Oakland, Cal., is dead.

Prince Luitpold, of Bavaria, is dead, and the insane king of that country once more directs its government.

The opposition party in Serbia has warned the government against continuing peace at too dear a price.

Money trust witness admitted on the stand that stocks on deposits by customers are used as collateral by the banks.

The Port Blakely, Washington, lumber mill, said to be the largest of its kind in the world, has changed hands.

It has been definitely decided that Roosevelt received more votes than Wilson in California in the recent election, and all bets are being paid.

The Housekeepers' League of Philadelphia sold 2,000,000 eggs to consumers at 24 cents a dozen, and declares it will continue business until retailers who hold for high prices have been taught a thorough lesson.

PORTLAND MARKETS

Wheat—Track prices: Club, 77c; bluestem, 81c; 82c; forty-fold, 79c; red Russian, 76c; valley, 80c.

Barley—Feed, \$24 per ton; brewing, nominal; rolled, \$27@28.

Corn—Whole, \$36; cracked, \$37 ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$23 per ton; shorts, \$25; middlings, \$30.

Hay—Timothy, choice, \$17@18; mixed Eastern Oregon Timothy, \$12@15; oat and vetch, \$12; alfalfa, \$12; clover, \$10; straw, \$6@7.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$26 per ton. Fresh Fruits—Apples, 50c@1.50 per box; pears, 75c@1.50; grapes, \$1.50; Malaga, \$8 per barrel; cranberries, \$11.50; casabas, \$2.50 per dozen.

Potatoes—Jobbing prices: Burbanks, 60c@65c per hundred; sweet potatoes, 24c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, 90c@1 per sack. Vegetables—Artichokes, \$1@1.25 per dozen; beans, 12c per pound; cabbage, 1c; cauliflower, \$1.75 per crate; celery, \$3@3.25; cucumbers, 50c@60c per dozen; eggplant, 10c per pound; head lettuce, \$2 per crate; peas, 12c per pound; peppers, 10c.

Eggs—Fresh locals, candled, 35c@36c per dozen; current receipts, 30c@32c.

Pork—Fancy, 96c@94c per pound. Butter—Oregon creamery, cubes, 37c per pound; prints, 38c@39c.

Poultry—Hens, 12c@13c; broilers, 12c@13c; turkeys, live, 20c; dressed, choice, 25c; ducks, 12c@14c; geese, 12c@13c.

Veal—Fancy, 13c@14c per pound. Hops—1912 crop, prime and choice, 17c@20c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 14c@18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 21c@22c; mohair, choice, 32c.

Cattle—Choice steers, \$6.85@7.25; good, \$6.50@7.25; medium, \$6@6.25; choice cows, \$6@6.50; good, \$5.50@6.25; medium, \$4.50@5.25; choice calves, \$7.50@8.75; good heavy calves, \$6@7; bulls, \$3@5; stags, \$5@6.

Hogs—Light, \$7.50@7.75; heavy, \$6@7.

Sheep—Yearling wethers, \$4.25@5.35; ewes, \$3.25@4.25; lambs, \$5@6.60.

THREATEN LIFE OF WILSON

Second Letter Is Now in Hands of Postal Authorities.

Newark, N. J.—President-elect Wilson's life has been threatened by a letter writer. The letter was mailed in New York on December 12, received by the governor's secretary at Trenton the next day and turned over to the postal authorities. It is now in possession of United States Assistant District Attorney Lindabury, who declines to discuss it.

The receipt of the second threatening letter became known at the arraignment of Jacob and Warren Dunn and Seely Davenport, of Wharton, the three so-called mountaineers, who were charged with having sent Governor Wilson on November 11 last a letter demanding \$5000 under threat of death.

The hearing was not concluded, but United States Commissioner Stockton dismissed the case against Warren Dunn and took under advisement a motion to make a similar ruling in the case of Davenport.

Against Jacob Dunn, alleged author of the threatening letter, the government made out a strong case, Commissioner Stockton said. He held Dunn, pending the conclusion of the hearing.

WAR MAKES MANY DESTITUTE

Mrs. Rockhill Describes Misery and Relief Given By Red Cross.

Washington, D. C.—The condition of dying men crowded around wells endeavoring to obtain water is described by Mrs. Rockhill, wife of the American ambassador at Constantinople, in a letter to Miss Mabel T. Boardman, of the American Red Cross. Mrs. Rockhill writes that in and about one building in San Stefano were lying 500 men in complete destitution as a sequence to the Balkan war. She says it is impossible to estimate the number of the sick or dead, but that many corpses are unburied.

She reports that American efforts in San Stefano have resulted in taking care of the dying and the dead who hitherto lay in helpless, hopeless misery.

Through the co-operation of several members of the British Red Cross hospital unit, the American committee had been able to start a field hospital of 50 beds in tents.

GIBBET FOR PANIC MAKERS

Wilson Promises Punishment Dire for Financial Disturbers.

New York—President-elect Wilson held up a warning finger to any man who might deliberately start a panic in the United States in order to show that intended legislative policies were wrong.

In a speech at the banquet of the Southern society of New York he declared he had heard sinister declarations of what would follow if the Democratic party put into effect changes in economic policy.

The president-elect first distinguished in his speech between "natural" and "unnatural" panics. He said that in many cases panic had come naturally, because of a mental disturbance of people with reference to loans and money generally.

"But the machinery is in existence," he said, "by which the thing can be deliberately done. Frankly, I don't think there is any man living who dares use the machinery for that purpose. If he does I promise him, not for myself, but for my fellow countrymen, a gibbet as high as Haman's."

Lissner Added to List.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Dixon, chairman of the Progressive national committee, said that the committee of seven which is to visit Europe to study governmental questions in behalf of the Progressive party, would be named when the executive committee meets in New York Thursday. He said that only three men had been decided upon. Two of these, Medill McCormick, of Chicago, and Dr. Walter Weyl, of New York, were announced in Chicago, and Meyer Lissner, of California, may be added.

Morgan Goes to Testify.

Washington, D. C.—J. Pierpont Morgan has arrived to testify before the house committee on banking and currency investigating the so-called money trust. A party of nearly a score accompanied Mr. Morgan in a special train that brought him from New York, including his daughter, Miss Anne Morgan; his partners in the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co.; Thos. W. Lamont and H. P. Davidson; Joseph H. Choate, John C. Spooner and Richard S. Lindabury, of counsel for Mr. Morgan, and J. P. Jr.

Message Is Discussed.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft and his cabinet discussed the president's forthcoming message to congress at the regular Tuesday meeting. It probably will be the last session of the year, because the president leaves Thursday for Panama and will not be in Washington again until December 31. The forthcoming message will be devoted largely to a review of the accomplishments of the government departments in the past year.

Ranchmen Rout Raiders.

El Paso, Tex.—Fifteen ranchmen defended the Dumbre ranch, an American property in Chihuahua state, for nearly two days against 150 bandits, who later were dispersed by Federal troops, according to reports received here. Troops sent from Parral, near by, through appeal from the American consul, J. I. Long, routed the bandits, killing 32.

Alfalfa Men Optimistic.

Wichita, Kan.—Alfalfa millers from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado closed their semi-annual meeting here with a prediction that \$20,000,000 worth of alfalfa products would be the output of their mills this year. Uniform grading rules were adopted, so that alfalfa millers can be protected.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

General News of the Industrial and Educational Development and Progress of Rural Communities, Public Institutions, Etc.

MORE COURSES IN PRUNING

O. A. C. Offers Special Work for Fruitmen in January.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—Because there has been a demand for more work in pruning and other horticultural subjects than could be responded to in a single period of four weeks, the Oregon Agricultural college will this year install special work for those who have already had a previous year's short course training, beginning January 6.

"The advanced work will be given in the afternoon, and will start with a study of the bud, followed by blackboard exercises and a study of the varieties of fruit trees in the orchard, learning their habits of growth, habits of bud formation, etc.," said Prof. Lewis in discussing the new work. "The latter part of the course will be devoted to the pruning of various types. The work will be given every Monday and Wednesday afternoon during the short course."

Another course open only to those who have had previous horticultural training in the short course under Prof. Lewis is that on orchard economics.

"Heretofore our energies have been concentrated on producing the fruit," said Prof. Lewis. "As our crops increase, and as the prices at times drop, one of the greatest problems will be how to lower our cost of production. This course deals with the cost of producing fruits. We first start with land values, cost of clearing, preparation, staking, planting, tillage, use of cover crops, pruning, thinning and handling the crop. Laboratory exercises will be given in this course in the drafting room, which will consist of orchard platting, a study of the relation of the location of orchard buildings to orchard economics and management. The students will also be given training in the planning and construction of packing houses. This course will be given every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon during the short course."

CLIMATE MAKES FINE FRUIT

Taking Oregon Soil East Does Little Good.

"If the middle-western fruitmen who had a train load of Oregon soil placed in their orchard could have transferred a like quantity of Oregon climate to their Mississippi valley farm, they would have made the duplication of Oregon apples on the other side of the Rockies much more nearly possible," said Prof. C. I. Lewis in a lecture on "Choosing an Orchard," last week before a large audience of Oregon fruitgrowers at the Oregon Agricultural college.

Climatological conditions seem to hold the key to successful fruit culture, he said, but emphasized the fact that, besides choosing a place of proper climatic conditions, the orchardman must take thought of the altitude of his orchard site, the quality of soil, the exposure and the moisture conditions.

No matter how fine and fertile a soil may be, if it is but a few inches deep, with a stratum of rock beneath, it is not orchard soil, he said, and, though a soil may be eminently suited to one fruit, it might be very poor for another. It is erroneously held by some that the orchard should have a south exposure; in frost regions a north exposure is preferable, since the thawing after a freeze is more gradual, and the trees thus have more chance to recover.

KLAMATH FRUIT BIG SUCCESS

Growers Beginning on Small Scale Learn District Is Adapted.

Klamath Falls—This is not usually considered a fruit country and many will say that fruit cannot be raised successfully on account of the altitude and the consequent late frosts. In spite of these pessimists, a number of men in Klamath valley have fine crops of fruit each year.

E. Elvey, a farmer near Merrill, has a Black Tartarian cherry tree 54 inches in circumference, which is loaded with fruit every year. There are a number of small orchards in and near Klamath Falls which bear too well, the trees being overloaded, and the fruit small as a result. Where the fruit is thinned it makes a marvelous growth.

Simplify Court Procedure.

Klamath Falls—Believing that the widespread criticism of the courts is due directly to preventable methods now in vogue, W. C. Smith, joint representative of Klamath, Lake and Crook counties, has in preparation a bill to facilitate court work and to prevent the customary temporizing in court work. It is not Mr. Smith's idea to revolutionize the practice or to abolish the profession of the law, but to make the practice practical by bringing certain limitations to bear on the professional work.

Railway Enters May 1.

Gresham—The town of Sandy expects to welcome the advent of the Multnomah Central railroad May 1. The right of way from Cottrell, six and one-half miles, to Sandy has been cleared and grading will begin in a short time. Twoky Bros. have the contract for grading and construction and, with their equipment, could do the work in 90 days, but expect to be delayed somewhat by inclement weather. Cherryville is seven miles beyond Sandy and there is assurance that the road will reach there next year.

Plans for Farm Buildings.

Blue-prints of plans for the construction of various farm buildings, such as barns, silos and houses, will soon be furnished to the farmers of the state by the farm mechanics department of the Oregon Agricultural college upon request. This is a new departure in the service of the college to the state.

CHILDREN WILL CONTEST

Statewide Poultry Competition is to Take Place in 1913.

Salem—The following statement has been issued by the office of the superintendent of public instruction: "William F. Kaplinger, of Salem, sponsor of the famous Kaplinger potato race for school children last spring, again is showing his interest in the industrial work of the public schools and his genius as an advertiser. Last spring he offered more than 300 of the finest seed potatoes to as many school children who made application for them. The purpose of the contest was to see who could raise the best and the most potatoes from the one potato allowed each competitor. The result was the best display of potatoes ever seen at the fair, with the first prize awarded to Eugene Dumont for 12 boxes, all raised from the one potato."

"Now Mr. Kaplinger is offering settings of eggs to the boys and girls who will enter the poultry contest for 1913. The boys and girls this coming year are to raise enough eggs and chickens to pay for the public schools. Mr. Kaplinger offers five settings of Light Brahma eggs free of charge. The conditions are these: All wishing to take advantage of this offer must send their names to W. F. Kaplinger, Salem, before February 1. On that date the names of all applicants will be shuffled together, in the office of L. R. Alderman and the first five drawn out will be the five to receive the eggs. Mr. Kaplinger also offers a trio of Brahma chickens to the boy or girl who exhibits the best trio of any breed of Asiatic chickens at the State Fair next fall."

OREGON PREMIUMS \$50,000.00

Purebred Livestock Association of State Offers Inducements.

Livestock breeders all over the United States are talking about the action of the Oregon Purebred Livestock association in passing resolutions appropriating \$50,000 for premiums for Oregon breeders at the Panama-Pacific exposition in 1915. This information is conveyed in a letter to the Portland Commercial club from O. M. Plummer, secretary-treasurer of the Portland Union Stockyards company, who is attending the International Livestock Show at Chicago. D. O. Lively, who is also in Chicago, is using Oregon's resolution as a spur to induce other states to do likewise.

Mr. Plummer writes that this move has advertised Oregon very widely and that breeders from all parts of the country are talking about it. The fact that Oregon has also proposed to do away with its annual State Fair in order to strengthen the state exhibit at the exposition is causing a great deal of comment among the breeders. Mr. Plummer writes that there is a lively possibility that the 1915 International Stock show may be shifted to San Francisco.

Mr. Plummer is anxious that the Oregon Agricultural College shall have a team of students at the next International show to enter the stock-judging contest, as he feels sure that this state can carry away honors.

LOG DEMAND NOW STRONG

Camps May Halt Operations Soon Till After Holidays.

Astoria—The logging camps in this district are running full force but it is understood they close down for the Christmas holidays. While there is no shortage of logs, nor is one anticipated, the demand is strong and prices good, and practically all the camps are expected to resume operations as soon after the first of the year as the crews can be assembled.

The output of logs from Clatsop county camps will be considerably larger next year than it has been during the present season. This condition will result from the opening of the Crossett Timber company's new camp in the Big Creek section, the opening of the Palmer Logging company's camp on the Walluku river and the increased operations by the Western Coopers company, after the completion of the extension of the Astoria Southern railway to the coopers company's large tract of timber in the Clatskanie River district.

Oregon Exhibit Admired.

Portland—"People here are showing active interest and are eager to learn about Oregon and its opportunities," is the message coming to the Portland Commercial club from O. E. Freytag, in charge of the Portland exhibit at the Minneapolis and Chicago Land shows this year. "Much interest is shown by the large crowds that attend the daily lectures and picture shows. Personal talks with people in the crowds have developed the fact that in almost every case the minds of inquirers are turned toward the farm."

Adulterated Milk Found.

Portland—More than 235 gallons of milk from a prominent dairy farm near McCoy, Or., was dumped into the sewer recently by City Milk Inspector Galloway as a result of the discovery in the milk of annato and water. Tests made of the shipments from the ranch between November 27 and December 3 showed that the adulterants were used daily, the former to give the product a creamy appearance and the latter to add to the amount. In consequence of the discovery the milk sent to the city was destroyed.

Onion Growers Unite.

Plans are being formulated at Hubbard to organize an Onion Set Growers association for the purpose of promoting the industry. Nearly 1,000,000 pounds of onion sets were grown this year within a radius of six miles of Hubbard.

PEACE CONFERENCE HALTED

Greece Continues Hostilities and Turks Wait Instructions.

London—The peace conference was launched only to be interrupted by a complication resulting from the policy of Greece in waging war and negotiating peace simultaneously. The Turkish delegation announced that it was empowered to confer only with the three Balkan kingdoms which signed the armistice at Tehtalja, and as a consequence adjournment was taken to obtain instructions.

All the conferees expressed the belief that the suspension is merely temporary and that a pathway toward the resumption of the meetings will be found.

The prospects for a successful issue of the conference are enhanced by the declaration of the Turks that they have plenary powers to arrange and sign a treaty of peace. How far their improved military position, with the encouragement Austria is credited with giving them, may stiffen their backs against the allies' terms remains in doubt.

The first sitting of the ambassadorial court of appeals, as it is called, was held in the foreign office. The ambassadors of five continental powers conferred with Sir Edward Grey, the British secretary for foreign affairs, for more than three hours. The different nations advanced their views on the Eastern problem.

The contingency that mediation may offer the only solution of the war has been the subject of much discussion. The heads of the Bulgarian and Servian delegations, in interviews, recognized that the United States might be in a position to act as peacemaker.

The naval fight off the Dardanelles in which both Greece and Turkey claimed victory, was resumed Thursday. Athens announces that the Greek army is about to capture Janina.

The friction between Austria and Servia appears not to have abated. The Servians complain that Austrian gunboats in the Danube are indulging in provocative tactics, throwing their searchlights on Belgrade, which has caused a panic among the residents.

START WIDE CRUSADE

AGAINST HIGH PRICE EGGS

New York—A movement to reduce the price of eggs in every city in the country to 25 cents or less a dozen, was started by the national executive committee of the Housewives' League of America. An appeal has been addressed to every state chairman and local city political league, urging them to join in the movement in an effort to make the campaign general.

The leaders of the country were urged to begin their crusades by appealing to dealers in their immediate locality. This plan follows the method adopted in Greater New York, as a result of which the league announced that three of the largest grocery firms, controlling places in every part of the city, had acceded to the demand for cheaper eggs and had cut the price to 25 cents a dozen.

Other dealers are expected by the women to do likewise.

Naval Battle Is a Draw.

Sedi-Bahr, Dardanelles—Another naval battle was begun between the Turkish and Greek fleets Thursday morning near the entrance to the Dardanelles. The firing was heavy.

After the naval battle off the Dardanelles, the Turkish warships returned to their anchorage with flags flying and bands playing amid the enthusiastic applause of the crowds lining the shore.

Robbers Find Bank Empty.

Tremonton, Utah—After laboring half the night to break into the old concrete money vaults of the State Bank of Tremonton, four robbers were dismayed to discover that the bank had moved away the day before. Miss Anna Rauber, a telephone exchange operator in the building opposite, discovered the men just as they broke through the three-foot walls. She telephoned Marshal Brown and a running fight followed, but the robbers escaped in a buggy stolen from a physician.

Servians Drunk With Future.

Paris—"The Servians are drunk with the future and forgetful of the past, and perhaps of the present," according to Rudolph Sieghart, who was recently appointed governor of the Credit Foncier of Austria by Emperor Francis Joseph. Writing to the Temps, Sieghart complains of what he calls the campaign of detraction and suspicion against Austrian policy current in Europe. The Austrian government, he says, has been observing for some time the massing of Russian troops on the Austrian frontier.

Flynn Succeeds Wilkie.

Washington, D. C.—William J. Flynn, of New York, was appointed chief of the United States secret service by Secretary MacVeagh, of the Treasury department, succeeding John E. Wilkie, chief supervising agent of the customs service. For many years Mr. Flynn has been in charge of the New York division of the secret service, and during the early days of Mayor Gaynor's administration was deputy police commissioner.

Swiss Prepare Against War.

Berne, Switzerland—The Swiss government, in view of the possibility of war, is augmenting the amount of ready cash at its command. A command of \$5,000,000 in gold and silver has arrived here by special train from Paris and was lodged in the Swiss National bank. The government also continues to order quantities of grain from America.

PREPARING FOR HIS ANNUAL JOURNEY



Mattie had dressed her. With a child's adaptability she seemed to fit in perfectly with her surroundings in contrast to Thomas in his coarse blue gingham and heavy shoes. She would bring the spirit of youth to a house, long accustomed to the decorous ways of sober middle age. A black and white Japanese spazial, with a nose so short that he seemed always on the point of a sneeze, jumped up beside her and laid his head affectionately on her arm.

CHRISTMAS FOR TWO

By AGNES HOWARD BUTLER.

M A L L. Thomas Moore was born an orphan. So far as his brief history began and ended at the Children's home. His big sister Lily, who was six and therefore should have known better, told vague tales of a real Mother and a little house in the country where they had cocoa every day for breakfast. This last year she had commended the whole story. At the Asylum one had cocoa only on Sunday, and this festive event redeemed a day otherwise devoted to religious exercises.

The two children sat on the edge of their chairs in the bleak asylum parlor, where three holly wreaths in the curtainless windows proclaimed that it was Christmas. Both were dressed in the institutional blue and white check, and there was a red shyness about their faces which told of the recent and vigorous application of soap and water. Lily was cream and roses with appealing long-lashed eyes that would have secured her a home many times over if she had been willing to go alone. No one wants to adopt a boy. Even the blonde ones were unclaimed, so what chances had Thomas, brown as to hair and eyes and skin, although anything but somber in effect? The overworked Matron had reluctantly given up the idea of "placing" the two children together. A desirable home had been found for the girl with two prim maiden ladies and little brother had to remain behind. So the tiny folks were to spend their last Christmas together with Lily's new guardians.

"Sister will come every Saturday to see Brother," said the little girl, who accepted the coming separation with a child's strange fatality, although her heart was aching.

"Yes," assented Brother noncommittally. He was less concerned with future happiness than with the pleasing prospect of a day in new surroundings.

A carriage drawn by a fat stag of a horse drew up to the curbing, two ladies got out and cautiously ascended the slippery steps.

"Miss Priscilla-red-headed and Miss Mattie-puller-hair-back," announced Thomas, who had his own way of characterizing people.

"Tommy! Tommy! Don't call them that," wailed Lily; "say Miss Priscilla and Miss Mattie or maybe they will want me."

At this awful thought even Thomas was abashed, so it was the shy little Lily alone who slipped from her chair and offered her hand to the two ladies as they entered the room followed by the Matron. Miss Priscilla shook hands in a matter of fact way, but Miss Mattie bent to kiss the children as she helped them on with their wraps and gathered up the meager parcel that contained Lily's personal belongings.

"Shall we go now, Sister?" she ventured. The dominant chord of her existence had always tinkled a soft accompaniment to the leitmotif of the delectable Miss Priscilla.

"Yes," assented the latter positively, "and we will return the boy precisely at five," she added to the Matron, who had been hovering over Lily with good-byes and admonitions.

The coachman carried both children down the icy steps and they bore themselves with becoming modesty, as if accustomed to such care, while the orphans in the front yard watched enviously, and one of them opened the window wide enough to call down:

"Aw, Tommy's coming back anyhow," as a salute to their slighted condition.

When the big house was reached there was a delightful holiday smell in the air of evergreens, oranges and freshly burning driftwood. Lily was taken upstairs to come down later, her blonde beauty radiant in the white lawn and blue ribbons in which Miss

Mattie had dressed her. With a child's adaptability she seemed to fit in perfectly with her surroundings in contrast to Thomas in his coarse blue gingham and heavy shoes. She would bring the spirit of youth to a house, long accustomed to the decorous ways of sober middle age. A black and white Japanese spazial, with a nose so short that he seemed always on the point of a sneeze, jumped up beside her and laid his head affectionately on her arm.

"What a picture," sighed Miss Mattie.

"Don't spoil the child," rejoined her sister, with a glance at small Thomas, who seemed rather out of it. "Come, it's time for the tea."

A white-capped maid shoved aside the portieres and revealed a tree, glittering with tinsel and heaped around with various ribboned packages. There was a satisfying smell, a cozy "portion for two" feeling about this fat little tree, in contrast to the usual spindly, sparsely trimmed evergreen at the Asylum, which was so large that it never seemed to belong to anyone but the Board of Directors.

After a moment of rapturous silence Lily hugged a real dolly, and Thomas fell upon a toy horse. Being of an investigating turn of mind, it was soon minus saddle and bridle and the tail was about to follow when Miss Priscilla created a diversion by lighting the tree so that he might see it in all its glory before he went back. The early winter twilight began to shadow the room as she rang for tea. Then thoughtfully she hung Tom's coat by the fire to warm in preparation for his cold ride.

The tea-wagon appeared. In honor of the day it bore the Martha Washington set of colonial tradition, a cherished heirloom whose eggshell fragility had been guarded from destruction through five careful generations. Besides the usual tea service, there was a pitcher of milk and thin slices of bread, spread with raspberry jam, and a plate heaped with bananas.

It was wheeled into place before Miss Mattie, whose transparent hands had barely tilted the teapot, when with a whoop of joy the riotous Thomas made descent. Headless of his sister's warning cry and poor Miss Mattie's horrified gasp, he grasped the handle of this novel push-cart,