



Christmas Cheer For World Made Here

Toys, Sweets, Greens and Other Seasonal Essentials Draw Cash to Oregon



Weird Wasps Will Carry Joy to Some Child.

BY DE WITT HARRY.

FAVORED of all childhood's fables undoubtedly is that of Christmas when Santa Claus is seen in the mind's eye of nearly every youngster as he harnessed up his reindeer and comes forth in the brisk December weather in a flurry of snow and distributes the seasonal gifts and enters the homes by means of handy chimneys. In this state we have our Santa just as they do in other localities and his sled and his champing steeds even though the snow may be woefully lacking, and headquarters for the distribution is just the same as everywhere else, from the far-off frozen north. But this is where it ends locally, for while Oregon must admit that Santa starts from the north, we will not go further except to acknowledge that he may have headquarters here and there, and have his bookkeepers, but it is in this state that he makes his gifts, here that his factories are located.

When it comes to a matter of furnishing Christmas cheer to the rest of the country, Oregon is the real headquarters. It is here that Santa Claus makes his toys, here that he gets his goodies and sweets and it is this state that furnishes the decorations that bring home to those less fortunate the real spirit of the season. Toys, turkeys, candles, mince meat, holly, Christmas trees, mistletoe, dolls and all, in splendid array, go from Oregon to delight the rest of the world. Santa Claus stocks up his sleds time and time again from Portland warehouses and delivers the gifts to the rest of the country, which owes this city a lasting debt for its real holiday treasures.

Christmas Cheer Goes North.

Just as a starter let's study the Christmas decoration situation, the trees, holly, mistletoe, and other greens that do so much toward creating the real spirit of the season. Visitors from other sections of the country marvel at the rich foliage found here, at the beautiful holly of a dozen varieties, the mistletoe that clings to the Oregon oaks with a fondness not noticed elsewhere, the millions of young fir trees ideal for bearing a bountiful crop of Christmas treasure and at all of the rest of the luxuriant vegetation. In Portland are several firms, in addition to the regular florists, that make a specialty of shipping evergreens at this time of the year to all sections of the country, and they have managed to make this a great trade. Though they only manage to get in a few weeks of their season, the output that goes from here to give the rest of the country a fit setting for their holiday is enormous.

Just across the street from the Arlington club is one of these firms that sends the greens of Oregon all over the country. Two weeks ago one of their orders was for four carloads of Christmas trees for the San Francisco market. They have their buyers out and they comb the state each season for the right kind of greens. Holly wreaths in great array, of various sizes and varieties of the curly leaves, go from here to eastern cities and there command high prices. There are few localities in the United States that can produce in the open the green bushes that come from here. Not only do they ship this stuff in wreaths, but they ship huge parcels of the sprays. Tons of the greens are handled here and they generally make their sales on a pound basis. The orders roll in and they work their hardest to get their product away to the eastern markets so that they can handle the local trade during the real Christmas season.

Portland makes the rest of the world happy at this season, but one difficulty this year will be the shortage of kisses, for, from all reports,

there will be but little mistletoe on the market. So far as is known none has been shipped. The reason for this was the severe winter of a year ago that killed off a great amount of this plant that thrives on the sturdy oak. The leaves seem to be there in fair amount but the white pearl-like berries are missing, and these are the real essential, according to Yuletide practice that reveals in osculatory practices. In the belief that governs the judicious use of the mistletoe, and it has many fervid advocates, the person who makes use of the shrub is entitled to a kiss for each berry, and naturally as any observing and careful user of mistletoe would be careful to have the proper party for company at the time of exchanging one of the most appreciated compliments of the season, the more berries the better. However, the merchants who traffic in this essential for the hall and secluded nook decorations have managed to get a small supply and this has been held in stock for the local trade so that no matter how much the rest of the country suffers from a shortage of kisses, Portland should have a fair amount as they have sold their stock here during the past week.

So brisk has been the holiday trade in greens that local florists report that they have been forced to cancel many orders, for if they accepted all this state would have been stripped of foliage. The forest officials just lately made a ruling that the cutting of small sapling trees in the timber did not essentially injure the future growth of the replacing forest, and as a consequence there has been little effort made to stop this practice. It is possible to get the best varieties of trees adapted for Christmas trade from the areas given over to slashings, or from areas where it is not intended to reforest with the result that while Oregon may ship train loads of the small trees out of the state, she will not permanently injure her future.

Toys Bring Nest Fortune.

But the prime story of Christmas this year is that of R. H. Groves, for the Tule season has brought fortune for him. Gifted romancers delight in relating stories saturated with the Christmas spirit, but it is doubtful if any tales of the imagination can surpass the fact story as told by Groves, a simple, unassuming sort of an ordinary chap who managed to hit on something that lots of other people wanted and who, as a consequence, has reaped a fortune.

The story, as near as it can be placed out, starts about five years ago and Jesse Rich appears in it. Groves at that time had just an ordinary job, not a position, and was none too flush with ready cash. He had two children, has them yet, the two that are playing with the toy blocks in this picture, and who were the unintentional means of their father making a fortune. Groves some way had want-

ed a son, and had some visions of playing men's games with the little fellow as he grew up. He dreamed a number of times of the pleasure he would have with the little fellow in showing him how to build all manner of things with a set of mechanical toys, for Groves' hobby was mechanics, and in order to indulge himself in it he had a miniature shop set up in his basement, with workbench and scroll saw and the necessary tools.

Cigar Boxes Start Industry.

However, when the girls came Groves found that they made just as good playmates as the boy would have had, and spent a good deal of time with them, as most any father would have two like those in the picture. However, he always wanted to play with some kind of mechanical toy, but

whenever he mentioned the fact of buying the girls a set of the steel construction blocks he had in mind, Mrs. Groves vetoed the proposition, stating that dolls were the proper toys for girls. Now Groves wanted this set of mechanical toys mighty bad, but they cost a lot of money and he did not feel that he could spend that much on himself for toys when he was just about grown up, so Jesse Rich, for Groves went to him some weeks before Christmas five years ago and got an armful of cigar boxes and took them home and started working with his scroll saw, determined that he would have some kind of a set of mechanical toys. He drew a set of patterns so that the various blocks would fit together in a number of designs that permitted nearly every model in existence to be duplicated.

BLEAK CITY OF NOME GOES INTO ANNUAL HIBERNATION

Swept by the Storms From Bering Sea, the Mining Camp Now Is Threatened With Extinction.

NOME, Alaska, has gone into its winter hibernation, according to newspaper dispatches, and is expected to return to life with but little vitality next spring. This remote mining camp, which, after a meteoric career and growth into a city, threatens practically to pass out of existence, was described in the following bulletin issued by the National Geographic society:

"Nome is a town which always hibernates in winter. Situated on the bleak north coast of the icy, storm-swept Bering sea, close to the arctic circle, it is frozen in and snowed in for about seven months of the year. Its chief industry, placer gold mining, depends upon the use of running water, therefore the activities must stop when the water congeals. Rather than spend the long winter in the extreme cold, waiting for the return of mild weather, a large part of the population of Nome has always returned to the states in the fall, making the journey back to the north in June, when navigation opens.

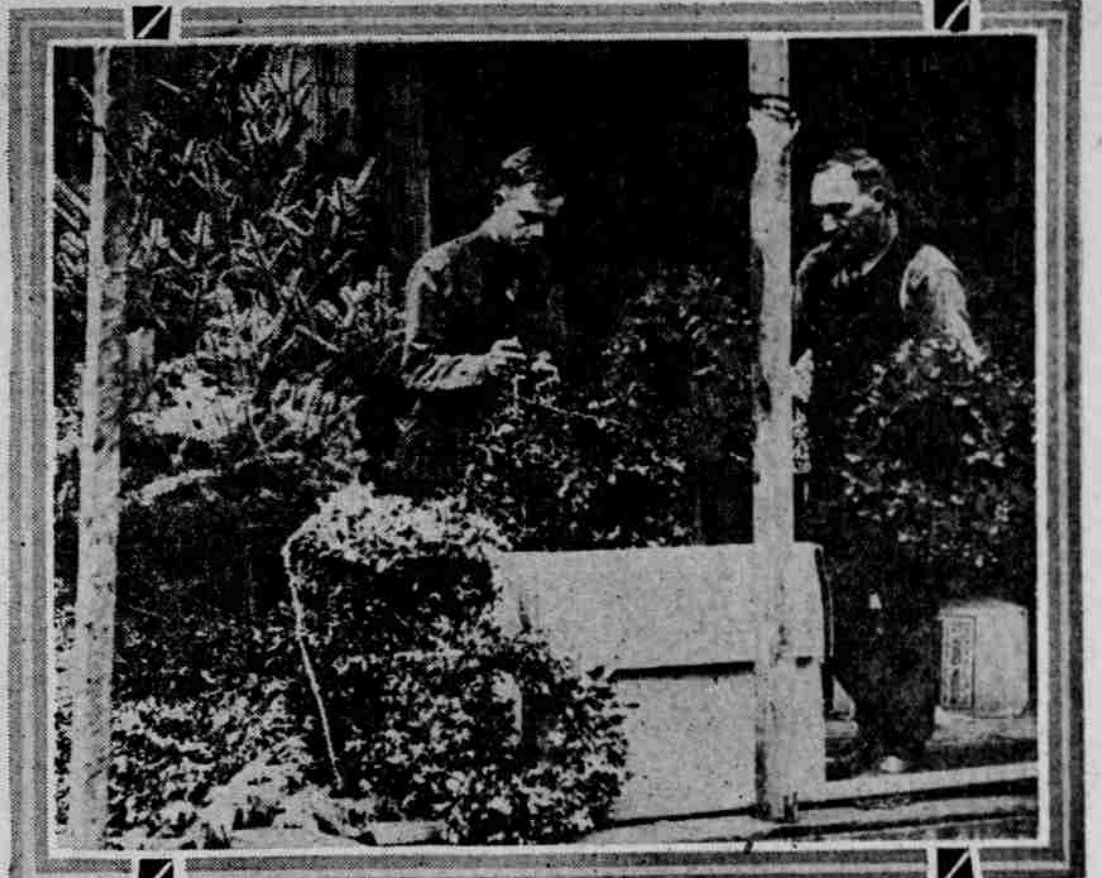
"The overnight creature of an unusual gold discovery, the town grew up on a site that probably could not have been worse fitted for a community of human habitation. It is open to the full sweep of the violent storms and the heavy waves that often beat in from the sea. It has a relatively narrow beach and immediately within is a strip of tundra, frozen solid in winter, but a sea of mud during the open season.

"In this morass the town grew up. In the early days men and animals floundered through streets that were knee deep in mud. Later the principal thoroughfares were boarded over,

Country Looks to Portland.

Three years ago the first effort to sell Konstrukt blocks came and Groves went to the Portland Pulley company and gave them his designs and ordered 300 sets for the local market. The sets when finished were placed on sale in two of the largest department stores in Portland and within two weeks the entire supply was sold. This was the first sale of Konstrukt, the toy perfected by Groves, and that is entirely a Portland product, and right after he saw that they were a success he went and protected his drawings by patent and started the manufacture for outside markets. Three years ago he sold 300 sets and this year he sold 300,000 sets. Twenty-two carloads of Konstrukt blocks were made in Portland last year and went from here to make the rest of the world happy. The sales manager of the Konstrukt company states that there is every likelihood that their sales for 1921 will reach a million sets, though their forecast is for 600,000 and they are preparing to handle at least that amount of business.

The Konstrukt blocks are yet made in the same designs originated by Groves five years ago and are of cigar box thickness. The main office and factory for the concern is here, but their sales agency is in New York, and it is through this agency that they sell 90 per cent of their output. Their local payroll handles some hundred employees and they bring money from all over the country to Portland, just as the other firms do that ship their holiday essentials out of here. The world pays cash tribute to this city that it may have a happier Christmas season. In the matter of the Konstrukt blocks they have re-



Oregon Ships Carloads of Holly and Greens



300,000 Building Sets Went From Portland This Year.



Dainty Japanese Maid Born in Portland.

fore thought possible. He likes the real soft ones, just as do the American girls, and the demand, especially since Portland began her assault on Oriental trade marts, has proven exceptionally good. The Pacific Coast Mincuit company ship their Johnson's chocolates in great array to China and find that their demand for one and two-pound boxes of the select varieties is on the increase. Not only does China take many of these candies from this and other factories, but they also ship to the Antipodes, to Russia, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. One Chinese customer each August sends in an order to a local house that taxes their capacity for several weeks, an order that would be considered a rich one by any firm. The old-fashioned candies have their vogue even today and each year at this season the Portland firms send out many candy canes and much of the old hard process sweets that had the market before the development of the newer varieties. The northwest district absorbs a great amount of the local sweets, but Oregon candies of certain brands are known the length and breadth of the land, especially the individual chocolates that were first put on the market from this state. The development of the oriental sweet tooth is expected to take care of a greatly enlarged output during the next year. It has been found that the native of the east is especially fond of soft sweets with novel flavored centers. In the matter of cookies and other confections keeping qualities forbid taking too long journeys, and then enters the problem of meeting the tastes of different sections of the globe, the oriental seeming to prefer his rice cakes to other kinds. However, the world's stockings get a goodly portion of Portland made confections when they are filled on Christmas eve.

Table Dainties Oregon Made.

But candies, toys and greens are not the entire list of Oregon's products that are in demand throughout the world. How about the Christmas dinner, the succulent turkey with cranberry sauce and the hot mince pie with cheese? Turkey is here in this state in flocks and ranchers who specialize in this business raise them by hundreds with regular herds on the job, even some of the larger ranches using mounted herders. The cranberries come in many barrel lots from the bogs along the coast, especially Tillamook and Clatsop counties, and there are some available places now about Coos Bay. Portland is estimated to be the shipper of 175,000 pounds of mince meat this season, most of it leaving the city several months ago. While mince pies this year will, in many cases, be short their punch from rum and brandy they will be well flavored with Oregon elders and other fruit juices.

This state will supply possibly the great proportion of fruit juices for the Christmas drink that will radiate prohibition cheer this year. The loganberry and apple juice plants have been confronted with orders that have taxed their capacity several months past, and literally trainloads of the fluids have poured to eastern points. The cheese that is such a close chum with Mincey hot mince pie comes in ton lots from Tillamook, and this is in great demand in every locality it would seem, judging from their inability to take care of the demand.

Then there is the game that comes from the state. Quite frequently in the winter, Oregon places a good boat on the market and the duck and game bird hunting is well complete, but some of the results of the fall shooting yet remain in cold storage. Of course, not a great deal of this game goes out of the state. And finally there is the Oriental Christmas ship that docks here each year, the West Nomentum it was this season, and she comes in December 15, but did not bring nearly the amount of toys and other Christmas goods that usually is imported in other years. Doubtless Oregon supplies many more essentials for the Christmas celebration than those noted in this article, but some idea of the debt that the rest of the world owes to this state can be gained in this way when it comes to a matter of a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Chinese Like Local Sweets.

But let's get away from the toys and get down to the goodies. John Chinaman is buying Portland chocolates this year in quantities never be-