

Santa Claus in the Movies

By GENE MORGAN

OUR information is in part correct," said Santa Claus, receiving the interviewer in the library of his ice palace. "It is true that I have received several flattering offers to star in moving picture productions. But it is not true that I have accepted any one of these propositions. I am still in doubt as to whether it would be the proper thing."

"I have my duty to the children of this world, and I must not impair my health or my power of service to them by the strenuous work demanded in the movies. No doubt I would prove a very popular star at the children's matinees. But I wonder if the children who see me in their dreams do not get a better and more flattering idea of me than they would in the pictures."

"You see, my dear sir, the camera does not lie. I am sure it would not lie for me when it will not tell falsehoods about the appearance of kings and potentates. Every child in the world thinks of me as a very handsome old gentleman. Some of them may have an idea that I am inclined to be a little stout—but a good many others imagine I have as graceful a form as that of a young soldier. They think I curl my whiskers and have a beautiful wave in my long, silky locks."



"Your Uncle Santa is Getting Fat."

"They are not aware that their uncle Santa is getting so fat that there isn't room in the sleigh for himself and the larger toys. Nor that my noble mane of hair isn't what it used to be. If people ever sent me presents—which,

of course, does not occur to them—I should like to murmur a little wish for a bottle of hair tonic.

"One moving picture firm wants to put me into a play. The plot is something like this: I am driving my reindeer over the treetops, when I am set upon by a band of aeroplane pirates. The pirates make me hold up my hands and then divest me of my stock of toys. Just when the bandit plans is about to fly away, leaving me in distress, the chief of the robbers makes a discovery.

"Amid the pack of toys he finds a rag doll. By the tag around its neck he sees that it has been addressed to his little daughter. My thoughtfulness in remembering his little girl, despite her father's profession, touches the bandit's heart. He weeps, and then to the astonishment of his pals, he orders them to lift me into the aeroplane.

"Now, Mr. Claus," he says, according to the subtitle, "we are going to deliver your toys for you all over the world tonight. Give us directions and we will fly wherever you command."

"So at my direction, the bandit's aeroplane starts delivering the toys, making much better time, let me tell you, than my poor reindeer who were left behind. Things are going along fine. Our aeroplane toy conveyance has covered Canada, the United States, Australia and South Africa, when suddenly, to our dismay, we find that we are being pursued.

"More pirates!" I ask in alarm.

"No, the aero-police!" shouts my pirate friend.

"The police had found my empty sleigh and motionless reindeer. They naturally concluded that I had been robbed and kidnaped. Now they are on the trail of my captors. The pirates are very much afraid that if arrested, they will be hanged at once. The police craft is gaining upon us. In order that the pirates may escape, they decide they must throw all of my toys overboard. The vicious crew demands that your old friend and I, Nick be thrown overboard too, as I am pretty heavy, besides being the cause of all the trouble.

"The race continues under the sky.

"I want to raise the white flag as a token of surrender. I pledge myself to the captain of the pirate aeroplane that I will plead the cause of himself and his crew and secure their release from the police. I tell them that the police will do them no harm, after I have explained their kindness in carrying my toys all over the world.

"The police craft is now so close that escape seems impossible.

"Give me a white flag," I cry.

"There isn't a white flag on board—nothing but black flags," says the pirate. "Hurry up and do something. You have no time to lose. If you don't surrender, they will shell us. And in that case, we will have to throw you overboard, St. Nick."

"My mind works quickly. I have no white flag. My handkerchief, like those of the pirate's is a red bandanna. What am I to do? Whirl! Another shell rips past our airship.

"Ah! I have it. It is the scheme that saves the day."

The interviewer at this point leaped to his feet and shouted in excitement:

"Well, what do you do to have your life?"

"I wave my white whiskers at 'em," replied Santa Claus, proudly. "It is the signal of truce. Our lives and our precious cargo of toys are spared. What do you think of that idea for a play? They want to name it, 'Santa Claus in High Life.' Do you think I would make a hit as the star? Well, I'm glad you think so."

TRIMMING THE TREE



Christmas Time

CHRISTMAS TIME! That man must be a misanthrope indeed in whose least sensitive a joyful feeling is not roused—in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened—by the recurrence of Christmas. There are people who will tell you that Christmas is not a time when it used to be that each succeeding Christmas has found more cherished hope or happy prospect of the year before, dimmed or passed away; that the present only serves to remind them of reduced circumstances and estranged incomes—of the feast they once enjoyed on hollow friends, and of the cold looks that meet them now in adversity and misfortune.

Never had such dismal reminiscences. There are few men who have led long lives in the world, who cannot call up such thoughts any day in the year. Then do not select the merriest of the three hundred and sixty-five for your doleful recollections, but draw your chair nearer the blazing fire—fill the glass and send round the song—and if your room be smaller than it was a dozen years ago, or if your glass be filled with sparkling punch instead of sparkling wine, put a good face on the matter.

Look on the merry faces of your children (if you have any) as they sit around the fire. One little seat may be empty; one slight form that gladdened the father's heart, and roused the mother's pride to look upon, may not be there. Do not upon the past think that one short year ago the fair child now residing in dust, sat before you, with the bloom of health upon its cheeks, and the gayety of infancy in its coyest eye. Reflect upon your present blessings—of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some. Fill your glass again with a merry foam and commended heart. Our life is in but your Christmas shall be merry and your New Year a happy one.

—Charles Dickens

NOT A MISS.



As two little girls were hurrying to school, one of them saw a discarded Christmas tree in an ash barrel.

"Lizzie," said she, "do you think Santa Claus is a myth?"

"Certainly not," retorted her companion, glancing sharply at her. "Santa Claus is a mister. What makes you flap so?"

WHOLE WEEK'S CELEBRATION

Descendants of Old Spanish Settlers Observed Christmas With Dinners and Parties.

Among the descendants of the old Spanish settlers we find that they observe a week in the celebration of Christmas. This begins one week before Christmas. In the daytime they have dinners at each other's homes, and in the evenings they give a series of parties at the different houses. In the evening the young folk go to the home of one of their number and knock, and then all begin to sing. Those within the house ask, "Who is there?" and the answer is, "The Virgin Mary and St. Joseph seek lodging in your house." To carry out the Bible story they are at first refused admittance, and then the door is opened wide and they are all given a hearty welcome.

On Christmas eve the old and young all join together and have a big celebration. In a large hall they fix up one side to represent the manger, and here they very solemnly give a little play in which many take part, the characters being Mary and Joseph, the wise men, the shepherds and the angels. This play is very real to them, and they all play their parts with a reverent spirit.

A Christmas Prayer.

Give me the eyes to see my brother's woes; Grant me the vision that perceives his care. That I, amid my Christmas joys, may go And take some touch of mitigation there.

God point the way that I may quietly find His acre waiting for the glad tidings; And open my eyes that I may not be blind To tasks of love that ease the sting of grief.

—John Kendrick Bangs

Old Custom Still Prevails.

The Christmas feeding of the birds is still prevalent in many of the provinces of Norway and Sweden. Bunches of oats are placed on the roofs of houses, on trees and fences, to furnish them with their share of the Christmas bounty.

RAILWAY EARNINGS MAKE NEW HISTORY

October Freight Increase Over Last Year \$25,000,000.

PROFITS NEVER SO LARGE AS NOW

Lack of Ocean Bottoms for Export Only Restraining Influence to Much Greater Movement.

Chicago—The rush of export shipments from Chicago, which has been necessitated on all but perishable goods destined for the Atlantic seaboard for European consignments, has enabled the railroads of the United States to show earnings greater than ever in the history of the country.

Figures show that the railways of the country are piling up increases in net operating revenue with the rapid upward leap of export trade.

Settlement of the Belt Line trainmen's strike at the clearing yards released several thousand cars of East bound freight.

For the month of September American railroads showed gross and net earnings vastly larger than any September since the advent of the steam railroad, according to official figures.

An estimate based on returns by 134 roads with a total mileage of 178,000—the total mileage of the country is 250,000—place the increase in gross earnings for October, \$22,000,000 in advance of the corresponding period last year. The net increase is approximately \$25,000,000. This means that for every track mile of the 164 railroads cited, on an average, the net operating revenue increase for October, 1915, is from \$401 to \$537.

"There can be no question of the wonderful advance of American trade, both domestic and foreign," said E. Campbell, general traffic manager of the Erie lines. "Of course, the most startling growth is seen in the export trade. We notified our customers of an embargo on all export shipments other than livestock and other perishable goods on December 15. Notwithstanding that we made efforts to be ready for increased foreign shipments, we found the step unnecessary. I do not believe anyone expected the full extent of the development. Other roads are in the same position. The deplorable lack of ocean bottoms and the inadequacy of warehouse facilities on New York's waterfront has done most to depreciate the value of what preparations we have made to handle the export freight."

"Yes, railroad earnings are on the upgrade," he continued, "and they have not stopped going up. I do not believe that the major portion of the domestic freight movement has begun to get under way. When it does—and adding the export movement, which we have no reason to believe will be reduced—history will be made for American roads."

Bullfights Under Ban.

Washington, D. C.—Prohibition against bull fighting in one Mexican state and sale of intoxicating liquor in another have been decreed in connection with General Carranza's reform program. Copies of the decree reached the Mexican embassy here Saturday.

Governor Alvarado, of Yucatan, in addition to prohibiting liquor sales, declared effective throughout the state the agrarian reforms outlined in the Carranza platform.

In Jalisco Governor Berlinga's reforms include besides abolition of bull fighting obligatory Sunday rest for laborers, reduction of hours of labor, a minimum wage, regulation of the liquor traffic and prohibition of gambling.

Limburger Cheese Healthy.

Monroe, Wis.—Physicians of Green county, which had the lowest death rate in the state last summer, attribute the healthy condition of the community to the eating of limburger cheese. Last year 3,041,435 pounds of this cheese was produced in the county, and as a staple of food it largely displaced meat.

The quarterly report of the state board of health, just issued, gave Green county a death rate of 7.2 per 1000, compared with 9.2 for the state at large.

Five Schoolboys Killed.

Berthold, N. D.—Five schoolboys and a man were killed and another boy probably mortally injured when a Great Northern passenger train struck a bus loaded with school children at a crossing during a fog Friday. John Ahearn, driver, was killed. The boys, all under 16, were being taken from school to their homes. Leonard and Earle Miller, Severt and Anton Hagen and Harry Arnold were killed, and the latter's brother is expected to die.

Cholera Fatal to 100,000.

Washington, D. C.—Because native Filipino health officers failed to cope with an epidemic of cholera, in the island within the last year, there were 10,000 deaths, Captain R. C. Helebroner, of the army medical corps, told the senate Philippines committee.

NEWS ITEMS Of General Interest About Oregon

Field Crop and Seed Growers' Conference to Be Held

Corvallis—One of the most important meetings during Farmers' Week, January 8 to 8, 1916, will be that of the Oregon Field Crop and Seed Growers' association. This association was organized last year. Its object, on the one hand, is to bring together all of those growers in the state who are producing seed crops, such as clover seed, vetch seed, alfalfa seed, potato seed, corn, grain, etc., and, on the other hand, to effect a general organization of those farmers particularly interested in field crop production and allied subjects. The specialized agricultural pursuits, such as that of the fruit grower, the dairyman, or the live stock breeder, all have their state organizations. As a matter of fact, organization of these, because of the limited number of men concerned and the highly specialized interests involved, is a natural procedure. The great mass of farmers of the state, however, are not specializing in live stock production or dairying or fruit growing but are devoted chiefly to the production of field crops.

The chief agricultural wealth of the state is produced by these crop growers. It is highly important that they should have an organization which will bring them together and promote their interests.

It is hoped the Field Crop and Seed Growers' association will become one of the largest and strongest associations in the state as the years advance.

All farmers interested should drop a line to the secretary of the association at Corvallis and secure information regarding it. The meetings of the association will occur on Wednesday and Thursday (January 5 and 6) during Farmers' Week. Thursday being devoted especially to the interests of the potato growers. Prominent seed and crop breeders and growers and seed buyers and dealers from Oregon, Washington and California are on the program for these meetings.

Thousands of Girls Are Taking Domestic Science and Art

Salem—"It is impossible to tell what lines of work our school boys will pursue when they grow up; but it is pretty safe to predict that most of the girls will become housekeepers," said Superintendent of Public Instruction J. A. Churchill, of Oregon, in speaking of the high schools. Mr. Churchill continued saying that 7194 girls are now learning cooking and sewing in the public schools of the state. Of this number, 3840 are in the high schools and 3354 are in the grades. If one may judge by the number of students enrolled in the two courses, cooking is not quite so popular as sewing, there being 3214 girls taking Domestic Science, and 3980 taking Domestic Art. The total value of the equipment for teaching the former course, consisting of stoves, cooking utensils, dishes, etc., amounts to \$24,916, while the equipment for the latter, including sewing machines, tables, etc., amounts to \$14,950. Nearly all of the teachers employed in these courses are graduates of the Oregon Agricultural College. Mr. Churchill states that Domestic Science is being offered in 69 standard high schools, and Domestic Art in 73.

Siuslaw Valley Gets Big Shingle Mill

Eugene—A shingle mill on the Siuslaw river to employ 20 men at full capacity has been announced by L. C. Reynolds, formerly of Coos Bay. Construction on the plant will be commenced as soon as a location can be selected and two are under consideration, one on an old mill site a mile west of Florence and the other at Cushman, the most western point on the new railroad.

Mr. Reynolds has a body of timber on the Siuslaw, it is said, which will be handled. His machinery is now located on Coos Bay. The plant will cost approximately \$10,000. His location will allow him to ship both by water and rail.

A delegation of Siuslaw business men is expected in Eugene at the annual taxpayers' meeting to lobby for the construction of more than \$17,000 worth of road on the Siuslaw river.

Liquor Patrons Stock Up.

Marshfield—As January 1 approaches the determination of Marshfield liquor dealers to rid themselves of stock is noticeable in countless advertisements appearing in the local newspapers. One firm is running half-page advertisements. Another firm, the National Bottling Works, reports heavy business in "futures," in barrels of bottled beer and general sales in bonded goods. District Attorney Liljeqvist has announced he will be looking about January 1 for infractions of the liquor law and expects to prosecute vigorously.

Robins Visit Hood River.

Hood River—Hundreds of Alaskan robins are now making their winter homes in the Hood River valley. The birds, while similar to the robin that nests here in the summer and seeks a warmer climate further south at the close of fall, are duller in color.

Orchardists welcome these winter guests, for the birds clean up any fruit left in the orchards or harbor possible disease pests. The robins also feed on insects and seeds of troublesome weeds.

SPAN FALLS UNDER STREETCARS INTO SPOKANE RIVER; FIVE DIE

Spokane—The north span of the Division-street bridge across the Spokane river gave way under the weight of two passing streetcars Saturday. One of the cars, carrying 15 passengers, plunged into the river and five men were killed and 10 injured. The other car, that had reached the end of the bridge, slid back until the rear end rested on the river bed. The two passengers and crew escaped uninjured.

A seven-ton steel beam was knocked off by the top of the car that fell into the river and fell lengthwise of the car on the spans, holding the passengers on that side under the water for several hours. The passengers on the other side of the car, after being submerged, crawled up the twisted girders of the wrecked bridge and were rescued.

The bridge, as it fell, took away the water and gas pipes and the telephone

DOCTOR BOBO



This is the only posed photograph of Doctor Bobo, leader of the revolution in Haiti which the United States has undertaken to suppress.

and electric wires which supply the northeast section of the city. Escaping water and gas and charged electric wires hindered immediate rescue of the survivors.

Late in the day the car was still submerged. A railroad wrecking car was preparing to lift it from the water. The police announced that all bodies had been recovered after 10 hours' work. Of the injured, one man's condition is serious. The dead were readily identified as being residents of Spokane. They were passengers on the car's first trip of the day.

Ford Peace Delegates in Bitter Dissension; Some May Desert Ship

London—The correspondent of the Daily Mail board the Ford peace ship, Oscar II, telegraphed from Christiania.

"Discussions among the members of the peace party are as widespread and bitter, as they were on the day following the mutiny, which was precipitated by an attempt to coerce the delegates into signing a declaration censuring President Wilson for his preparedness plan. There is no disguising the fact that a majority of pilgrims now realize that they are on a fool's errand.

"There is an overwhelming feeling of depression in the party. At least a dozen of the delegates intend to desert before they make themselves ridiculous."

"Eight Norwegian and Swedish reporters came aboard at Christiania and were immediately received privately by Mr. Ford and Louis P. Lochner, secretary of the International Peace Society.

"Afterward the stage was set in the second-class salon to hoodwink the Scandinavian newspaper representatives into the belief that there was a harmonious crowd of innocent merry-makers aboard. A resolution was unanimously adopted pledging the party to all efforts to end the war.

"This was the first motion passed without a dissenting vote since the party sailed. The newspaper men seemed puzzled as to how the reported lack of harmony originated. They were soon enlightened.

"Up sprang S. S. McClure. He said he had heard rumors that seven New York reporters were to be expelled from the party for 'unprofessional conduct' and that a committee at that moment was secretly framing up these men."

Chinese Threaten War.

San Francisco—Chinese from all sections of California attended a mass meeting here Sunday in the Oriental quarter to protest against the return of China to a monarchical form of government and to arrange for the collection of funds to finance a revolution if Yuan Shi Kai dems the crown he has agreed to accept.

Tung King Chong, president of the San Francisco Chinese community, said: "We are willing to permit Yuan Shi Kai to resign peacefully. If he does not there will be war."

AUSTRIAN OFFICERS DEFY GOVERNMENT

Admiralty Approves Conduct of Submarine Commander.

REFUSAL TO DISAVOW ACTS EXPECTED

Loss of Innocent Lives by Sinking of Ancona Regretted, but Attacker Declared in Double Peril.

Vienna, (By courier to Berlin, via London)—The Austro-Hungarian admiralty is entirely opposed to any disavowal of the course of the submarine commander who was responsible for the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona.

On the contrary, it approves his conduct fully and declares that he would have been considered as having failed to perform his duty if he had allowed the Ancona to escape.

The reply to the American note, it is understood, will be delivered soon.

The admiralty Thursday stated its case and the attitude of the naval authorities as follows:

"It is a submarine commander's duty to make a report to a designated base as soon as possible, and the commander who sank the Ancona did this as soon as he was within wireless distance of land. He made a supplementary report at Pola and accompanied it with his log. No examination of the crew was held, because the commander's report was considered complete and there was no reason to suppose that the crew could add anything thereto.

"So far as the commander is concerned, his course is clear. The admiralty has received his report and sees no reason to find any fault with his course of action.

"If any such reason existed; that is if the admiralty had found that the commander had done anything contrary to its instructions, it would spontaneously institute an investigation against him without waiting for any demand to come from foreign governments. It can happen that a commander in heat of battle deals contrary to instructions, but nothing of the kind has occurred in this case.

"It appears clearly from his report that his ship was in danger, indeed in double danger, first from the fact that an enemy boat was approaching on a line that threatened to cut off his retreat, and the enemy ship and the Ancona could have established his radius of action and could have set a torpedo boat flotilla on him, and second, there was danger of the Ancona escaping, which, according to his instructions, was to be prevented in all circumstances. Hence the conduct of the commandant, such as the loss of innocent lives must be regretted and deplored, cannot be disapproved.

"On the contrary, if he had departed without destroying the Ancona it would have been failure to do his duty, since the Ancona would have notified other ships of his whereabouts. The loss of American lives is regrettable, as well as that Americans used a vessel belonging to a nation at war with Austria-Hungary."

Trial of Plotters Is Being Closely Followed by Government Officers

Chicago—United States secret agents, working out of Chicago, are close to the fountain head of the war plots which have brought destruction to many munition plants, caused loss of life, and at times threatened even to involve this nation in war, a high official admitted here Thursday.

"Under cover" men—agents of the Department of Justice, whose identity is never revealed except to the dispensation heads—have watched their way into the innermost councils of the war plotters. Others in workmen's clothes and covered with grime and dirt, are working in powder plants and munition factories, to keep close on the track of the men engaged by the chief conspirators to blow up or wreck these plants.

State's Wards to Wear Khaki.

Salem, Ore.—Khaki will be worn by inmates of the state institutions next year instead of blue denim. Efforts of R. B. Goodin, secretary of the State Board of Control to obtain bids on blue denim for the manufacture of overalls and other working clothing for the state's wards had failed until khaki will be bought instead. A dye shortage is believed to be responsible for the lack of bids on blue denim. The board of control will open bids soon on supplies for six months for all the state institutions.

Dum-dum Charges Is Made.

New York—Charges that a Bridgeport, Conn., factory accepted a contract with the British government to supply the English army with dum-dum bullets were made Thursday in an affidavit filed with Assistant United States Attorney Knox by Dr. Herbert Kienale.

Dr. Kienale is one of the six men indicted with Robert Fry on the charge of conspiring to blow up ships carrying munitions of war to the allies.