

Polk County Observer
THE HOME PAPER

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The way to build up Dallas is to put
revive Dallas people.

Mr. Taft and Mexico.

Whether they agree with Mr. Taft's conclusions concerning the Monroe doctrine or entertain a contrary view, all thoughtful Americans will indorse the sentiments he uttered in his address when, in discussing Mexico, he said:

"All that those of us who are not in the government can do is to support the hands of the president and secretary of state and to present to the European powers and the world a solid front, with the prayer that the policy which is being pursued, whatever it may be, will be a successful one and relieve us from the awful burden of war."

Here is true patriotism, says the New York Herald. Every American should realize that it is his duty to support the government in the present crisis, just as clearly as it is his duty to pray that the United States may not be drawn into a needless war.

There is to be no special session of the legislature to fix up the registration laws for Oregon. The present law will be the same which governed the last elections before the permanent registration law was passed. There will be plenty of candidates so just go and register the same old way and then you will be prepared and ready to cast your ballot next fall.

Secretary of State Olcott has ruled that the State cannot pay "tips" and there are some people traveling in the interest of the state that are kicking because this portion of their bills will not be allowed. If the state should pay "tips" as well as salaries and necessary expenses, it would not be long until there would be a special state tax required to pay such expense.

The State Emergency Board declined to authorize the \$50,000 road deficiency asked for by Governor West to furnish work for the unemployed, claiming they had no authority for such act. Portland is caring for many of the unemployed at present, giving them city work in different departments.

The lumber interests of the northwest are up in arms against the proposed building of all steel cars by the U. P. railway and insinuate that if such a plan is pursued by that company shipments of lumber will be made over the other lines where possible.

The Interstate Commerce Commission in its annual report say that the railroads pay too much attention to the cash register and too little to human safety. We don't blame them for watching the cash register.

The Oregon State Fair is out of debt and has \$60,000 appropriated for a new pavilion. Plans are now being made to have the 1914 fair the best ever held in Oregon.

Despite the dissolution of the Harriman merger last year the Union Pacific seems to be in a very healthy condition. The earnings are estimated to be larger by several millions.



Seeing Santa Claus
A Christmas Story For Children
By MARY E. LUNDGREN
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IT WAS a few days before Christmas, and King Winter was preparing the roads for Santa Claus' long drive. The snowflakes were tumbling over one another to do his bidding, and Jack Frost shouted to Donald, who was fattening his nose against the windpane, that he would better stay in the house if he did not wish to get his ears pinched.

Donald was "half past four" and Aunt Madie, sitting before the fire, "half past forty." Early in the former's career the two had formed an exclusive mutual admiration society. The little boy climbed upon the arm of the lady's huge easy chair, and the two sat cozily in front of the heater, gazing thoughtfully into the glowing coals that showed through the encircling iron bars and made the only light in the room.

"Is Santa Claus our papa and mamma, Aunt Madie?"

"The Santa Claus I saw certainly wasn't Donnie."

"Did you ever see Santa Claus? Honest, did you?"

"Let's make it a story. Once upon a time, long ago, when I was a little girl, we were poor, so poor that Brother Fred (your papa, Donnie) and I never got much for Christmas. We couldn't understand why Santa Claus did not give the poor a lot and the rich just a little to even things up. Mother said it was to give the rich a chance to be good to the poor and the poor a chance to give good by suffering patiently, and then both would be worthy to celebrate Christ's birthday. Fred's patched suit hardly kept out the cold, and this Christmas I am talking about I had such a queer little ache way down in my heart that some way couldn't get cured. I told Fred, but he said we must pretend to be ever so much pleased with whatever we got, even if it should be only a stick of candy, because mamma would feel so sorry, and she didn't have nice things either, but had to work all day long and late at night sewing for the railroad boys."

"Poor grandma! Let's give her something nice this Christmas. She can have all my pennies."

"Mamma don't mind so much not having things if their boys and girls are good, but I am afraid Fred and I worried her sometimes and made her much trouble. Anyway, that Christmas eve I slept with mamma, and I remember we had hardly enough covering to keep us warm."

"Poor Aunt Madie! Did you get cold and wake up and see Santa Claus then?"

"I think some kind of noise awoke me. It was a beautiful night. The moonbeams that crept between the curtains sat close to the shadows, silently watching, just like the shepherds the first Christmas eve. You remember the story, don't? It was so still that I almost expected to hear the angels sing. Then, of course, I began to think of Santa Claus. I wanted and wanted to see him, but I was dreadfully afraid I would. My heart was going pitter-pat when—what do you suppose Donnie?—I really saw something move in the corner!"

"And it was Santa Claus?"

"It looked like a man, and I could

SANTA PLAYING WITH HIS TOYS



Some Riddles For the Fireside Christmas Night

Which are the most contented birds? Answer—Crows, because they never complain without cause.

What is the difference between a spendthrift and a pillow? Answer—One is hard up and the other soft down.

What animal took the most luggage into the ark and what the least? Answer—The elephant, who had his trunk, while the fox and the rooster had only a brush and comb between them.

When is a candle in a passion? Answer—When it is put out or flares up.

When has a man four hands? Answer—When he doubles his fists.

Why is a wig like a lie? Answer—Because it's a false hood.

Why mustn't you call an owl a quail? Answer—Because you would be making game of him.

Why did the elderberry whine? Answer—Because he didn't get lemon aid.

CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY.

While there are few civilized countries in which the plan of giving presents at Christmas time is not almost universal nowadays, this was not always the case. Indeed, the world has

The Ever Lucky Boy.

THE Christmas tree all summer long is grown in the wood.
But only so my teacher says—
For children that are good.
Our goodman he brings it round
An' leaves it at the door.
My father carries it inside
An' plants it in the floor.
An' I can help if I don't tease
At straining it with stuff.
But I can't eat the popcorn much
Or there won't be enough.
Nor bite the candies yellow, red
Or white or green or blue,
(The wax all colored up that way
Makes daddy gum to chew!)
An' when there ain't no trimmings left
They wait until I'm gone
An' safe in bed, an' then they start
An' tie the presents on.
Aw, what the teacher tells I know
She only says to scare.
That trees are meant for goodly kids
Is mostly old hot air.

IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ON CHRISTMAS?

There are many predictions concerning the luck of those born on Christmas day. It depends somewhat on the day of the week. An old belief was that those born on this day, when it fell on Sunday, would live to be great lords; on Monday, would be strong and keen; on Tuesday, strong and courteous; on Wednesday, wise, gay, doughty and crafty; on Thursday, wise of speech and reasonable; on Friday, long lived; on Saturday, wealthy and prosperous.

Why She is Waiting.

Ethel—if you are not going to accept Mr. Kelly why don't you tell him to stop calling on you?
Clarice—I will, right after Christmas.

AUNT LOU'S FUNNY PRESENT

FREDDIE was very fond of Aunt Lou and had been saving up his pennies to buy her a Christmas present. He had five when he climbed into his mother's lap to consult as to how the money should be invested. After the conference it was agreed that Aunt Lou's present should be a rose.

The florist was only five blocks down the street. In front of the little corner grocery store stood Bobbie, Freddie's chum, studying the wonderful things in the window.

"Hello!" said Freddie. "Have you got a copper?"

Bobbie displayed two, and Freddie asked what he was going to buy.

"Don't know. Come on; let's go in," said Bobbie.

On the counter was a box of white clay pipes with funny faces on them. Bobbie's bright eyes spied them at once. "How much is the bubble pipes?" he asked.

"Just a cent," said the man behind the counter.

Bobbie bought one, and Freddie lingered at the box. He asked, "How many would five coppers buy?"

"Six," Freddie bought six.

Freddie returned home, and mamma looked up from her sewing and asked, "Did you get it?"

"Six, mamma, six beautiful ones!" he cried excitedly.

"Why, Freddie, you couldn't get six for five cents," said his mother.

"Yes, I did," said the little boy. "Just look here!"

"Why, Freddie, they're pipes, and Aunt Lou doesn't want pipes. Where is the rose?"

Freddie stood before her, speechless. He had forgotten the rose—forgotten

Where Christmas Things Come From

CHILDREN all enjoy the evergreens and ornaments that are seen each Christmas, but how many of them know what parts of the country are ransacked in order to furnish these things for their pleasure and delight?

Practically all of the evergreens appearing in American homes for the holiday season are grown in the United States. The Christmas trees come from the most part from northern New England, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. There are some growing farther south, but the bulk of the trees are from the far north. The black spruce grows in swamps, the white spruce, pine and fir on the higher land. Not only are the little trees cut, but tops of larger trees and limbs if they are of the proper shape.

The holly comes from the woods of New England and the Allegheny mountains. In the north it is a shrub, but in the south the holly grows into great trees, sometimes fifty feet high. With its red berries it is a most picturesque tree.

Mistletoe is a parasite that takes root in the bark of other trees, such as the maple and poplar. It is not found in the northern states, but mostly in the middle and southern states.

What are known as Christmas greens or ground pines are very like the fern and mosses and grow in shady places on the forest floor.

A Lucky Christmas.

Prognostications are made in England and also in this country, concerning the coming year, its prosperity, weather, etc., depending upon the day on which Christmas falls. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Saturday are usually reckoned ill omened days, while it is lucky to have Christmas fall on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. One old rhyme says:

If Christmas day on Friday be
The first of winter hard shall be,
With frost and snow and with great food,
But the end thereof it shall be good.
Again, the summer shall be good also.

Big Demand for New Coins.

Great demands are always made on Uncle Sam for new coins at the Christmas season. Last year \$25,000 in halves, quarters and dimes was washed and brightened by the treasury department, and this year the demands have been even greater. The banks throughout the country call on the treasury department for bright and shining coins in order to satisfy their customers.

Uncompromising.

John Bright's voice was unequivocal for peace. Says the London Nation: He was walking once past the Crimean monument in London with one of his sons, then a lad. Every one knows that the word "Crimes" is engraved on the monument and to the word upon it and asked:

"Father, what is that?"

"That," said John Bright, pointing also to the word, "is a crime."



"BUBBLE PIPES!" SHE CRIED.

all about Aunt Lou's Christmas present! He was a very little boy, but not too little to be ashamed.

"Did you spend all of your coppers?" mamma asked gently, and Freddie nodded his head and gulped.

"I don't think Aunt Lou will like pipes quite as well as a rose, do you?" mamma asked. "Never mind, dear; wrap up the pipes for her."

"But Aunt Lou doesn't want pipes,"

"Santa Claus'll Get Us."



WHO--WE ARE IT
Santa Claus Breaks Loose
At Stafrin's Drug Store

Traveling Sets, Manicure Sets, Toilet Sets, Fountain Pens, Libby Cut Glass, Stauffer Hand Painted China, Hand Bags, Kodaks and Cigars, and a very good selection of Xmas Presents.

If you are looking for a High Class Candy here's where you'll find it.

The Rexall Store

Christmas Queries.

Do "plans" for making pretty gifts grow up to Christmas trees?
And are "the sea-son's greetings" sent by salt seas of the sea?

Are Yule logs cut from snow-driftwood by Yuletide washed ashore?
And could you stab a mistletoe against a parlor door?

If Eve had tried from holly twigs a party gown to weave
Do you suppose that Adam would have called her "Christmas Eve"?

St. Nicholas in saintlyish defies police and laws
Do regulations as to speed contain a Santa clause?