

We wish you a Merry Xmas

Cox & Cox
GROCCERS

Uncle Ted's Bed-Time Stories

WHAT'S WRONG WITH UNCLE SAM'S NAVY?

"Hurry up Sis," called Jack to his sister who was upstairs working on what she called her "secret Christmas gifts." "Uncle Ted is coming and you know he said he would tell us all about his trip to New York."

There was a real boy's reason for Jack's eagerness to hear about his uncle's trip to New York. True, Uncle Ted had made many trips to New York but on this particular one he was lucky enough to carry a ticket to the Army and Navy football game. Like all boys, Jack was a great football fan and he had followed every move of the two teams before the great battle. He had waited what seemed to him like years for his uncle's return and for the story of the game from one who had been "right there."

"Well Jack," said his uncle, "I know what you want to hear so here goes without any waits."

Jack sat with eyes popping, all attention as he drank in every word from his big uncle who repeated move for move of the two teams as they battled over the field at the big Polo grounds in New York city. As they neared the end of the game Uncle Ted said: "So Jack, you see it was a great game, a wonderful game although I

wanted to see the army win, having been in the army myself but those navy boys from Annapolis put up a great fight. It was the first game they had won from the West Pointers since 1912 and you can bet there was some celebrating that night. Now children, all this victory of the future officers of our navy brings up an even more important story which I want to tell you. It may mean the future success of our country in any trouble we may have with other countries. It is about the condition of our navy today."

"Is there anything wrong with it?" asked Jack.

"Yes, Jack there is. On my way back from New York I stopped in Philadelphia where one of our largest navy yards is located. More than fifty vessels of the great Atlantic fleet are tied up to the docks there. They can't be moved, all because there are not enough men in the navy to run them. You can see that such a condition is worse at this time than it might be otherwise because of the threatened trouble with Mexico. If we should declare war on Mexico tomorrow it would be a long time before these ships could be moved. Now you will ask, as does everyone, 'why is the navy so short of men?' That is a question that may be answered by Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy. It hasn't been answered yet. Why children, since November 11, 1918, when the armistice with Germany was signed, so many men have been

discharged and so many others have deserted that today there are only two-fifths the necessary number of men to run the navy in peace times, not to speak of war times."

"What do you mean by men who have deserted?" asked Jack.

"When a man deserts, it means that he runs away from the service. If he is caught, he is punished and must serve the rest of his enlistment and in many cases some additional time. Every enlisted man in the navy knows that it is a dangerous thing to desert and no man ever deserts unless he is bound to get out and is sure he can't be discharged honorably. He knows he is taking dangerous chances. He is not only deserting his ship or post or wherever he is located but he is also deserting his country."

"I tell you all this to show that as a rule conditions must be mighty bad or something awful wrong before men will desert. But despite all this, more than 2000 men, or 2 per cent of the entire number of men of the navy have deserted in the last five months. To show by example what this shortage of men means, some of the big officers attached to the big group of ships tied up at Philadelphia say that only two of the war ships there, the Nevada and the North Dakota, could go to sea for any length of time with the present number of men. At best, not more than 20 per cent of the Atlantic and Pacific fleets could be manned for sea duty. The ships which are idle at Philadelphia include, one dreadnought, eleven pre dreadnoughts, three cruisers and five destroyers (of the new type) and five times that number not in full commission. And all those vessels are held because there are not enough men. The loss to the government because these ships are idle means about \$100,000 a day. The same shortage of men holds good with the Pacific fleet, with ships tied to docks at Mare Island, California, and Bremerton, Washington, on the western coast."

"All this refers to the enlisted men. The situation regarding the officers is just as bad. They are resigning because they are not paid enough, their salaries not having been increased during the last seven or eight years, or more."

"Whose fault is it?" asked Ruth.

"Secretary Daniels will no doubt try to blame it on the present Republican congress but that excuse won't hold good. Up until this year, congress was Democratic during the whole of the Wilson administration. Why didn't they do something about it? The first bills to be introduced looking toward an increase of 50 per cent in the pay of enlisted men and 30 per cent in the pay of officers have been introduced by Republicans, Senator James L. Wadsworth, Jr., of New York has introduced one in the senate and Representative Walter R. Stinson, of Rhode Island, has introduced one in the house. But even admitting that the small pay has something to do with it, that does not explain the great number of men who have deserted. It is very easy to get a discharge now through regular means. Why should they desert? It is therefore no wonder that everyone interested in the matter is asking, 'What's wrong with Uncle Sam's navy?' Secretary Daniels has talked so much about how efficient he has made the navy and yet here is a situation worse than any we have ever been faced with. I think it is up to Mr. Daniels to do some explaining. If he will do his job as well as the future officers of the navy did theirs on the Polo grounds at New York we will be able to protect ourselves on any of the waters of the world. We have the ships, where is the system?"

WHAT ARE BEST YEARS OF A WOMAN'S LIFE

The best years of a woman's life today are from 40 to 60, and my pen hesitates as I write 60. Such women as Sarah Bernhardt, who has risen above years and mutilation and suffering, and continues to conquer the world with her genius, and Amelia Barr, who, well over 80, turns out a new novel every year or so, might very convincingly quote Browning's lines:

"Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be."

Why are the years between forty and sixty the best in a woman's life, and what is it that middle age can

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offer that youth can not? And what is the prime of life? Is it not that period when, physically sound, one is capable of the greatest mental activity? And between 40 and 60 are the years of a woman's prime. If she has lived wisely and kept that saving grace, her pride in her personal appearance, call it vanity if you will, she should be as attractive, in a different way, as she was in her first youth.

Many a woman who was a shy nonentity in her girlhood, a pathetic example of the wallflower, has blossomed into beauty and charm in her later years. She has had time to become acquainted with herself, and with life. She is past the tremulous uncertainties of springtime, the cyclones of emotion, the cruel doubts and discouragements of youth. She may have her moments of reverie; not as she is usually portrayed in fiction, engaged in mournful meditations on the first gray hair or leaning forward to gaze in the mirror and trace, with a sinking heart, the coming lines about the mouth; but a reverie in which she looks back at the girl she once was and rejoices in her ecstasies and longs to gather her into her arms and comfort her in her woes.—Mrs. Wilson Woodrow in January Sunset.

FINE PHOTOPLAY SEEN AT BELL

Gives Proof That Best of Screen Plays May Be Seen Here at Home Theater.

A play that is declared by all moving picture producers to be one of the best yet produced, is "The Miracle Man," which ran last Saturday and Sunday at the Bell theatre. The large crowds that saw this picture declare it to be the best they have ever seen. From the first glimpse of the picture on the screen through the entire eight reels one sat entranced, held by both the fine theme of the picture and the superb acting.

The management of the theater declares that he has many more good

pictures billed for his house, and if he is supported by the local people he can give them as good a bill right here at home as they can see at any other theatre in the nearby cities, and at the same or lower admission rates. The Bell theatre has signed up exceptionally good bills for the near future. The fact that "The Miracle Man" was shown here before being played at any of the nearby cities is an evidence of the alert business management of the local theatre.

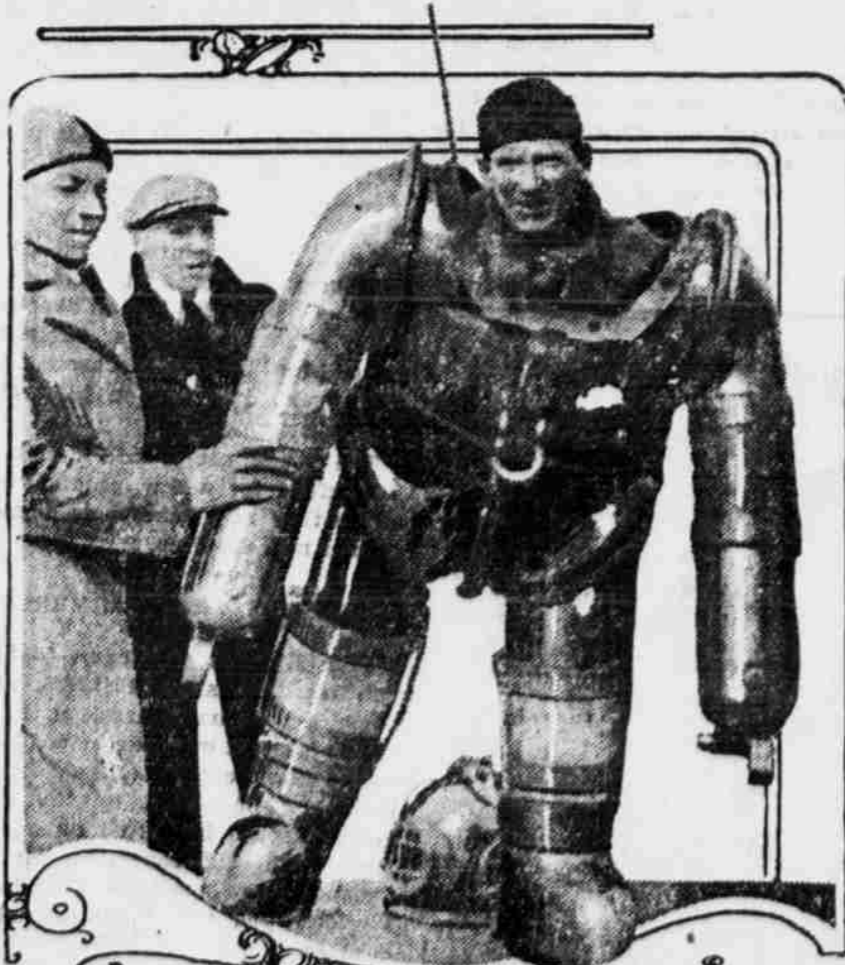
EXCESSIVE LUMBER COSTS.

Unlikening, the lumber industry of the west is not directly dependent upon exports to Europe for its prosperity. It is booming now and will continue to boom because there are not enough houses to go round. During four of the war years the country did not build enough new structures to compensate for the wear and tear on the old ones. We are now 30 per cent behind our normal building program and we have not even begun to catch up. Therefore the lumber business, employing the largest number of wage earners in any single western industry, is now getting its belated share of the war profits.

There is only one danger confronting this industry. Lumber prices must not be boosted so high that builders will turn to other materials. Even now the increase in the cost of building wooden structures is far greater than the increase in the cost of concrete or brick construction. Concrete construction has barely doubled in cost, whereas lumber construction has gone up almost three times compared with pre-war prices. If lumber goes still higher, a frame building will cost as much as a concrete house of greater durability and much smaller maintenance expense. The lumber men are entitled to compensation for ten lean, profitless years, but self-interest should prevent them from lifting the price until the public is forced to substitute other materials for their product.—Editorial in January Sunset.

Roseburg is to erect a number of large maps in Douglas county, giving directions to camping spots and other information regarding the county and its resources.

Down to New Ocean Depths



Thirty billion dollars in gold at the bottom of the ocean in the British liner Laurentia, was the incentive which spurred inventors on to perfect a diving suit which could be used successfully at new depths heretofore impossible due to the pressure of water. And as usual an American turned the trick. Here is the armour which Charles H. Jackson (colored mechanic and inventor, shown on the left), has perfected enabling the diver to go twice as deep as formerly. At the test, near Boston, this diver went down 360 feet and performed successfully, thus establishing a new record in deep-sea diving. The trail for the British gold, sunk by a German submarine, is to be made soon.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

L. C. HELMER
SHOE SHOP