



OF COURSE, the little folks are on their very best behavior just before Christmas, but it is rather a strain on the poor dears to be good, with all the attendant excitement of preparing gifts and keeping secrets. So why not let them help decorate the house and make some of the Christmas decorations. It will keep them from becoming bored, and still more important, from getting into mischief.

There are many things they can make for the tree as well as for the house. Even the little folks can string popcorn and make paper chains, of many bright colors. Popcorn in pink and white can be made to hang from branches, and the older children can use their ingenuity in creating pretty things with colored pictures on which tinsel backgrounds are pasted.

For an out-of-doors excursion in which old and young will be keenly interested there is the trip to the woods to gather evergreens. Pine boughs, especially the white pine are graceful for use anywhere in the house, as are also hemlock twigs with tiny cones hanging from them. Ground pine lends itself to garlands nicely. If an old dead evergreen can be found which is shedding its bark, an armful of this will be found very fragrant when burned in the fireplace.

If these evergreens are brought in many days before Christmas, care must be taken to keep them very wet, so that they will not drop their needles.

A garland of pine decorated with red apples will give a different effect and yet carry the Christmas colors.

Among other plants available for use are the lovely flaming poinsettias, and the graceful branches of the bitter-sweet. This latter can be kept all winter. Ivy makes a different household decoration, growing up on light trellises of wood or iron.

The children will be interested in the growing of bulbs, but this must be started well ahead of Christmas, at least six weeks. They can gather pebbles for filling small bowls. The bulbs are planted on top of the stones and put away in the dark for two weeks. Oh yes, this part is very necessary so as to make the little roots grow long and firm. Then the bowls may be brought out into the sunlight.

Paper white narcissus, the Chinese sacred lily and hyacinths can be grown in this way, and made to blossom in time for Christmas. There is a fascination about these growing things that few can resist.

Before discussing Christmas can-

les let us mention the well known and ever-present (at Christmas) holly and mistletoe. It would never do to attempt to get along without them. Wreaths of holly with bright sashes of scarlet ribbon just must hang in the windows, and mistletoe must be surely hung where it will do the most harm.

All the regular candles through the house must be put away in tissue paper and Christmas candles substituted. Cherry red will be found becoming to some rooms, while others will feel happier with the lovely green bay berry candles tied with red ribbons.

For the window, if one is fortunate enough to possess such a thing, a seven-branched candlestick can be used, its flagreed sticks all wound about with holly. I can assure you, it makes quite a "landscape."

Now as to mantelpieces and the table itself. Here's where the children can be the craftsmen again. Dishes piled with fruit are what we recommend for each mantelshelf. What shall we use for the dish? Why not a scooped out pumpkin? How do you like that for an idea? First one must make sure the pumpkin will stand quite firmly, and if necessary a slice should be cut off to insure this. Then part of the top should be removed, and the inside cleaned very carefully and lined with waxed paper. The fruit can be piled in, and piled high above it too, with all the colors one can find. Red, yellow, and green apples, bananas, and oranges should be used.

A green squash, with its irregular shape and an equally attractive dish and can be scooped out the same way.

For the center piece of the table a little scene can be worked out, which will give the children much pleasure. A mirror will make a pretty lake with its edges concealed under cotton 'snow' sprinkled with mica. At one side of the lake where it will reflect in the water, a little cardboard house can stand. Its roof must be covered with snow, too, and it just must have a very generous chimney. Because that is where Santa comes in as we very well know. A red cotton Santa can sit atop the chimney or be in it with his little black boots sticking out. Trees made of the evergreens can stand about the house and the lake. If the children feel very ambitious, they can make a little cardboard sleigh for Santa and a pair of cardboard reindeer with stands so they will stay upright.

Then with appropriate place cards tied to sprigs of holly, or to tiny packages with foolish trifles in them, the table, will look and feel as Christmasy as the rest of the house.

P. E. Romig Talks to Alliance Lions on Commerce Commission

Attorney P. E. Romig addressed the members of the Alliance Lions club at their weekly dinner at the Alliance Hotel last Thursday evening. Mr. Romig discussed the interstate commerce commission and the completeness of the control which they exercise over railroad rates, both freight and passenger. This control, the speaker said, is exceedingly irksome to railroad officials, who say that the commission enforces rates which, while a protection to the smaller and weaker roads, work an injustice upon their stronger competitors.

Mr. Romig gave it as his opinion based on his years of experience in railroad work and his knowledge of railway officials and management, that railway officials would welcome a lessening of the extent of the control exercised by the commission. He gave as an example of the way in which the commission's control was objectionable the fact that since July 1, nearly six months, the roads of the country have been attempting to get permission to reduce rates 25 per cent for the two weeks over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Just a few days ago, the permission was granted, after this long a delay.

Railroad officials are generally agreed Mr. Romig said, that passenger and freight rates are too high and that adjustment is needed. It would be a big thing for the country, he declared, if the rate making powers were taken from the commission and the railroads allowed to return to the old competitive basis. Such a step, he declared, would bring rates down speedily.

The Lions club adopted a resolution heartily endorsing the action of the local bankers in allying themselves with the Nebraska branch of the war finance corporation, which is to furnish loans to farmers and stockraisers. The resolutions were drawn up and taken into the Palm Room by a delegation, where they were read to a group of bankers meeting to discuss the proposition. The delegation was received most cordially and the bankers expressed their thanks for the appreciation.

NO SALE.

"I want," said the very plain girl, "a book entitled 'Cultivate Your Natural Beauty!'"
"Here it is," said the clerk, who wanted to be sociable. "Are you getting it for a friend?"
And the very plain girl put her purse back into her bag and went right out.—Philadelphia Retail Ledger.

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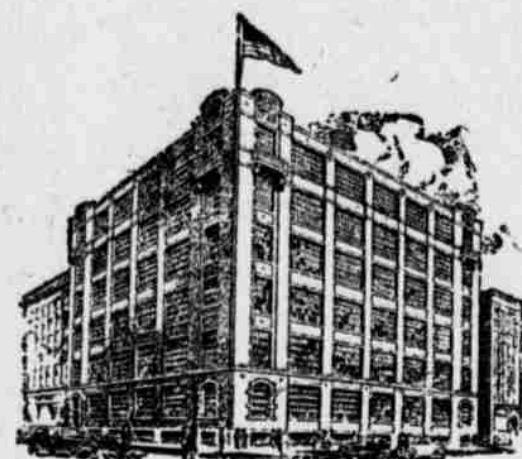
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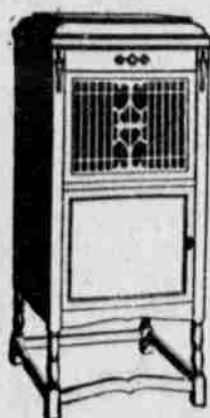
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