

AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS.

What does Christmas mean to you? A day off, a few remembrances from relatives and friends and a good dinner—is that all? Surely you are going to make it an occasion for more than usual rejoicing this year, a real old fashioned Christmas. Going to be liberal in spirit and pocket and scatter merriment as you never did before. Been a little selfish, maybe, devoted so much time to enjoying yourself that you have forgotten other folks. Good folks, now, aren't they—the best folks in the world? And you're just going to show 'em how appreciative you are. You don't like this modern way of turning dear old Christmas into an occasion for trading and the exchange of meaningless printed cards, and you're going to see all the friends you can that day and shake hands with them and pat them on the back and tell them how glad you are to be with them, and to those you cannot see you are going to write long, warm hearted letters and tell them you want to hear from them oftener. Of course you will make presents, more than ever, but you're going to let the recipient know that there is a lot of good, warm heart beats back of every little gift. Isn't that how you feel about the greatest of all birthdays?—Recreation.

As In Country Places.

Christmas in the country places—There you see the rosy faces; There the joy—the world entranced; Joy that sets the world a-dancing! Fine and free the life blood races—Christmas in the country places.

Glad enough to hear it hummin'; Waited long to see it comin'; Knows the place where we're a-stayin'; Fine to spend a holiday in! There is where amazin' grace is—Christmas in the country places.

City has the good time, too, Yet the country calls to you; There it is you want to roam In the frosty fields of "Home." Hearty handshakes, friendly faces—Christmas in the country places.

Pile the ample oak logs higher! Room for one more at the fire. Same old tales of long ago. Tell 'em, for we love 'em so! All life's trouble joy effaces—Christmas in the country places.—Atlanta Constitution.

PREPARING FOR WINTER CORN SHOW.

The state winter corn show of the Nebraska Corn Improvers' Association will be held at the Lincoln city auditorium during organized agriculture week, January 18 to 21, inclusive. Any person in the state may make exhibits at the show. Liberal premiums will be offered in all classes. Premium lists and programs will be mailed about December 20.

DEER CREEK NUGGETS

Bob Peters was reported on the sick list, but is much better at this writing.

Miss Emma Peters is staying at her brother's, Bob Peters, near Rockville. Thomas Lubash hauled four loads of hogs to the Ashton market last Monday.

Harry Lemburg was hauling corn to his father's place near Boelus last Monday.

Miss Minnie Maieski returned home from her work at John Povowski's, near Farwell, last week.

Miss Frances Maschka has been staying for a few days with her sister, Mrs. Peter Jewski, of Ashton.

Martin, Clara and Theresa Nowicki were guests at Mr. and Mrs. Robert Platek, near Farwell, Sunday.

Jos. Lubash went to Loup City last week to look after some business matters, returning home the next day.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stobbe moved their household goods to Aston, where they will make their future home.

Edward Bydalek, who has been snacking corn for Mrs. John Peters, near Boelus, returned home last week.

Peter Dzyngile, of Loup City, was on Deer Creek last Monday, buying hoes which are needed for the war zone.

Steve Maciejewski returned from Loup City last Saturday, where he had been to help his brother, Ed, with his corn.

Stanley Dymek autoed to Loup City last Tuesday, where we understand he made a deal trading farms with Jacob Contor.

Henry Bydalek returned from James Vincent's, near Ashton, where he had put in a few weeks helping to kather corn.

Mrs. Josephine Lubash painted her house white last week. We know that she has one of the best houses on Deer Creek.

Stanley Krolkowski is putting up a new 42x52 barn on his farm here. We hope that he will set up a floor game after the new year.

George Glinzman has three men shucking corn for him, as he is in a hurry to get through before the snow flakes cover the field.

Jurgen Carsten, who is on the sick list, has not improved very much since our last writing, but we all hope for a speedy recovery.

As nearly all have seen the construction work on the electric plant at Boelus there are not so many sightseers spending their time there now.

Jos. Lubash, with some helpers, did another half day's work on District No. 19. This was his first work on the road for about four months.

A plague of horse disease is again in this vicinity. The fever is not as bad as it has been on former occasions

and up to date no one has lost any stock.

Paul Kritski moved his old house last Saturday, which he has turned into a cattle shed and is sure that his stock won't have the worst shelter during the winter.

Tony Bonczynski was husking corn for his brother, Frank the past week. We know that Tony is one of the fastest student corn pickers on Deer Creek, or anywhere else.

A. L. Kalkowski, our new corn shell proprietor, shelled corn for John Woiteczewski last Saturday. This is his first season with the corn shelling work and we wish this gentleman much success.

It is rumored that Bob Wozorek, who is in the Ford auto contest of the Rural Weekly, is now in the lead. Anyone wishing to help him out will please leave subscriptions with the writer. We all congratulate him on his success.

A box social was given at school district No. 3 on Friday evening, December 10. It was not much of a success financially, owing to the cold weather. What money was raised was turned over for the benefit of the school.

A NEGLECTED LAW.

Nebraska has too many laws on her statute books and she also has too many laws that are being completely ignored. Nebraska's blue sky law is not worth the paper upon which it is written, as also her anti-cigarette law, and any number of other laws. But the most important law, that is being ignored in this state today is the mothers' pension law. Now the mothers' pension law is a good law and a just law and if properly interpreted and enforced it would perform a great Christian duty. But the various county authorities throughout the state give it a different interpretation than the law implies and in that way avoid rendering assistance that was really intended. Down in Lancaster county a suit has been started to force the county commissioners to pay a mother's pension claim of thirty-five dollars in cash for a month's pension. This case will be carried to the supreme court, and when the decision is handed down from the higher court the various county commissioners throughout the state will govern themselves accordingly. The mother's pension law has been evaded long enough and it is high time that the kinks were being removed from it.—Hastings Tribune.

FOR RENT.

We have for rent a nearly new four room house with electric lights and city water. Can give possession any time.—FIRST TRUST CO.

Keep on doing your Christmas shopping early and you will have time to do it again.

THE OLD CHRISTMAS HYMNS.

It is good to think of the old time Christmas hymns again as the Day approaches; good to get out worn hymn books, the prettiest for the piano rack, with tunes as well as words, and play and sing them over, just as we should re-read, if pleasure and duty join hands, the story of Scrooge and Marley's Ghost.

It is even good to recall the titles more or less familiar to all of us, according to our bringing up. There are "Hail to the Lord's Anointed," "As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold," "Angels from the realms of glory," and "Hark, what mean those holy voices," each reiterating in rhythmic melody the story of the ancient chronicles.

In the little church where the flaring star poised a bit unsteadily over the white head of the beloved pastor, "Oh, come, all ye faithful," ushered in the day, and no matter how fast sped the minutes, how near the approach of the dinner hour, or how expectantly youngsters thought of untidied stockings, if the early morning service invited them there was always plenty of time for "Joy to the world, the Lord is come," "When marshaled on the mighty plain," "Brightest and best of the sons of the morning," "Hark, the herald angels sing," "It came upon the midnight clear," and that best loved of all, "While shepherds watched their flocks by night."

SONG OF THE TREE.

Once out of midnight sweet with mystery

The wonder of all wonders came to be, So shall the dawn a marvel make of me. For when in all my beauty I am born In the first glimmer of the Christmas morn.

Angels of innocence in mortal guise Shall look upon me with their faithful eyes.

And, looking, see A greater thing in me Than the bare figure of a tree.

Behold! in every limb I thrill with praise of him For whom I stand in memory.

Kings of the east and wise men three There were

Who brought to him rare frankincense and myrrh.

So do my balsamed branches when they stir

In the warm airs that move about this room.

And render forth their homage in perfume.

Lift up your hearts anew, O, careworn men!

Look up with glad, believing eyes again; And, looking, see

A greater thing in me Than the bare figure of a tree.

Behold! in every limb I thrill in praise of him For whom I stand in memory.

—Tom Daly.

The man of brains never needs to advertise the fact. Imitators make a big noise.

NEWS FROM ROCKVILLE

Mrs. Nels Jensen was a Grand Island shopper Monday.

W. A. Jacobs and son, Lyle, were St. Paul callers Monday.

Charles Kenyon came up from St. Paul on business Monday.

Alfred Jensen boarded the east-bound motor Tuesday noon.

Charles Schmidt from Dannebrog, was a business visitor here between trains.

Mrs. Von Krosigh came up from Boelus Friday for a short visit with friends.

Mrs. Hans Hehnke went to Grand Island Saturday to do her Christmas shopping.

Skip Thrasher from Loup City visited over Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Wilmet, and family.

O. G. Hanisch came up from Omaha last Wednesday to visit at the Hanisch ranch until after the holidays.

Miss Alice Tangerman went to Loup City Saturday for an over Sunday visit at the Dieterichs home.

P. Hoyt, who has been visiting at the Rasmussen home for a few days, returned to her home at Dannebrog Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burman and Mrs. Grace Rasmussen, autoed to Grand Island to do their Christmas shopping.

Mrs. John Kosch Jr., who underwent an operation for appendicitis last week, is reported as getting along nicely.

W. R. Henkens left for Omaha Tuesday to get another Hummobile. He disposed of one to William Bedke residing south of Ravenna.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bushhausen and daughter Lola, and Mrs. W. B. Stott, autoed to Grand Island Tuesday to do their Christmas shopping.

Ras Rasmussen went to Omaha Monday to buy some cattle. He will stop at Henderson on his way back to visit with his sister, Mrs. C. D. Morrow.

Harry Jordan, who arrived from Illinois, Friday, left today, Wednesday, for Covington, Oklahoma, where he is engaged in the agricultural business.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jakobs, and son Albert, went to Grand Island Thursday for a few days' visit with friends and to do their Christmas shopping.

Miss Anna Bugno, who has been working in Omaha the past year, arrived Wednesday and will spend a couple of months with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bugno.

The Starmer-Reed players played "The Boy from the Country" to a capacity house Saturday evening. A dance was given after the show. This was also well attended.

The regular Friday evening Kensington met with Miss Beata Hanisch

After an hour spent at needlework a dainty luncheon was served. They will discontinue the meetings until after the holidays.

Charley Cords, who has been working for the Bell Telephone company in the western part of the state, returned home Monday evening. He left for Ravenna where he will do some telephone work.

There will be a basket social in District No. 54, four and one-half miles north of Rockville December 18th. Everybody is welcome. Ladies please bring baskets and gents don't forget your pocketbooks.

Dr. L. E. Dickinson, and family, returned home Tuesday from their visit at Randolph, Nebr. They made the trip via "The Dodge auto route." The doctor reports the roads in excellent condition enabling him to average thirty miles per hour on the return trip.

Mrs. Ray Babcock went to Dannebrog Tuesday, from there she will go to Grand Island to join her husband and both went to Omaha where Mr. Babcock will attend the grain dealers' convention. They expect to return here Saturday and will spend the holidays with Mrs. Babcock's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cords.

A visit to our local stores will act as a gentle reminder that the holiday season is at hand and that it is high time to do our Christmas shopping before the rush commences and while all lines of stock are complete. Some of our stores have already donned full holiday regalia and all of them are carrying a complete line of holiday goods. The store of Kozel & Sorenson has a window display that any store might well feel proud of. Complimentary remarks are heard on all sides upon the ingenuity shown by this enterprising firm. The Rockville Pharmacy also deserves honorable mention. In view of the fact that our merchants are enterprising enough to go to this extra expense and work in order to keep up the reputation that our little village has of being "live and up to the minute" would it not be well for us to bear in mind the fact that we also can do our part, simply by patronizing the local stores instead of making trips to other towns or sending to the mail order houses. At any rate visit the stores and inspect their stock and in all probability you will be convinced that their goods are first class and their prices right.

It may be true that women spend more money on their hats than it takes to support the whole United States navy. But if we didn't have the dear things how long would we need a navy?

When a man puts his property in his wife's name other people begin to wonder who it belongs to.

THE BEFANA.

The little folk of the Italian settlement have their Santa Claus, though there is in fact no Santa for the children of Italy, who have instead their Befana bring to them presents on Epiphany, twelve days after Christmas. The Befana reminds them of the visit of the Magi to the stable where the Holy Child was born. The Befana and Santa Claus are much alike. Both are coming from the north at night to the children who behave well, and both have a predilection for stockings, which they fill with gifts of various kinds, from a cheap box of candies to an expensive doll or toy. Once here the Italians readily accept and adopt the American custom and change their Befana for the Santa, thus anticipating the date of the mysterious appearance of the gifts. Consequently the gift stores are visited now by thousands of Italians, many of whom spend lavishly if they can afford it.

Many Italian families, especially those who have been here for several years and are well acquainted with American customs, have their Christmas trees, some of them being artistically put up and liberally decorated with rich gifts. In the Italian quarters of American cities and towns many Italian fathers are seen going through the streets to buy trees for their children.

The Two Spruce Trees.

Upon a mountain, side by side, Two friendly spruces stood, And one was tall and filled with pride—The monarch of the wood.

The other was a lowly tree, Not more than six feet high, And other spruces laughed to see Its struggle toward the sky.

The monarch from his dizzy height Would shout, "Why don't you grow!" Alas, a tempest came one night And laid that monarch low.

While by and by a woodsman came, Who whistles merrily, And gave the little spruce a name, And called it "Christmas Tree."

And bore it to a house of light, Where, gaily arrayed, The spruce became a royal sight By children's eyes surveyed.

And Christmas joy it brought to all, And as the hours went by 'Twas glad to have grown so small And was content to die.

—New York Herald.

Shenandoah, Ia.—Driving five dogs hitched to an Alaskan mail sled, Miss Estella Mason of Nome, Alaska, is completing a queer world's tour. She finished her journey at Cincinnati, having traveled 32,000 miles. If she arrives at San Francisco with two of her original dogs and the mail sled, she will receive \$12,500.

The wise man spends a little and saves a lot, and that's an evidence of his wisdom.

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experience and 4
years of special
study proves us
capable of
completing a
building

Completed During Season
1914-1915

ANSLEY, NEBRASKA:
Masonic Temple and Shepard Building—Cost \$18,000.00.
FARWELL, NEBRASKA:
Gideon Building—Cost \$2,000.00
LOUP CITY, NEBRASKA:
Presbyterian Church Basement—Cost \$3,000.00.
Solms Building, 50x100—Cost \$4,500.00

Under Construction
1915-1916

Loup City High School, 77x80 feet, 3 stories, press brick, reinforced corridors, oak finish throughout.
Bank and Office building, Chadron, Nebraska, C. F. Coffee and B. F. Pitman, owners; 50x100, two stories and basement; reinforced concrete sub-floors; press brick; gypsum tile partitions; mahogany finish; tile floors; fireproof—Cost, \$40,000.00.
Catholic Parsonage, Loup City, two stories and basement; press brick. Cost, \$4,000.00.

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Contracts Awarded During 1914-1915 Total \$85,651.00