

Collecting on Christmas

Told by a Drummer

A BUNCH of us were putting in Sunday evening swapping yarns of our early days on the road when it came the turn of an accident insurance special.

"The first trip I ever made was when I was a kid of twenty," he said. "I was shipping clerk in an agricultural implement house in Brooklyn. I was to make a collection, and, of all days in the year, I was to see the man on Christmas day!

"Why then? Well, the chap I was to see was a big farmer up in the hills of Sullivan county, and he did quite a business in farm implements among his neighbors. He had given the house a bunch of notes running four months and falling due Sept. 1. Every one of them came back protested.

"The junior partner had charge of the collections, and he figured there was just one sure way of nailing the chap, and that was to get to the house Christmas morning.

"I don't remember the name of the village I had to get off at, but I do remember it was a mighty cold night when I arrived there. I got away all right in the morning after the hotel man had given me all sorts of directions about the way to get to Johnston's place, twelve miles away.

"Johnston himself opened it and without waiting for a word from me said: 'Come right in, stranger. Mighty cold morning, ain't it? S'pose you lost your way.'

"I didn't commit myself one way or the other, but accepted his invitation by walking into the parlor. There was a bunch of children in the room, one a lad of sixteen or so, who was told to put the horse up. There was a big Christmas tree in the window, all decorated with shiny ornaments and tinsel.

"We chatted for quite awhile until he had to go to the barn to help his men tend the horses. I played with the children, and when he got back I had the littlest girl on my knee and was reading to her.

"Started snowing again," Johnston remarked as he stamped his feet on the rag rug outside the parlor door. 'Dinner'll be ready in a little while, but I'll have the wife hurry it up if you have to get away.'

"I told him I couldn't think of bating in on the family that way and



"YOU'LL TALK NO BUSINESS TO ME TODAY," that if he'd give me a few minutes I'd like to talk a little business with him.

"You'll talk no business to me today," he said. "You'll have dinner and supper with us and a mighty good bed tonight. You can talk business in the morning."

"But— I broke in.

"There's no 'but' about it. That's the program, and I'm boss in this house."

"And let me tell you, boys, I had a bully time!

"After breakfast my host took me into the little office he had between the parlor and dining room and told me to fire away.

"What do you think I said? 'Mr. Johnston, I don't want to talk business at all. I'm going on my way, and I'll come again tomorrow.'

"Don't be afraid. If it's something disagreeable still it out!" he said. "What's the question?"

"When are you going to take up those notes of Ehrman & Wilson's? That's what they sent me up from Brooklyn about. But after the friendly way you and your wife have treated me I have nothing more to say. I'm ashamed of my job."

"You're all right, young man," he remarked, to my astonishment and relief. "I don't blame you a bit, and I admire the stand you take. Read some more stories to Nellie out of her book while I look after the cattle, and by and by we'll drive to town, and I'll fix up the notes for you. I have been pretty hard up the last few months, but I got in a sum of money a few days ago, and everything is O. K. now."

"When we got to the bank he gave me a certified check for the \$600 he owed the house and a ten dollar bill for myself to buy something for my baby as a present from curly headed Nellie."—New York Tribune.

THE ORIGIN OF THE YULE LOG

THE following story of the origin of the Yule log in Virginia is told in the Pictorial Review by La Salle Corbell Pickett in an article dealing with Christmas in the south in wartime:

One time an old black man was sitting in his little cabin on a mountain side on Christmas eve listening to the cold wind howl over a world of snow and wishing that he had a fire to warm him when he heard the cry of a little child away out in the cold. The old man hobbled to the door and looked out across the snow, and the wind came rushing in and made him shiver so that his "oldest two teeth" chattered with cold. Again the cry came across the snow, and he wished with all his power of longing that he could go out and find the unfortunate little one, for the plaintive cry of a little child always goes straight to the heart. A third time the cry came, and a miraculous power seemed to fill the old man's veins. His muscles became tense and strong, and he stepped from the threshold into the snow, the crutch falling back in the cabin.

In an instant he was walking over the expanse of frozen snow with an activity he had not possessed since he used to "go to camp meetin'." By and by he came to a little child caught in a snow bank. He lifted the child, and as his little form touched him a new strength came into him, and the small burden seemed to give him wings to speed back to the little cabin. He put the child on the bed, drew the ragged quilt around it and looked about to see if there might be a piece of furniture of which he could make a fire to warm his small guest.

At that instant he saw a great log roll across the threshold and into the fireplace. The little child was looking at it with eyes like stars, and they sent gleams of light that kindled the log with the most brilliant fire the old man had ever seen, and the dingy little room was filled with radiance and warmth that brought a glow to the soul as well as to the body and seemed to flood the world with light.

As the light wrapped the child in a shining glory he laughed a laugh that was like a song of the heart and floated up and away. The old man turned his eyes to where the fire burned and watched the flames leap in opalescent tints over the log forming the shape of a cross in fire.

At this point in the narrative Br'er Simon usually became greatly excited, and his eyes kindled as he went on in his rich dialect:

"De flames er de cross spread en chase after one erudder, a-crawlin' en a-creepin' in en out en around en about, a-skadlin' byer en a-skadlin' dar; a-lippin' up higher and higher; firs' er all blue blaze would come, den a yaller one, den a bright red one would flare up, en den de blazes would all mingulate darsefs tergedder—red en blue en yaller en white would all mix wid de kindleation colors er de rainbow, en crackle en crackle en lip higher en bigger en bigger, de crackles a-gettin' louder en louder, en de blazes gittin' bigger en bigger."

As the old man watched all this display suddenly and magically appeared a table covered with a Christmas feast such as had never been spread before his eyes, and never again was he hungry or cold, and never was there a Christmas in old Virginia after that without the Yule log and the Christmas child to give it light and warmth.

ALL UNITE TO PRAISE HIS NAME ON CHRISTMAS EVE

'Tis given out in many a song and story
That celebrate our blessed Saviour's birth—
On Christmas eve all creatures do him glory,
Even the very lowliest ones of earth.

'Tis said that at the dawn of Christmas morning
Dumb animals are given power to speak,
The waters of these creatures should take warning
Lest they should be accused by things so meek.

In lowly stall and manger there are praises
Unto the Christ Child, whom they claim as friend,
Each creature his own thankfulness upraises
And sings a Christmas carol without end.

The stars on high unite in joyous singing,
Telling the old, old story, ever new,
The bells from every steeple now are ringing
Their message on the opalescent blue.

"Peace on earth, good will to every nation!"
This is the message all these sounds foretell,
Both young and old, all things of his creation,
Unite, for God is good and all is well.

All creatures, high and low, delight in singing,
Both young and old and rich and poor unite
In that sweet message which the bells are ringing
Upon the first faint beams of morning light.

—Amy Smith in Philadelphia Record.

Proceedings of the County Board.

December 14, 1914.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present White, Herminghausen, Springer and county clerk.

Settlement is this day made with Wm. Pittman, overseer district 31 and find due him the sum of \$35.00 which is hereby allowed on said district.

The following claims were allowed on the general fund:

J. M. Burnett, house rent county poor, \$7.00.

Peter Burke, building fence, \$40.00.

D. E. Martin, damages on road 47, \$17.50.

R. L. Cochran, surveying road 146, \$31.50.

Ray Smith, chairman on same, \$4.00.

Walter Smith, chairman on same, \$4.00.

Wm. Smith, flagman and team on same, \$7.00.

Wm. Smith, freight and bridge material, \$16.91.

E. H. Springer, services and mileage, \$46.80.

F. D. Westenfeld, mdse for county poor, \$5.50.

Nebraska Telephone Co., tolls for county attorney, \$10.00.

Nels Forstvedt, manure for jail lawn, \$10.00.

W. S. Wood, services State vs. Holup et al, \$10.00.

North Platte Water Dept., water rent for jail and court house, six months, \$87.06.

M. Fowler, refund on settlement of office report, \$6.72.

Nbr. Telephone Co. rent for Dec. and toll charges, \$32.25.

G. F. Palmer, services as water commissioner, \$28.30.

J. E. Koontz, sprinkling street, \$35.00.

Paul G. Meyer, plating addition on map, \$1.50.

Dr. D. A. Runstrom, medical services county poor, \$40.00.

Jens Sommer, mdse county poor, \$23.65.

Allowed on road district funds:

John J. Ginapp, cash for district 16, \$75.00.

Chas. Cockle, cash for district 5, \$200.00.

F. W. Claudson, cash for district 40, \$20.00.

E. K. Souder, cash for district 51, \$10.00.

Ava C. Pickle, haying roads district 26, \$15.00.

Chas. Holt, cash for district 37, \$79.00.

Henry Weil, refund of poll tax North Platte, \$3.00.

H. B. Sanderson, cash for district 7, \$25.00.

Wm. Smith, cash for district 23, \$150.00.

L. H. Sanders, refund of poll tax, district "B", \$2.00.

W. B. Houser, cash for road district 2, allowed for \$40.00 on road district 2, and \$60.00 on commissioner district 2.

J. J. Walters, road work, allowed on commissioner district 1, \$96.00.

Wm. Smith, cash for road district 23, allowed on commissioner district H. C. Ridinger, road work, allowed on commissioner district 11, \$57.00.

John R. Ritner, inspecting Sutherland bridge, allowed on bridge fund, \$100.00.

Wm. Johnson, bridge work on Brady bridges, allowed on bridge fund, \$208.60.

Lincoln Construction Co., estimate No. 6 on Sutherland bridge as certified by the state engineer, allowed on Birdwood prolect bridge fund, \$353.24.

The county treasurer is hereby authorized to refund to A. E. Huntington the sum of \$3.42 on his personal assessment for 1914 on account of error in assessment.

The county treasurer is hereby authorized to correct the tax list of Chas. Bogue for 1914 from an assessed value of \$85.00 to \$45.00 on account of error in assessment.

December 15, 1914.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present White, Springer, Herminghausen and county clerk.

The following claims were allowed on the general fund:

D. B. White, services and mileage, \$65.24.

F. W. Herminghausen, services and mileage, \$70.20.

R. L. Cochran, services, \$20.00.

R. L. Cochran, surveying roads 10 and 130, \$11.35.

Fred Spurrier, chairman and auto hire on same, \$9.50.

R. L. Cochran, surveying road 4, \$11.55.

David Norris, chairman on same, \$2.00.

R. L. Cochran, surveying road east of North Platte, \$5.00.

J. W. Rowland, chairman on same, \$2.00.

J. E. Stevens refund of court costs (disallowed for \$3.50) and allowed for \$11.00.

D. W. Besak, delivering general election ballots, \$52.00.

R. L. Cochran, surveying, \$15.00.

R. L. Cochran, platting road No. 11, \$10.00.

O. E. Elder, canvassing general election, \$10.00.

C. F. Temple, canvassing general election, \$10.00.

C. W. Yost, canvassing general election, \$10.00.

Lierk-Sandall Co. mdse for county poor, \$11.60.

Allowed on commissioner districts:

J. C. Johnston, road work allowed on district 3, \$22.80.

Jacob Miller, road work, allowed on district 2, \$45.00.

Jacob Miller, cash for road work in road district 38, allowed on commissioner district 2, \$50.00.

C. H. Smith, road work allowed on dist. 1, \$17.00.

H. S. Haskins, road work allowed on district 1, \$50.00.

Allowed on road district funds:

J. C. Johnston, cash for district 12, \$40.00.

H. S. Haskins, cash for district 49, \$25.00.

H. P. Hansen, road work, district 27, \$13.00.

R. W. Schleicher, bridge work at Target Canyon, allowed on bridge fund, \$8.00.

Paul G. Meyer, is hereby appointed Justice of the Peace for North Platte No. 3 to fill vacancy and bond approved.

Whereupon the board adjourns to Dec. 22, 1914.

C. W. YOST,
County Clerk.

Sick Headache

Sick headache is nearly all caused by disorders of the stomach. Correct them and the periodic attacks of sick headache will disappear. Mrs. John Bishop of Roseville, Ohio, writes: "About a year ago I was troubled with indigestion and had sick headache that lasted for two or three days at a time. I doctored and tried a number of remedies but nothing helped me until during one of those sick spells a friend advised me to take Chamberlain's Tablets. This medicine relieved me in a short time." For sale by all dealers.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy—The

A Kipling Anecdote.

The old postman at Westward Ho, near Bideford, in Devon, and the scene of "Stalky & Co.," is reported in T. P.'s London Weekly as telling an interesting anecdote of the time when Kipling himself was a boy at school at Westward Ho. It appears that Beck, with the aquatic expert, came to Westward Ho to give an exhibition from the pier, which was crowded with the usual summer sightseers and a fair sprinkling of boys from the school. After some evolutions in the water the swimmer commenced a series of diving performances, and it was after a sensational dive from the top of the pier that the spectators were amazed to see a chubby, stocky boy run to the edge of the pier and repeat the dive with all the mannerisms of the expert. Inquiry elicited the fact that the boy was named Kipling, and it is by this incident more than any other that the Bideford people remember the now famous author.

Size of the Sea.

An officer of a liner once remarked that most men seemed to be as ignorant about the size of the sea as they are about the distance between the heavenly planets. Here are a few facts: The Pacific covers 68,000,000 miles, the Atlantic 30,000,000 and the Indian ocean, Arctic and Antarctic 42,000,000. To stow away the contents of the Pacific it would be necessary to fill a tank one mile long, one mile wide and one mile deep every day for 440 years. Put in figures the Pacific holds in weight 948,000,000,000,000,000 tons. The Atlantic averages a depth of not quite three miles. Its waters weigh 325,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons, and a tank to contain it would have each of its sides forty-three miles long. The figures of the other oceans are in the same startling proportions. It would take all the sea water in the world 2,000,000 years to flow over Niagara.

Sick Two Years With Indigestion

"Two years ago I was greatly benefited through using two or three bottles of Chamberlain's Tablets," writes Mrs. S. A. Keller, Elida, Ohio. "Before taking them I was sick for two years with indigestion." Sold by all dealers.

Theater Headaches.

The most frequent cause of headaches occurring during or after the theater is eye strain. People who use the full energy of the delicate eye muscles to obtain perfect vision are often unconscious of this strain. In the theater the continuous effort to keep everything constantly focused exhausts the nerve centers and headache results. The practice of seating the audience in total darkness while they are staring into an intensely lighted stage is another serious factor. The pupils, being widely dilated in the dark, admit the excess of light from the stage, often producing irritation of the eyes which lasts sometimes for days.

Those subject to headaches should never sit where it is necessary to raise the eyes to watch the stage. This unnatural position of the eyes is very tiresome even to those who never have trouble at other times.—Journal American Medical Association.

Flight of the Housefly.

Dr. Hindie of London finds that houseflies tend to travel either against or across the wind. This direction may be directly determined by the action of the wind, or indirectly, owing to the flies being attracted by odors borne by the wind. Fine weather and warmth favor dispersal, and flies travel further in the open country than in towns—probably because the houses offer food and shelter. In thickly wooded localities the usual maximum flight is about a quarter of a mile, but in one case a single fly was recovered at a distance of 770 yards—partly over open fenland. When set free in the afternoon flies do not scatter so well as in the morning. Liberated flies often mount almost vertically to a height of forty-five feet or more.

WHEN NORTH PLATTE PEOPLE Publicly Testify, Its Evidence Not to be Ignored.

When residents of North Platte are willing to recommend Doan's Kidney Pills in this paper is there any good reason to try a kidney backache or bladder remedy that is not as well recommended?

Mrs. Christian Pickett, 318 E. B St., North Platte, says: "I have used Doan's Kidney Pills, procured from McDonell & Graves' drug store, (now Schiller & Co's) and have found them to be just the remedy I needed for backache and other kidney remedy disorders. Whenever I am suffering from these troubles, I take Doan's Kidney Pills and they give me relief. Others of my family have taken Doan's Kidney Pills with fine results.

Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Pickett had. Foster-Milburn Co., Prop., Buffalo, N. Y.

DR. J. S. TWINEM, Physician and Surgeon.

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North Platte, Nebraska.
Hospital 218 Locust St. Phone blk 249



"A Merry Christmas To All"

The spirit of Christmas is shown in the happy faces of the people we meet on the street, in the jolly, good-natured bustle of the shoppers and in the mysterious hiding of bundles.

Kindness and forgiveness and laughter will be on the telephone wires all during the joyous holiday season.

Old time friends will be reminded that they are not forgotten. Where in the old days one Christmas visit was made in person ten will now be made by telephone.

The spirit of Christmas is in the very air we breathe these days. By its ties we are drawn closer to friends and relatives.

If you have a surplus of happiness during the holiday season, why not telephone a part of it to someone who has less?

All through the holidays the telephone will be flashing millions of greetings and good wishes far and near over its network of wires.

The telephone will carry the slightest inflection of the human voice out to the far-away friend and relative. The telephone, you know, is the great and almost limitless roadway over which Christmas spirit may travel.

Why Not Telephone and Spread Good Cheer?

NEBRASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY



Pipes and Smokers' Articles

In addition to making and selling as good cigars as can be found on the market, we carry a nice line of Pipes and Smokers' articles, in all grades. Then, too, we handle nearly all the brands of smoking and chewing tobacco. Give us a call.

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