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SANTA CLAUS REALLY CAME

Santa Claus came to a great many people this year. If there had been no Santa Claus, a good many people would have gone without presents.

Over thirty years ago this question of the reality of Santa Claus was a live one. The New York Sun dealt with it in a leading editorial article as follows:

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor—I am 8 years old.
"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
"Papa says 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.'
"Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.
"115 West Ninety-fifth Street.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

BIG GAMBLE WHEAT POOL

Criticism Is Not Altogether Fair Says Financial Post

A great many people who were formerly strong proponents of the wheat pool idea have been critical of the policies of the Canadian pools of late. They blame the pools for the slowing up of Canadian business. The criticism is not entirely fair, says the Financial Post. The pools have had to face a difficult market situation. Perhaps they have done as well as might have been expected. Judgment as the final results of pool handling of the 1929 crop must be reserved.

The stakes that have been gambled on the wheat pool's selling policy are tremendous. Every Canadian business man hopes that the pool pulls through the present season and gets a high average price for its farmer members. The pool is in a vulnerable position; there is at least a remote danger of its framework collapsing in the next few months with serious results to the country's business. The wheat outlook in its relation to business is not very promising no matter what happens. A high price for the wheat now in the country, it may be, can be had only at the expense of partial crop failure in Canada next year or crop failure in some countries that are among our good customers for other products.

If Canadian wheat can be eased on the market at a moderately good price it will be a great help to business. If such a process of real orderly marketing is impossible the pool will definitely lose out.

The situation has proven that a large holder of wheat is not a strong seller, as the farmers thought it would be, but rather a very vulnerable and very weak seller. The attempt to revolutionize a highly efficient grain marketing system and to eliminate speculation from the marketing of wheat has made the entire wheat holding of the country a gigantic speculation.

It is too early to estimate the results of this gamble with economic forces. Canadians can only hope that the pool and other large holders of wheat in Canada win out, but it will be a very mixed blessing if time proves that they can only win out through some such calamity as a comparative crop failure next year.

HOME FOR DEFICIENTS

Alberta Finds Happy Method of Dealing With Problem; Many Capable of Being Trained

EDMONTON, Dec. 28:—In the Provincial Training School at Red Deer, the Department of Public Health of the Alberta Government is making an effort to cope with the mentally deficient problem. Here 155 boarders find a haven where they can enjoy equal status with those around them and receive such training as their mentality will permit. Thirty per cent of the boarders, says Dr. W. J. McAllister, medical superintendent, are capable of being trained, and many of these attain as high as grade four and five in school work, become proficient in household or field work, or skilled in handicraft. A vocational training teacher is provided for the girls, but the number of high grade boys in the school is not sufficiently large to justify the engagement of a vocational training teacher for them. In the course of time the school will be moved to Oliver, near Edmonton with larger quarters available.

One might go far in search of more attractive surroundings than those at the school, situated on a hill overlooking the town of Red Deer and the country, in the midst of beautiful gardens with a tennis court, bowling green, baseball, football, and basketball grounds, a well equipped playground for the younger children, and a skating rink. From the windows of the school the boarders look over as fair a sweep of country as the heart could desire, and as they wander around the grounds, they see nothing to suggest a place of detention.

No Runaways

This school has no 'runaway" problem. Sometimes a boy will walk away, but this is not because he has any desire to leave, but because he has the wandering complex, and he invariably returns. The boarders are very happy in their home where life is planned with a view to making them contented, developing their mentality, and improving their physical health.

Dr. McAllister believes that happiness is essential to the general development of these fortunate ones. Last summer a camp was established at Sylvan Lake, and the boarders were taken there in groups for a holiday which they enjoyed immensely. The doctor was anxious that they should have this experience. "It means a great deal to them to have an opportunity to get the mental complex of agreeable experiences," he says, "It gives them food for thought and helps to make them satisfied."

With this in view work is varied with recreation. Sunday services and entertainments are held in the gymnasium. Moving pictures are shown. Hikes, trips to town to attend church, the moving picture show, the fair or Chautauqua, are also arranged for the high grade boarders, and they return to their daily routine more content.

PRECEPTS FOR GIRLS

Roman Catholic Archbishop Gives Directions Regard to Length of Dresses

SYDNEY, Aust., Dec. 28:—Incorporated in a pastoral letter issued by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney (Dr. Kelly) are "rules for modesty in dress," formulated by the Association of Roman Catholic Women. It states that the regulations are to be regarded as the precepts of the Roman Catholic Church, and that this promulgation is to be entrusted to the religious teachers of the Roman Catholic girls.

The rules are as follows:

1.—Girls aged from 4 to 10 years must wear dresses reaching to the knee, and sleeves at least to the elbow.

2.—Girls aged from 10 to 14 years must wear dresses to not less than two inches below the knee when sitting, and sleeves at least to the elbow.

3.—Girls and women aged more than 14 years (a) must wear dresses reaching to at least four inches below the knee when sitting. (b) must wear sleeves including those of sports costumes to the elbow. (c) Must never wear V-necks. (d) The sleeves of evening dresses must cover the shoulder and pit of the arm. (e) The necks of dresses in every case to be not more than two inches below the pit of the throat. (f) Transparent material for dresses to be rigidly excluded unless worn over a non-transparent slip. (g) Flesh--colored stockings not to be worn. (h) Bathing costumes to consist of two piece costume, reaching to the knee. Beach robes, closed from neck to knee, are always to be worn. (i) Bathers never to loiter in bathing costumes on the beach, or have photographs taken in bathing costumes.

The association strongly condemns smoking and the use of all intoxicants.

"Some autos have four wheels, four doors, four cylinders and four brakes!"

"Now, if the drivers only had foresight!"

MILLION FOR EDUCATION

War Lord of Manchuria is Man of Curious Contrasts Says John Nelson

VANCOUVER, Dec. 28:—In the great Chinese province of Manchuria, itself an empire equal in area to Germany, a youthful war lord, 29 years old, is experimenting with education on a colossal scale, determined to bring his war-ridden people toward peace and progress.

This was the statement here of John Nelson, former publisher of the Vancouver World, present public relations supervisor of the Sun Life Co. and secretary to the Canadian delegation at the Kyoto Pacific Relations conference, on his return here.

Much Money Expended

Mr. Nelson, with M. E. Nichols, publisher of the Winnipeg Evening Tribune, and E. J. Tarr, K.C., also of Winnipeg, travelled through China last month following conclusion of the Kyoto conference, visiting the Manchurian war lord, the young Marshal Hsiao Liang Chang, in his stronghold at Mukden.

Contrasting pictures of Chang today one of the world's leading figures, were presented by Mr Nelson from his personal interview with the young warrior statesman.

Chang, he said, is spending $10,000,000 on education, notably in connection with the Northeastern University at Mukden where tuition is free and 2,000 Chinese students are enrolled. On the other hand he maintains an army of 200,000 men and is surrounded with political intrigue so menacing that while playing golf and tennis, his chief recreations, his safety is guarded constantly by a cordon of 40 soldiers.

People Protected

"None the less," said Mr. Nelson, "Chang is determined to improve his people, and, incidentally to protect them. Manchuria, which he controls with a rule of iron, despite his youth, is a tremendous factor in the events transpiring in the Far East, and much depends on the success or otherwise of the young marshal's efforts toward progress.

"It is a rich agricultural area, not unlike the prairie regions of Canada.

"Settlers are pouring in at the rate of 1,000,000 a year, and some idea of the country's growth may be gained from the fact that the seaport city of Harbin, where Russians have emigrated by the thousands, consisted of but one hut 15 years ago, and yet today is a city of 400,000.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

Montreal Speaker Outlines Modern Requirements Before Big Sister Association

MONTREAL, Dec. 28:—Although in civilized countries there are no such tribal ceremonies as exist among savage races to mark adolescence, or coming of age, yet this phase is recognized by "coming out" parties, confirmation ceremonies in orthodox religions, legal age for driving a motor car, for marrying without consent of parents, for inheriting property, and in the juvenile delinquency laws So remarked Mrs. W. T. B. Mitchell at a Big Sister Association meeting recently.

Mrs. Mitchell discussed the ways in which parents can prepare their children for adolescence and maturity. She felt that children should be taught the art of relinquishment as they proceed from birthday to birthday, when they might receive some gift that would mark a further step in their advancement towards responsibility and independence. Attachment to protective parents, submission to them if they are dominating, the comfort of food and shelter obtained without effort, all develop in childhood and hamper development unless parents constantly try to free the child from such habit bonds, the lecturer said. The handicaps of the child who has never had these fetters removed were described, with the inability to adjust to adult life and is responsibilities.

How the child may be taught self-help was suggested, beginning the 14 or 15-months' old learning to pull on its stockings, feed itself or climb into its own chair, and as it grows older giving it increasing responsibilities. The child, beginning at school age, should be given a regular allowance of money, ten or fifteen cents a week Mrs. Mitchell advised, until at adolescence he should have profited by the training in spending and saving that will enable him to be responsible for buying of his ordinary clothing, paying for recreation, lunch and carfare.

The question of a choice of vocation for the child was discussed, with the importance of the occupation being suited to his particular ability, and of teaching him to start with less responsible positions at lower wages, instead of setting his heart on positions suited only to maturity and experience.

TIME'S UP

New Vicar—Quite a lot of people had coughs during the sermon this morning.

Verger — Coughs? They ain't coughs, sir. Them's time signals.

FASHION FANCIES

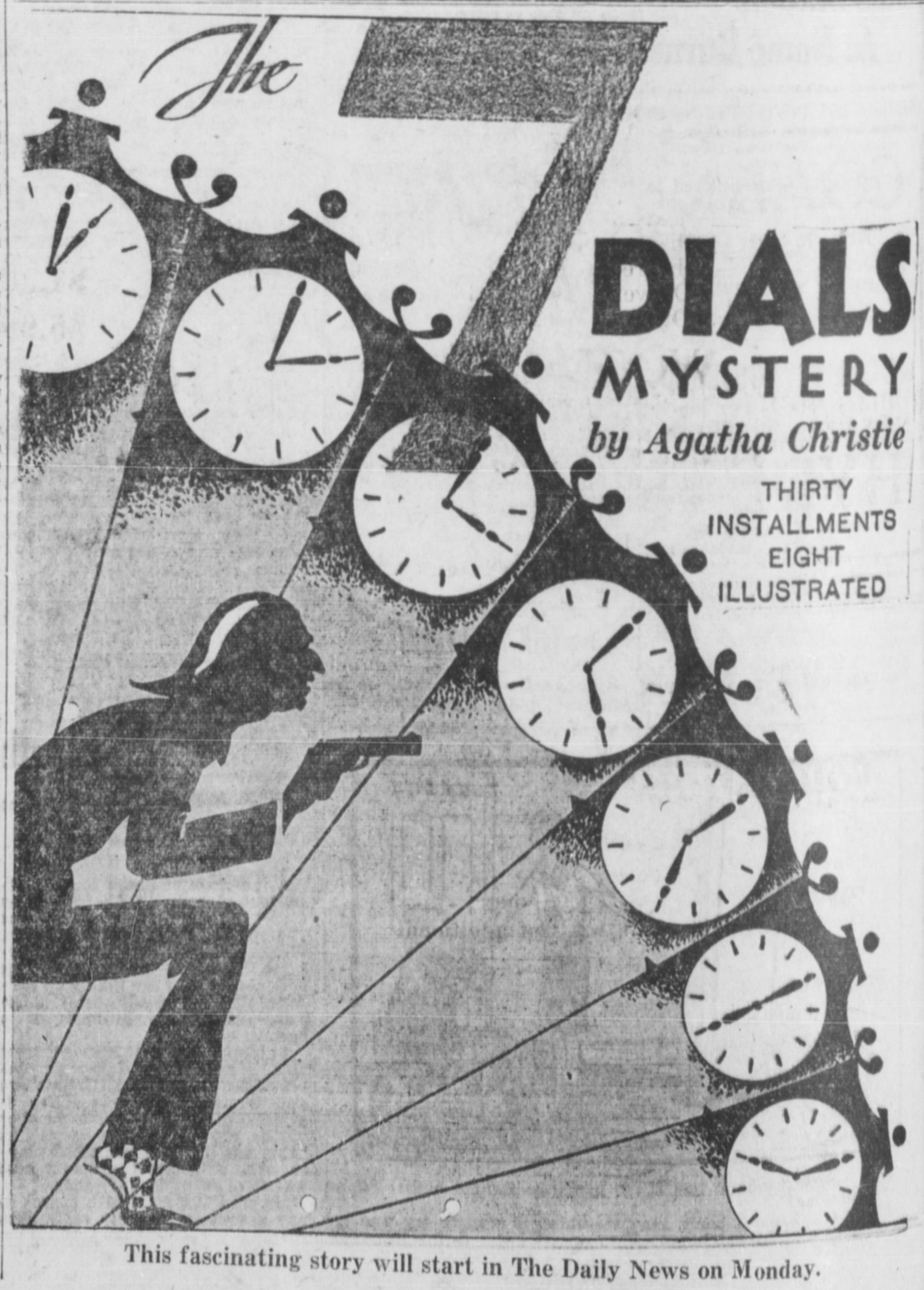


Left—

A simple frock suitable for every occasion. This model gives a draped effect which is one of the features this season.

Right—

Heavy fur trimmings continue to be one of the distinctive features in ladies' coat styles. Cuffs and collars carry more fur than ever.



This fascinating story will start in The Daily News on Monday.