

THE EVENING TIMES

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS

There are many people who will persist in purchasing the Christmas gifts they intend to present to their friends until the eleventh hour. Therefore, although we have talked to the early shopper on the subject of "Christmas Gifts," now and then, for the last two weeks, we feel like adding a word today.

In making useful Christmas gifts try to pick out useful things for the people who can use them. This is one of the crying needs of the period. Christmas giving has developed to the point at which some sort of restraint must be put upon the free and untrammelled liberty of the individual to select whatever catches the eye or the fancy. A vast amount of money is spent on totally worthless stuff that only litters the house and makes life a burden after the novelty is faded. The same amount of money spent on useful articles is better invested and the gifts remain longer as reminders of their donors.

There is no end to the list of useful gifts. Every shop contains them in abundance. The advertising columns of The Times are filled with suggestions. Nobody need lack for ideas on this subject. A few minutes spent in reading the business announcements, followed by a couple of hours or so in the stores, will yield a sufficient variety of possibilities to suit all tastes and purses.

Money is easily wasted on cheap and perishable trifles for the children which might better be expended in more substantial goods. Fewer gifts of solid worth are infinitely better than a large assortment of stuff that will be in a wrecked state two days after Christmas. The substantial toy given this year to a child will probably survive the strain of a twelve month and be suitable for transfer to some little hospital patient a year hence.

HORROR UPON HORROR.

Within the last two weeks The Evening Times has printed accounts of three of the worst mining horrors that ever occurred in this or any other country—one in West Virginia, one in Alabama, and one in Pennsylvania. Something like one thousand lives were lost in the three terrible explosions and many of the bodies entombed have not yet been brought up from the depths of the mines.

These mining disasters have followed at the awfulness of the calamities. The loss of life in each instance has been so great that the country fairly stands aghast, shocked and dumfounded at the awfulness of the calamities. Barely two weeks ago the entombment alive of between 400 and 500 men at Monongah, W. Va.; only a week ago another mine explosion and entombment of 100 men at Yolande, Ala., and last Thursday at Connellsville, Pa., there was an exactly similar disaster, by which 400 men were consigned to a torturing death beyond the reach of rescue or aid.

In all of these mining disasters that have occurred since the beginning of December there has been a subterranean explosion, the cause of which has not in any of the affairs been as yet ascertained. In each case, however, the results that have followed have been similar—that is, the approaches and passageways of the mine have been destroyed by the convulsions and those underground have been overwhelmed and smothered.

A United States government bulletin, just issued, deals with the subject of mine disasters in this country and their causes. An investigation of various mining accidents has been made during the present year by explosive experts connected with the National Geological Survey. Almost every mining accident involving a large destruction of human life is brought about by an explosion, but the government investigators declare that the causes of these explosions are not by any means always the same.

Sometimes, it is believed, the disasters have been caused by the lighting

of accumulated gases, but at other times by a misjudgment in the handling of explosives used in mining operations. The frequent occurrence of mining disasters in this country is attributed in part to the lack of proper enforceable mine regulations, in part to lack of reliable information concerning the explosives used in mining and the conditions under which they can be used safely in the presence of the gas and dust encountered in the mines.

The inference is unavoidable, in view of certain facts detailed by the bulletin, that the compulsory safeguards which the laws should throw around the hazardous calling of the miner are not what they should be in this country. This conclusion is warranted by the fact indicated in the government document—that the coal mines of the United States are killing three times as many men per thousand employed as are the mines of any European country.

In the mines of Great Britain especially the excavations have reached far more complex underground windings than on this side. That the mortality in the mining industries in the United States is three times as great as in Great Britain can only be explained, therefore, on the assumption that greater care is taken in British mining to avoid accidents.

The fatalities from mining accidents are annually increasing in this country, whereas in every European country they are decreasing. As many violent deaths have occurred in American mines during the past six years as during the preceding eleven years. The conclusion can hardly be escaped—that the fearful havoc in human life resulting in this country from mining disasters might be immensely lessened by a stricter regulative system enforced by state laws.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON GOVERNOR HUGHES.

The Times fancies that Mr. Secretary Taft has something of an advantage on the other aspirants for the republican nomination for the presidency, because of the declared and active support of President Roosevelt, and the consequent partiality of the office-holding class of politicians. We think it highly probable that he will be nominated.

But at the same time we are rather expecting the Hughes boom to come nearest to that of Mr. Taft, if it does not pass it, by the 15th of next June. Personally, and as a southern newspaper, we are not particular which of these two candidates should win. Indeed, there is but one possibility that we are particular about: We should very much dislike to see the convention nominate Mr. Firealarm Foraker, or any other man who holds the views he does towards the south and the southern white people.

But to return to the Hughes possibility: The action of the New York county republican committee on the subject of the Hughes boom is interpretable in several ways. But so is nearly every political action taken in that county or state. New York politics is mixed politics, and things are seldom what they seem.

The anti-Hughes men will undoubtedly feel heartened, and, among themselves at least, claim a victory. They will try to control the situation at the January meeting of the committee, and if they do control it the Hughes boom will be severely injured. If New York decides not to present the name of Governor Hughes to the republican national convention only a tidal wave of Hughes sentiment elsewhere will avail to control the convention in the governor's favor.

But the Hughes men are not disheartened, nor should they be. Much may be accomplished between now and the committee's next meeting. That Hughes sentiment is strong in New York state is unmistakable. It is growing, too, elsewhere. The record of the governor of New York is well known all over the country, and wherever known is indorsed. Men of both parties recognize an executive of unusual ability in the present occupant of the chair at Albany, and should he be made his party's national leader next year he will conduct a great campaign.

There should be no hesitation about indorsing the president's policies. In fact, that should be done with enthusiasm. The national convention will indorse them, no matter what its course may be as to the candidate. Clearly, therefore, the Hughes boom has nothing to lose but everything to gain from intimate association with the record upon which the party is to go into action.

That Wall street does not indorse the president is so much in his favor. And, at heart, Wall street does not indorse Governor Hughes.

Any play for the favor of Wall street, either in New York or at Chicago, would be fatuous to the last degree.

If the Hughes boom carries the day in New York county next month, that will be in good time. The campaign everywhere is opening early, but no

Ideal food for children.

DR. PRICE'S WHEAT FLAKE CEREAL FOOD

makes the children plump and strong and prevents sour stomach and constipation. The best food for growing children, invalids and the aged.

10 cents a package. For sale by all Grocers

definite instructions have as yet been voted. Indiana is for Mr. Fairbanks, and Illinois for Mr. Cannon, but conventions have not been held. In Ohio the Foraker forces and the Taft forces are urging an early expression of the people, but that may not be obtained for at least a couple of months.

So that, all things considered, the Hughes men in New York have time enough in which to put their favorite in the field if the state is behind him in the race.

THE JAPS PROVE PERFORCE.

We have never been able, some way, to allow ourselves to become scared over any alleged threats from the heathen Japanese. But, all the same, we have looked with curiosity for the pronouncement of the Mikado's people on the sailing of the fleet to the Far East.

It might be ungracious to remark upon the difference in the tone of Japanese expression with regard to this country since the issuing of the order for the transference of the ships of Uncle Sam to western waters. It is sufficient to note that the present tone of official expression is as markedly friendly as was always that of this country toward Japan before the magnifying by that power of the California occurrences out of all proportion to their real nature.

Japan views the sailing of the fleet in the friendliest manner. This is highly gratifying. But it is more so in view of the acceptance by that country of the policy of the United States to extend its commercial and diplomatic influence in the Far East.

The fleet always follows the routes of diplomacy as these in turn are marked out by the lines of commerce. The Privy Counselor Kaneko, comments upon this when he says: "The centers of diplomacy having shifted to Asia, it is of predominant importance that the peace of the Pacific should be well guarded and protected. It is not too much to say that Japan and the United States have a joint responsibility in maintaining peace on the Pacific." Count Togo, Minister Hayashi, Prince Ito and other leading Japanese officials assure the fleet a cordial reception should it cross the Pacific and its officers pay their respects to the government of the Mikado. This is at it should be. The Japanese show characteristic moderation and astuteness in accepting the thing that is as the thing that should be. The sailing of the fleet could not possibly be adversely criticized without placing Japan in an awkward light before the world.

There is, therefore, every reason to feel that the move is a highly commendable one; that it was necessary as marking out in broad lines the field of the future policies of the country. It is not of the least significance that the Japanese quietly ignore the protestation that the cruise is solely for practice purposes and they are disposed to give to it full valance in regard to world influence.

VOTE INTELLIGENTLY.

But two days are to elapse before the election takes place in this city on the proposition to exterminate the municipal liquor dispensary.

We hope that every man who casts his vote next Thursday will do it intelligently and conscientiously, having posted himself properly on the subject upon which he is called upon to pass judgment.

That done, every one ought to be content with the result, whatever that may be.

That Cupid is no respecter of age or condition is demonstrated in the case of two inmates of a charity home—the man eighty years old, the woman seventy-two years—who, being refused permission to marry, outwitted their guardians and eloped. Love's young dream was shattered in a week's time, however, when their money gave out, and they returned to their haven, agreeing to live apart.

While men in some sections are putting bullets into women who will not love them, a man in Chicago is suing for divorce because his wife loves him too much and wants him to be always kissing her. Men are nothing if not inconsistent.

Past experience prods present and future judgment, but cuts no ice with the fresh young things who think they know it all.

An exchange poet rhymingly remarks that if he were Santa Claus, he would hang on all the Christmas trees the little motto, "Just be kind." It is just as well that the real Santa is not quite so stingy.

Senator Blackburn, returning from Panama, says that he has not seen eight mosquitoes in as many months, and that Panama is an ideal place. With such a record Panama is in danger of becoming a summer resort.

A man of disappointed ambitions has to be careful nowadays, for the grip is waiting to seize on any case of depressed vitality, and the public draws its own inferences when any prominent person has the grip.

The importance that is placed upon things relating only to the poetry of life is demonstrated in the outbreak following the statement of the United States Forester that the practice of cutting down trees for Christmas celebration must stop, as the supply is not equal to the demand. This outbreak was so great that the forester has been giving the matter special attention, with the result that he has evolved a plan by which trees can be planted to supply this deficiency. The statement that our supply of building material is in danger has not troubled the attention equal to the Christmas tree agitation.

IT IS TO LAUGH.

"Cheer up, dear," said the poet's wife, "there are flowers beneath the snow."
"Yes," he sighed, "but nobody will lend me a shovel to shovel 'em out."

Nervous Lady Passenger to deck hand:—Have you ever seen any worse weather than this, Mister Sailor?

Deck Hand—Take a word from an old salt, mum: The weather's never very bad while there's any females on deck a-making inquiries about it.

"But, Willie," said the bad boy's mother, "didn't your conscience tell you you were doing wrong?"
"Yes'm," replied Willie, "but you know you told me not to believe everything I hear."

"You seem to find that book very interesting."
"Yes, it's delightful. I've glanced at the ending, and the hero and heroine don't get married after all."

"Father," said little Rollo, "I have discovered why Santa Claus is depicted as driving reindeer."
"Have you, my son?"
"Yes. He is too wise to take chances in an automobile."

Spend Christmas at the famous Mecklenburg Hotel, Chase City, Va. All the pleasures of a Virginia country house party.

- 3lb Standard Tomatoes, 10c.
- Concentrated Tomatoes, 5c., 7 1/2c., and 10c. can.
- Blackberries, 10c. can.
- Garden Peas, 12 1/2c. can.
- Oranges, 20c. to 40c.
- Malaga Grapes, 15c. pound.
- Canned Beets, 10c.
- Hams, 15c. pound.
- Shoulders, 12 1/2c. pound.
- Coffee, from 10c. to 35c.

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XMAS PRESENTS.

We have a beautiful line of presents both for ladies and gentlemen. Articles of value and one that will be appreciated. Call and look.

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Can put in any quantity from one cord up to 100 on short notice. Leave orders at CAROLINA FEED STORE. 309 South Wilmington Street.

BUY NOW—
Do your Christmas shopping before this week is over, but don't make your purchase until you visit
THE VARIETY STORE
Where they have numerous gifts
214 S. Wilmington St.
C. H. Stephenson, Z. Fonville.
Remember: "Fayetteville Street quality at Wilmington Street prices."

Go to W. B. Mann's for Fat, Dressed Turkeys. Also 10 Barrels Malaga Grapes at 15 cents per pound. Fine Fresh Celery.
W. B. MANN.
Bell and Raleigh Phones, 101. Established Jan. 1, 1879.

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PHONE US YOUR ORDER AT ONCE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS OYSTERS.
We will receive over a half a hundred gallons for Christmas delivery.
F. H. HUNNICUTT.
Entrance Through J. B. Green & Co's and on Wilmington Street.
Phone orders to J. B. Green & Co.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS CANDIES
Now and give us the time to prepare it properly. We are taking orders now for Christmas delivery of Fruits, Candies, and Confectioneries.
A. DUGHY.

HAVE YOU ORDERED THAT BOX OF ROYSTER'S CANDY FOR CHRISTMAS?
Our Candies are always fresh, being made daily, and our assortments are various. Call for a box of Royster's.
ROYSTERS CANDY STORE, Fayetteville Street.

Our store is full of "Goodies" that dear old Santa Claus loves to distribute on his rounds:—Candies, Nuts, Oranges, Apples, Bananas, etc.—Leave your orders with us now.
CALIFORNIA FRUIT STORE.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED BY EXPRESS A FRESH LOT OF NUNNALLY'S CANDIES.
Let us furnish you a specially designed box for Christmas. Place your order with us now, so it will reach you in time.
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Suit Cases, Traveling Bags, Shopping Bags, Collar Bags, Foot Ball Bags, Melon Bags, Card Cases, Pocketbooks, Bill Cases, Belts, etc. The latest novelty Vienna Brass Dinner Gongs. German and Austrian Steins. Japanese objects of Art, Pottery, China, Cups and Saucers, Chocolate and After Dinner Cups and Saucers, Plates, Dishes, Salads, Nut Bowls, etc., etc.
HOLIDAY UMBRELLAS.
Most appropriate for Christmas Gifts. Men's and Women's Umbrellas. The biggest variety in town to choose from.
LACE CURTAIN GIFTS
Beautiful examples in newest effects at the most moderate prices.
LINENS FOR CHRISTMAS
Matched Sets Table Damasks and Napkins Matched. Bleached and Unbleached Damasks. Napkins, Doylies, Scarfs, Center Pieces, at very low prices.
THE GREATEST HARVEST OF HOLIDAY GIFT VALUES
You have ever enjoyed awaits you here in our Fancy Goods section.
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Tapestry, Couch Covers, Portieres, Table Covers.
GLOVES
Gloves for everyone in every kind.
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A most bountiful supply of the best things in Fans.
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Novelties recently imported, as well as beautiful and fetching examples of American production.
SILKS
Dress, Waist and Skirt Lengths for Christmas gifts. Plain and Fancy Silks in the greatest profusion, specially for Christmas gifts.
DRESS GOODS
Coat Suits, Separate Skirts, Long and Short Coats, Children's and Misses' Coats, Beautiful Waists for day or evening wear at special prices.
HANDKERCHIEFS
Thousands of Dozens are here. A Handkerchief for everybody.
MEN'S FURNISHINGS
Just the thing to give a man: Neckwear, Mullers, Suspenders, Hosiery, Underwear, Shirts, Drawers, Shirts for day and evening wear.
FURS.
The best values we have ever shown in Furs. The most acceptable of all presents. Every woman appreciates a piece of fur. Outing or Flannelette Underwear, Bath Robes, Lounging Robes, Kimonos, etc., make a most useful and highly appreciated Christmas Gift.

Shoes for Christmas
New Styles for Mid-Winter Wear, for Ladies, Misses and Children.
Daniel Green's Felt Shoes for the Winter Fireside.

House Keeping Dry Goods for Christmas Gifts.
Carpets, Rugs, Art Squares, Mattings, Best N. C. White Wool Blankets and Gray Blankets, Best California Pure All-Wool Blankets, Fancy Plaid Ohio Pure Wool Blankets, Eider Down Quilts, Pure Cotton Down Quilts, Sheets and Pillow Cases, Baby Blankets, Towels, Table Linens, etc., etc.

We have a Christmas Gift for Everybody.
Our Holiday Stock in every department is now unusually complete. In addition to full lines of all needable Dry Goods and kindred wares we offer a grand collection of Fancy Goods particularly desirable and most appropriate for Christmas Gifts.
Make most of your Holiday Gift Expenditures—by spending your money at our store doubling the value of your gift.
We give D. & F.'s Gold Trading Stamps with every cash purchase—one stamp for every 10c.

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