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OUR CHRISTMAS TREE.

The Christmas bells are ringing now, old Santa Claus is near, He's weary with his journey long, but soon he will be here...

XMAS TIDE

The time for Xmas felicitations is again at hand, and if any people have reason to be glad it is our own nation.

To all the classes and conditions the holiday brings good cheer. Even the dumb beasts are better fed by the happy farmer boy as he thinks of a skate on the pond or a coast down the hill with his new Xmas gifts.

The country editor, poor in purse, but rich in purpose and ideals, is himself the greatest gift he can offer to the community.

SOCIETY ELECTIONS.

- The following secret and mutual benefit societies held their annual elections last week. I. O. O. F. LODGE No. 203. T. H. Fritzel, N. G. Jas. Ramsey, V. G. M. L. Moore, Sec'y. H. S. Wickware, P. Sec'y. E. E. Perkins, Treas.

Pingree's Message

The Gist of What the Governor Has to Say to the Legislature.

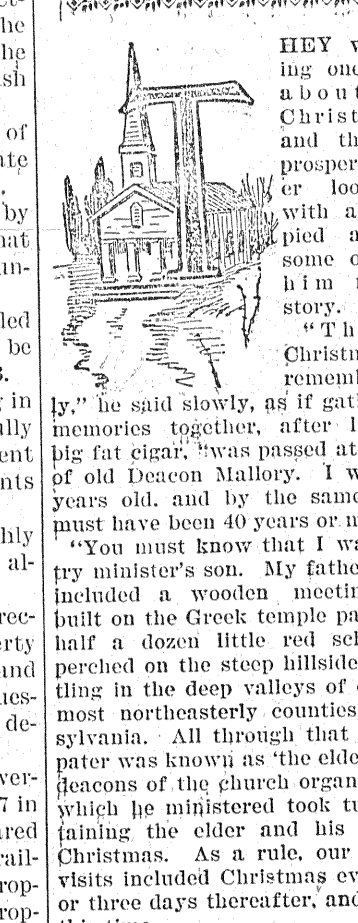
The legislature met in special session last Monday and after the usual preliminaries both houses met in joint convention and listened to the governor's message which follows in brief.

"You have been called together in special session to consider the submission of an amendment to the constitution which will permit the enactment of laws that will provide for the equal taxation of all property by the assessment of the same at its cash value.

"The inequality of our system of taxation is so great that immediate steps should be taken to remedy it. It has been clearly indicated by the supreme court of the state that such legislation cannot be enacted until the constitution is amended.

"If no special session were called now, equal taxation laws could not be enacted until the legislature of 1903. It seems to me that the saving in taxes during those two years fully justifies the expense of the present session which will be about two cents on each \$1000 in value of property.

FORTY LONG YEARS AGO. A BOY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS OF THE KEYSTONE STATE. BY OSBORN SPENCER.



HEY were telling one another about first Christmases, and the portly, prosperous banker looked up with a preoccupied air when some one asked him for his story.

"The first Christmas that I remember clearly," he said slowly, as if gathering his memories together, after lighting a big fat cigar, "was passed at the home of old Deacon Mallory. I was 6 or 7 years old, and by the same token it must have been 40 years or more ago.

"Deacon Mallory lived ten good miles away from the story and a half brown house that stood in the edge of a tremendous big piece of pine and hemlock timber where we lived, and there being two feet of snow on the ground, we had to cover the ten miles in a cutter hauled by Crookfoot, as my father called the ungainly looking young horse he drove in making his widely scattered pastoral calls.

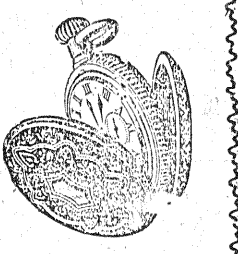
producing a bright, fresh, new plunk with every journey of the carriage. "That night I slept with two of the deacon's boys and in a trundle bed for the first and last time of my life. We boys talked about what we should find in our stockings till late in the night.

"Examination of the stockings in the morning, riding down hill and out on the ice of the deacon's frozen mill pond, snowballing and other incidents made Christmas morning pass fast enough, I assure you. And after that came the Christmas dinner! "All the deacon's mill hands and some of his neighbors partook of that dinner. There were two big tables and one little one. We boys and some little girls sat at the little one, and there were more folks at all three than I had ever before seen together anywhere except at meeting.

"When it came my turn to wish, Darwin Mallory, the deacon's 21-year-old son, told me what to wish—"That Sarah may say yes," he whispered in my ear. Sarah Wilson was the prettiest young woman in the room, and I liked her a lot. Later I told her what Darwin had whispered in my ear, and I couldn't understand why she flushed so vividly.

Holiday Greeting

I have the Largest and Finest assortment of Holiday Goods ever shown in the Thumb, consisting of Silver Novelties, Ebony Goods, Silver Plated Hollow and Flat Ware, Cut Glass, Dolls, Watches, Clocks Jewelry also fine assortment China.



J. F. HENDRICK, JEWELER. JOHN RIKER, Tonsorial Artist, First class work. No change in price. DENTISTRY I. A. FRITZ, Resident Dentist. Office over T. H. Fritz's drugstore. We solicit your patronage when in need of dental work.

Two of a Kind. "A man," she said, "never knows when he is well off." "True," he replied, "and it's a mighty fortunate thing for women who do not care to be old maids that they don't." He Looked It. Greene—"That's Groveler; he's a self-made man. DeWitt—"Well, he looks as if he might have done a better job if some one had helped him."—Cleveland Leader.

CASS CITY MARKETS. Cass City, Mich., Dec. 28, 1899. Wheat, No. 1 white, 56. Wheat, No. 2 red, 54. Rye, No. 2, 50. White oats, No. 2, 34. Hand picked beans, 1.50. Screened beans, 1.56. Peas, 60. Hay, No. 1 Timothy, 9.00. Hay, No. 2, 7.00. Clover seed, prime, 3.00. Clover seed, No. 2, 3.00. Baled Hay, 8.50. Potatoes, 28. Eggs per doz., 15. Butter, 16. Live hogs, per cwt., 3.00. Beef, live weight, 3.4. Sheep, live weight, per lb., 3.44.

Gen. Lawton, Hero Of Three Wars

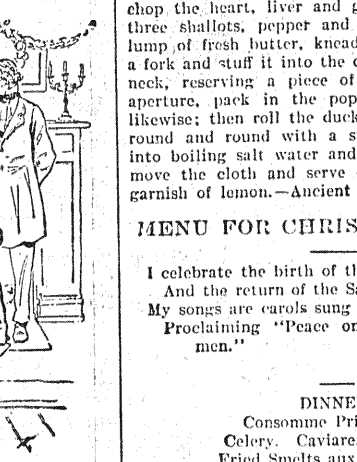
Was Killed While Leading His Troops in Battle.

On Tuesday an associated press dispatch conveyed the sad news from Manila, that Gen. Lawton was shot and killed at San Mateo while standing in front of his troops. It is thought that he was picked off by a sharp shooter.

Gen. Lawton was a splendid fighter and a soldier of experience, courageous to the point of indifference to personal danger on the battlefield. He was as unassuming in private life as if he had no realization of the fact that he was entitled to all the honors that the American people bestow upon successful soldiers.

GILES-WALMSLEY

The wedding of Belle Haines Walmsley and Delbert John Giles, which was solemnized at an early hour on Wednesday, in the Methodist church, by Dr. Morgan, was exceedingly pretty and solemn.



"I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE FLUSHED SO VIVIDLY." He thawed out, and by the time we reached the deacon's we were all in fairly comfortable shape again.

XMAS MENUS. The average mortal on looking over a collection of Xmas menus has a fellow feeling with the hungry traveler who went into a restaurant and told the waiter to bring him "everything on the bill of fare."

DUCK A LA PORTUGAISE.—Take a wild duck, chop the heart, liver and gizzard very fine with three shallots, pepper and salt liberally; add a lump of fresh butter, knead the whole well with a fork and stuff it into the carcass; cut the duck's neck, reserving a piece of skin to sew up the aperture, pack in the popo's nose and sew up likewise; then roll the duck in a cloth and tie it round and round with a string; then plunge it into boiling salt water and cook 25 minutes; remove the cloth and serve on a hot dish with a garnish of lemon.—Ancient Recipe.

MENU FOR CHRISTMAS DAY—II. I celebrate the birth of the Divine And the return of the Saturnian reign; My songs are carols sung at every shrine, Proclaiming "Peace on earth, good will to men."—Longfellow.

TO LOS ANGELES AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Every Friday night, at 10:35 p. m., a through Tourist Car for Los Angeles and Southern California, leaves the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Union Passenger Station, Chicago, via Omaha, Colorado Springs and Salt Lake City, for all points in Colorado, Utah, Nevada and California.

FOR SALE The brick block next to the Town Hall at a reasonable price. J. L. HUTCHCOCK.

Poultry Wanted. Highest cash market price paid for poultry, every Wednesday up to the holidays at the rear of Hitchcock's store. 9-8-tf E. A. JOHNSON.

Chronicle 50 cents Per Year. Feed Grinders, Feed Cutters, Corn Shellers, Buggies and Pumps. Don't buy a cutter or sleigh until you see us.

