

HERE'S SANTA CLAUS WHO FINDS THE TREES

E. K. Chapman, King of the Trade, in Business for Half a Century.

SUPPLIES 400,000 YEARLY

Searches Maine and Canada in summer—Plays Chess on Trip Here.

If you had dropped into the sitting room of Smith & McNeill's Hotel any day last week you might have seen Santa Claus playing chess there. This Santa Claus is E. K. Chapman and he comes from down in Maine. He has systematized the business of supplying a large part of the nation with the Christmas trees that bring joy to little folk all over the land, and while his tree are being distributed in carrels over the country it has been his practice for thirty years or more to make his headquarters at the old hotel on Washington street and play chess with his cronies.

This year Mr. Chapman has cut and shipped 400,000 and 400,000 Christmas trees. No other man in America does such a business. In railroad freight yards hereabout, where he is a familiar figure at this time of year, they have been calling him Santa Claus for years. As far west as Omaha and as far south as Texas, on Christmas Day, families will be gathering around trees cut by this Christmas tree king of the north.

For most of the year Mr. Chapman makes his headquarters in Portland, Me., where he directs his industry. But along about December 1 he always appears at Smith & McNeill's and takes the same room that has been his for a quarter of a century. It is here that he sees that New York city and this part of the country are supplied with his trees, and his son in Chicago looks out for the South and West. Santa Claus is a heavily built man, with a strong down East accent and the snow white hair and beard of the patron saint of childhood.

Now there is an interesting fight on in this Christmas tree business, and it is all because, as the Christmas tree king explained when the game was over, a man in Boston has lately claimed the exclusive privilege of supplying the trade with what are known as "table trees."

"I cut trees before this man was born," said Mr. Chapman, "but he claims that he has copyrighted—no, I think he calls it patented—the idea of the table tree. New York and some other States and that no one else has any right to sell them. He claims this right not only as to the trees but to the size of the trees, small and 'baby' trees. He has sent these trees to all the trade here and elsewhere, warning them not to purchase these trees from any one else. I don't care much, because I don't cut many small trees, but at the same time I say it is ridiculous for any one to make any such a claim. You might register one particular Christmas tree, but God never made two trees alike, any more than he made two men alike. I believe that already a suit has been brought, so that the matter will be tested in the courts. But there is a lot of dealers here who are sending letters of this kind."

Mr. Chapman's consumption of Christmas trees in New York is estimated at about 100,000. He has between 1,000 and 1,500 trees to a carload.

"This business of cutting Christmas trees isn't a new one, you know," he went on. "In Germany and away up in Norway, you see, they were cutting them long before the time of Christ. They watched the sun go down in winter just like some people watch stock down in the fall. They cut them when the sun is at its lowest point they used to cut spruce trees and have a real celebration. We cut spruce trees today, but we send them out in the winter, when they are civilized they use spruce trees, and when they are civilized they used balsam trees. The Christmas tree king gave a chuckle and stroked his long white beard.

"People talk about cutting off the supply of timber by this use of trees," he continued, "but I tell you it's all foolishness. There is a sufficient supply of timber in the timber supply than there is of drinking water in the ocean. All the trees used in this country wouldn't cover 2,000 acres of land. The State of Vermont alone has over 6,000,000 acres, so that would be only one tree to an acre for all the country's supply. For every Christmas tree there are a million trees burned away by the railroads.

There are farmers who never heard of the Christmas tree. They are cutting them in the pastures of these trees to burn them and they almost dropped dead when we offered to buy 'em."

PAYS BANK CORPORATION TAX.

McCall Company Settles With U. S.—No Money for Informers.

Information was received from Washington last night that the Comptroller of the Treasury had collected from the McCall Company of this city \$26,240 of "withhold corporation tax" for the years 1909-12 inclusive, the net earnings amounting to \$2,624,012.

The collections were made as a result of information conveyed to the Comptroller of the Internal Revenue by John Quinn of New York. Mr. Quinn was to receive a reward of 10 per cent of the collections which might be made. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue wrote to the Comptroller of the Treasury that the amount remaining out of the appropriation for punishment for violation of internal revenue laws for the fiscal year 1913 was insufficient to cover Quinn's bill. He wished the authority to use money retained from similar appropriations in previous years, but the Comptroller decided that such a thing would not be possible and an appeal to Congress for a deficiency appropriation must be made.

E. A. Simmons, who lives at the Hotel Bossert of Brooklyn, president of the McCall Company, last night said: "I have held office since February 11 of this year. My associates bought the company in December of the previous year on January 1. Prior to that time I had no connection with the company. The former owners were James H. Otley and associated. The entire transaction being distributed in carrels over the country it has been his practice for thirty years or more to make his headquarters at the old hotel on Washington street and play chess with his cronies.

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND SUGGESTIONS

RUBBERSET Shaving Brushes First Aids to Every Razor. Buy one for him this Christmas. It will last him for a lifetime of Christmas, and the joy of using it means a grateful thought of you every time he shaves.

MARTHA WASHINGTON CANDY STORES. Branches of Washington, D. C. 22 East 23d St., near Madison. 23 Church St., above Cortlandt. Only Genuine Church St. Store. 108 West 135th St., near Lenox Avenue.

STUDIO CLUB UNVEILS TREE. Girls Have Jolly Time at Early Christmas Celebration. The green Christmas tree box that has stood for two weeks on the library table at the Studio Club blossomed forth last night into a wonderful white and silver Christmas tree.

MARTIN AND PHILADELPHIA LONDON AND PHILADELPHIA HARNESS AND SADDLERY. LARGE SELECTION London and Paris Novelties at competitive prices. 333 15TH AVE., N. Y.

WORKS OF ART for Holiday Gifts. LASTER REPRODUCTIONS. From Antique, Medieval and Modern Masterpieces of Art. Garden and Hall Furnishings.

D. A. Doyle's CHRISTMAS SALE. Bags, Trunks, Leather Goods. Direct from Manufacturer. \$7 GENUINE SOLE LEATHER BAGS.

Henry Schultheis Co. An Artistic Picture is a suitable and appropriate Christmas Gift and will be gratefully appreciated. A large variety is being displayed at our Two Stores: 142 Fulton St. 55 Vesey St.

SHRADE Safety Push Button Knife. No Breaking of Finger Nails! SAFETY LOCK. Made exclusively by Schrade Knives Co. of Walden, N. Y.

Why Not purchase a Small Beautiful English Toy Spaniel from the Noted 'Rosemary' Kennels. The most affectionate, refined and aristocratic of toy breeds.

DIAMONDS For Xmas Gifts. We Trust Any Honest Person. CASH or CREDIT. L.W. SWEET & CO. 170 BROADWAY, N.Y. CITY 9th FLOOR.

THE ONE DOLLAR SHOP. 10 WEST 40th ST. NEW YORK CITY. The One Dollar Shop, Inc. 10 West 40th St. New York City.

CHIMES TO RING IN CITY'S TREE OF LIGHT. As the Bells Hush on Christmas Eve the "Star of Hope" Will Blaze Forth. New York's Christmas tree in Madison Square will blaze forth in its myriad electric lights at exactly 5:40 P. M. on Christmas eve.

Remarkable Savings on Umbrellas & Canes For Christmas. Leading Downtown Manufacturer. Our \$7, \$8 & \$5 Ladies' Gentlemen's Umbrellas are the Best Values in New York.

Birds Dogs Cats Fish. Canaries, Full Singers, \$2.50 \$3.00 \$4.00 \$5.00. Golden Conures, \$10.00 \$12.00 \$25.00. Pigeon Pouter, \$2.50 \$3.00 \$4.00 \$5.00. HOLDEN, 25 West 23d, nr. 5th Ave.

COURT UPHOLDS FIRE DRILLS. Miss Anna Charney Fined for Refusing to Take Part in One. Magistrate Marsh upheld in the Jefferson Market court yesterday the law prescribing fire drills in all factories more than two stories in height wherein more than twenty-five persons are employed.

NEEDS OF JEWISH CHARITIES. Brooklyn Needs Help From Manhattan, Says Rothschild. Simon W. Rothschild urged cooperation at a recent conference to discuss Greater New York communal problems.

NEW PLAN FOR DAY LOANS. National City Bank Will Require Security From Brokers. The National City Bank is making arrangements with its Stock Exchange customers whereby the practice of certifying checks for the clearance of day loans will be discontinued after January 15.

ART SALES AND EXHIBITIONS. Silo's Fifth Av. Art Galleries. SILO BUILDINGS, 54 FIFTH AVE., at 4th St., N. Y.

POLICE FIRST AID SAVES HIM. Eggs Fed to Broker Who Took Bichloride of Mercury. Lewis R. Krefetz, 39 years old, an insurance broker of 4536 Park avenue, Manhattan, felt an attack of indigestion coming on in Bedford near Church avenue.

LEMON TRUST HERE, HE SAYS. Receiver of Fruit Firm Asserts Combination Maintains a Lobby. An allegation that a lemon trust exists in New York which maintains a lobby in Washington to bring about a reduction in the tariff on lemons, was made in the Supreme Court yesterday in a suit filed by William C. Armstrong, receiver of the Mercantile-Regan Company.

GENUINE DIAMONDS \$60.00 \$39.00 Rings. You will make no mistake to at least look at these Ladies' Single Stone Genuine Diamonds. Buy them at \$25.00 to \$15.00.

ORIENTAL Rugs and Carpets. The Collection of IHSAN-EFFENDI of Tabriz, Persia. EXTRA LARGE SALON CARPETS. Mr. JAMES P. SILO, Auctioneer.

ASK EMPLOYMENT FOR 35,000. Los Angeles Socialists Present Petition to City Council. LOS ANGELES, Dec. 20.—Representatives of the Socialist party, Industrial Workers of the World and other organizations, yesterday presented to the City Council a petition for appropriate at once \$500,000 and take steps to procure \$5,000,000 more for public works on which 35,000 idle men could be employed.

TOYS MAKE LINER SPEED UP. Has Christmas Gifts for Seamen's Children in Newfoundland. The Red Cross liner Florizel, which sailed yesterday for St. John's, Newfoundland, will put on extra speed to make that port on Christmas morning.

Our Special To-Morrow. Ladies' Rings Gents' Rings. You will make no mistake to at least look at these Ladies' Single Stone Genuine Diamonds. Buy them at \$25.00 to \$15.00.

Movements of Naval Vessels. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The cutter Orion, a dispatch boat, has been ordered for Norfolk, Va., and the cutter Albatross, a dispatch boat, has been ordered for Norfolk, Va.

Shift in Fleet Captains. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Owing to the death of Capt. F. L. Chapin of the battleship Wyoming, a resignation of command of the battleship fleet has been made as follows: Capt. James H. Morrison, recently ordered to command the Florida, will command the Wyoming; Capt. William R. Bush, recently ordered to the North Dakota, will take the Florida.

ARMY AND NAVY ORDERS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—These Army orders were issued today: Capt. H. C. Smith, General Staff, appointed Director of National Rifle Association of America; Capt. J. Gerard, Fifth Corps, to Philippines Department.

WARNING! Beware of Imitations. If you wish to see our 180 Diamonds we advertise please look like ours, but look for the name CHARLES A. KEENE and the number 180 OVER OUR ONLY ENTRANCE with you, so there can be no mistake.

By Wireless—Incoming Vessels. St. George Washington, 710 miles east of Sandy Hook at 8 A. M. yesterday. St. Cleveland, 609 miles east of Sandy Hook at 8 A. M. yesterday.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Washington Predictions for Today and To-morrow.

For eastern New York, rain today; rain or snow up State; fair and colder to-morrow. For southern New England, rain to-day; fair and colder to-morrow. For northern New England, cloudy, with rain or snow to-day; fair and colder to-morrow.

There was a little zero weather in southern Colorado and in North Dakota. In this city the day was fair and warmer; wind, fresh southwest; average, humidity, 66 per cent; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 3 A. M., 30.10; 3 P. M., 30.01. The temperature in this city yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

Table with columns for Date, Time, and Temperature. Includes data for Sun rises, AM, PM, and lowest temperature.

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