

TO IMPROVE SUGAR CANE

W. G. CAMPBELL, CHIEF OF BUREAU, MAKES HIS REPORT

BETTER GRADE SYRUPS

More Efficient Methods Would Result in Increase of The Value of Sugar Cane And Products.

Washington.—The sugar cane planters of Louisiana are greatly in need of improved methods whereby better grades of sugar and molasses can be produced and manufactured more efficiently in order to compete with cane sugar from the tropics, W. G. Campbell, acting chief of the bureau of chemistry, reported to Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture. Work to that end has been carried on during the last year, Mr. Campbell reported, but research work along those lines is necessary because sugar cane does not fully mature in Louisiana, so that, since the composition of the juice differs from that of cane grown in the tropics, special methods of manufacture must be used.

"Working out more efficient methods would result in an enormous increase in the value of sugar cane and would be of the greatest constructive assistance to Louisiana cane planters," says Mr. Campbell. "At the present time the production of sufficiently high grade molasses is accomplished at the expense of too great a reduction in yield of sugar the production both of an adequate yield of high quality of sugar and of molasses of acceptable grade is necessary in order to insure a reasonable return for sugar cane."

"In addition to developing improved and more economical methods of manufacturing better quality molasses, the problem of utilizing blackstrap molasses most efficiently has been considered. At the present time blackstrap virtually is a waste product, and an increased return for this material would give the cane planter a corresponding profit on his cane delivered at the mill."

New Roads, La.—A resolution calling attention of the Louisiana highway commission to the omission to reauthorize that part of Road Project No. 1 of Road District No. 1, extending from Main street in New Roads to the iron bridge across the Forth drainage canal, a distance of one mile, has been adopted by the Pointe Coupee parish police jury.

Shreveport, La.—Mrs. May Scott Wilkerson of Shreveport, one of three women members of the recent state Constitutional Convention, became Louisiana's first woman juror when accepted on a jury to try a negro who was convicted of forgery and uttering.

Monroe, La.—Guy Berks and Geo. Sampson battled with knives at the end of the Lee avenue car line near the southern corporate limits of Monroe. Sampson was carried in a dozen places and was sent to St. Francis Sanitarium for treatment. Berks was arrested.

Shreveport, La.—The Protestant Pastors' Association has elected Dr. H. F. Brooks, pastor of the First Methodist Church, president for the ensuing year; J. F. McKensie, pastor of Dunlap Presbyterian Church, vice-president; Dr. R. S. Walton, pastor of the Texas Avenue Methodist Church, was re-elected secretary.

Monroe, La.—Adjutant C. E. McKensie of the Louisiana National Guard Post at Monroe has been notified by the War Department that a headstone in honor of Adonzo Kileon, negro soldier, who died in the war, has been sent to Monroe.

Lafayette, La.—L. W. Wilkerson, district agent of the state extension department, Baton Rouge, will arrive during the next week for the purpose of organizing a cotton growers' co-operative association in Lafayette parish.

Bastrop, La.—New buildings are going up on every hand. Work began on the new double-story brick being erected by Judge F. M. Odom and two new residences. Contracts were let for three more.

Monroe, La.—John H. Beard, assistant cashier of the Central Savings Bank and Trust Company, has received a commission from Governor Farber appointing him a delegate to the eighteenth annual session of the national rivers and harbors congress in Washington.

Crowley, La.—P. H. Derr, a farmer living two miles west of Crowley, has purchased a 125 acre farm from Marie Galtry thus rounding out his farm lands to 1000 acres. Mr. Derr came to this country thirty years ago with nothing but his hands and a will to use them.

Flaguette, La.—The charter of the Flaguette Ferry Company, incorporated, has been filed in the district court. The company is capitalized at \$2000 which may be increased at any time to \$10,000.

TO PLANT UNIFORM GRADE OF COTTON SEED

Alexandria, La.—A resolution endorsing the planting of a uniform or standard staple of cotton, one that is tenderable on a future market, and discouraging the planting of what is known as half and half staple was adopted at a meeting of the Rapides parish branch of the Louisiana farm bureau here.

James F. Selp, a planter of Bayou Rapides, who presided at the meeting, advocated the planting of Acala cotton. Mr. Selp said he had made experiments with this staple of cotton and found it to be the most successful that he had yet grown. He urged the planters composing the membership of the farm bureau to secure this kind of seed and plant it next year.

GET THE WRONG MAN

Shreveport, La.—While one of their party, armed with a pistol, stood guard over persons who happened to be in the lobby of the Como Hotel, within sight of the City Hall, five unmasked men abducted Robert E. Royster, a local painter, from a room of the hotel and, with their victim blindfolded and clad only in his underclothes, carried him in an automobile to an isolated spot several miles from the city.

Upon removing the bandage they discovered he was not the man wanted and then immediately returned him unharmed to the hotel, where they informed him his clothes were at the police station nearby. It required about an hour and a half for the trip to and from the country and during that period the guests in the lobby of the hotel were held under guard by the silent armed man without even the privilege of smoking.

New Roads, La.—The Pointe Coupee parish police jury has appointed J. P. Gosserand, Albin Major, Joseph Samson, P. E. Berthier, A. L. Glynn and H. P. Mougner as members of the board of trustees of the Poydras academy.

Crowley, La.—Acadia Post No. 15, American Legion, is active in American Education Week campaign. Commander J. L. McHugh issued an invitation to the schools of the parish to co-operate and meetings have been arranged for.

New Roads, La.—The road work around False river under the supervision of William Bonner, is about completed. All concrete work has been finished and Mr. Bonner states that only about 200 feet remain to be graded. Work on the Jefferson Highway extending from Burke to Melville is still progressing and the road will be ready for use in about thirty days, weather conditions permitting, according to R. M. T. Hunter, highway engineer, who has charge of the work.

Lake Charles, La.—Samuel R. Mallette, a Confederate veteran, is exhibiting an old Bible which he carried through the war between the states. The Bible is slightly larger than the pocket editions of today, and has only the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. It was given him by his mother when he left in the early sixties to fight for the Southern cause.

Shreveport, La.—An increase of \$1,562,444, since January 1, 1922, over the same period of 1921, is shown by the report of the local building inspector in the matter of building operations. During the eleven months of this year the total reached \$5,265,751.

New Roads, La.—The charter of the Morris Ice Company, incorporated, recently organized, has been filed with the clerk of court and recorder of this parish. The home office of the company will be New Roads.

DeQuincy, La.—With plenty of work for all who desire to work and an actual shortage of common labor, crime and law violation are almost unknown in DeQuincy. Gambling resorts and bootlegging are not thought of since a spectacular "cleanup," inaugurated by a local newspaper, took place here a year and a half ago.

Lafayette, La.—An invitation has been extended to the regional conference of Red Cross secretaries of South Louisiana to meet in Lafayette in January.

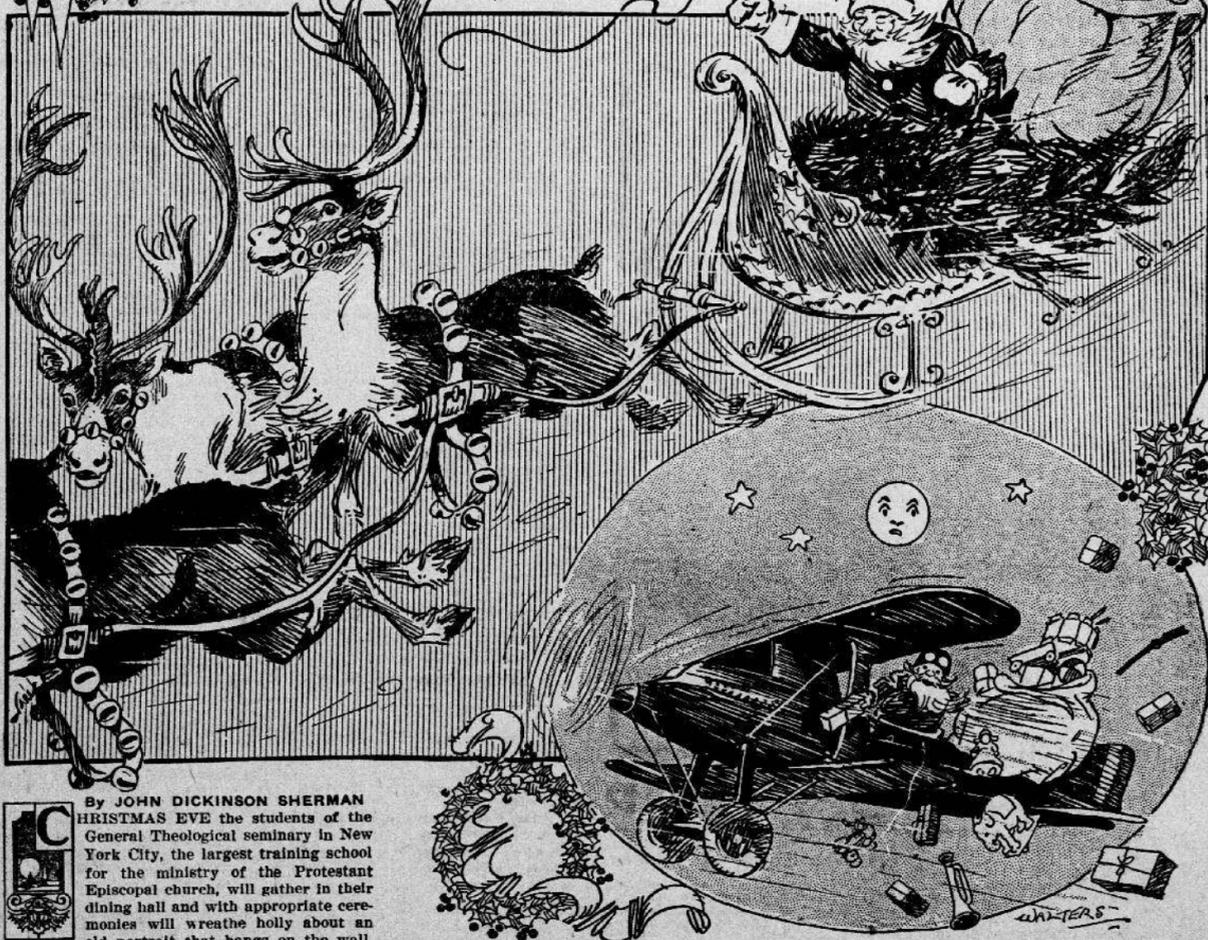
Monroe, La.—A special election to vote on the proposition to incur debt and issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000 for the purpose of erecting and equipping a school building in School District No. 16 of Richland parish has been ordered by the parish school board to be held January 9.

Opelousas, La.—With the date for the intercity meeting drawing near the local committee of Rotarians is preparing to entertain the 500 visitors expected. An interesting program is being arranged for the occasion.

Opelousas, La.—The membership campaign of the trade extension bureau is almost completed, and the finances raised assures a sufficient sum to carry out the work of the organization along the most effective lines.

Lafayette, La.—Officers are to be elected at a meeting of the South-west Louisiana Fair Association to take place here. It is announced that the thirteen parishes in this district will be represented on the board of directors.

"Twas the Night before Christmas"



By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN
CHRISTMAS EVE the students of the General Theological seminary in New York City, the largest training school for the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal church, will gather in their dining hall and with appropriate ceremonies will wreath the holly about an old portrait that hangs on the wall.

The portrait is that of Clement Clark Moore (1781-1863), a founder of the seminary who gave it the whole block known as Chelsea square. Moreover, from 1821 to 1850 he was the professor of Biblical learning and was professor emeritus from then until his death. And in addition he compiled a "Hebrew and English Lexicon" (1809), the first to be published in this country. This notable scholar and dignified theological professor was born in New York City, the grandson of Maj. Thomas Clark, a retired officer of the British army, and son of the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Moore, third president of Columbia university and second bishop of New York. He studied for the ministry, but was not ordained.

Christmas morning, at 9:30 o'clock, several hundred Sunday school children—maybe as many as a thousand—will march from the new Chapel of the Intercession in New York City with trumpeters and banners, singing Christmas carols as they go, and lay a great wreath on a tomb in famous old Trinity cemetery. This tomb is that of this same grave and reverend professor of Biblical learning and compiler of a Hebrew lexicon. And this memorial celebration is now a feature of Christmas day.

It is likely that this Christmas the theological students and the Sunday school children will add special features to their memorial celebration. For Clement Clark Moore is, as everybody should know, the man who wrote "Twas the Night before Christmas" and this Christmas season is the centennial of the writing of the poem that has gone around the world and is the delight of children wherever Santa Claus is known. Of course there are lots of people who do not know who wrote it. And that's because it has become so much a part of our Christmas tradition and literature that it never occurs to them that it had an author. It's like Mother Goose, you know.

December 23, 1823, the Troy (N. Y.) Sentinel printed the now famous poem with the title, "A Visit From St. Nicholas." The name of the author was not given.

The jolly jingle met with instant appreciation. Other newspapers published it. City after city all over the country copied it. It was published in magazines. Next it went into the public school readers. Then came special editions of the poem, illustrated by artists who had made a name by their pictures for children. Finally it was translated into many languages. Now it may be heard almost all over the world.

And all this time the name of the author was unknown. The fact is that Professor Moore was not exactly pleased over the publication of the poem and its world-wide popularity caused him to shrink from claiming its authorship.

You see, he had nothing to do with its original publication. The poem was written for his children and was strictly for family use. But in the winter of 1822, shortly after the poem was written, the family had as a visitor the eldest daughter of Rev. Dr. David Butler, rector of St. Paul's church, Troy. To her one of Clement Moore's little daughters read the poem. The visitor was delighted with the poem

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

By CLEMENT C. MOORE

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads,
And mama in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash,
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave a luster of midday to objects below;
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Dunder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch to the top of the wall!
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys—and St. Nicholas, too.
And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had slung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes, how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump—a right jolly old elf;
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight:
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

A MODERN KRISSE KRINGLE

By HAROLD BARNES

Krisse Kringle laughs with a merry glee;
"I'll fool the children this year," says he;
"They think I am coming with deer and sleigh,
And jingle of bells, in the same old way."
"But I'll do it," he says, with a knowing wink,
As he opens his hangar—and what do you think?
There stands in its shed like a waiting train
The finest brand of an aeroplane.
Shining and gleaming and new and spick—
Just made to order for Old St. Nick.

and copied it into her album. Then, just before Christmas of 1823, she sent a copy to the editor of the Troy Sentinel. And that's how the verses came to be printed in the first place.

Clement Moore, like many a man with a serious purpose in life, had a hobby which he did not ride in public. His vocation was the teaching of Biblical learning to theological students. His avocation was writing poetry for the edification and pleasure of his children. As for the children, they thought their father's verses were the best fun in all the world. He understood so well their likes and dislikes and sympathized so keenly with their joys and griefs. Sometimes the poems contained a moral that could be applied right at home. But in general the verses were just sheer, clear rollicking fun.

Clement Moore, as he related in later years, first heard the story of St. Nicholas as told in the poem from a jolly fat Dutchman who lived near his boyhood home. The Dutchman had heard the story when a boy in Holland.

Well, when the Christmas of 1822 drew near Clement Moore thought he would write a Christmas poem as a present for his children. And he picked out the Dutchman's story of St. Nick as the subject. The Moores lived in a big house on a hill that sloped to the Hudson. The ground was all covered with snow. There was a great fireplace where the Christmas stockings were hung. The setting was just right. So one evening Clement Moore sat down in front of a cheerful blaze in the big fireplace and began the verses that will keep his fame immortal as long as there are children and Christmas is celebrated.

Clement Moore was a very modest man and his personal feeling about the verses he wrote for his children was that they had little merit except as verses for children—and for his own children. And for that reason he was reluctant to disclose his authorship. Finally, in 1844, he did publish a "Collection of Poems," which included "A Visit From St. Nicholas." In the records of the General Theological seminary is the following testimonial from its faculty to the sterling worth of their associate:

"We recognize in him one whom God has blessed with selected gifts; warm-hearted in friendship, genial in society, kindly and considerate to all; possessed of fine literary tastes, poetic instincts and expressiveness, and of cheerful humor withal; at the same time well accomplished in severer studies and resolute for more laborious undertakings, as his learned works in Hebrew grammar and lexicography distinctly testify."

"A Visit From St. Nicholas" is herewith reprinted in full. And no apology is made for reproducing a poem that millions of children—and grownups, too—know by heart. It's not hard work at Christmas time to run over the old, familiar lines—they're good reading yet for the oldest and crustiest of us.

The few lines of verse below, printed just for the contrast, are the beginning of a clever Twentieth century version from the Philadelphia Public Ledger in which an up-to-date St. Nick travels by airplane.