

Adulterations of a Christmas Dinner

by George V. Hobart



SAY! did you ever get reckless and give a Christmas dinner to an assorted collection of petrified relations?

Take it from me, dodging benzine buggies on the boulevard is sleepy work in comparison.

Friend wife concluded it was up to us to squeeze a few uncles and aunts into our 4 by 4 dining room and throw turkey wings at them, so I coaxed my nervous system to behave and told Peaches to cut loose.

She sat down and invited Uncle Peter Grant and Aunt Martha, Uncle Gregory Smith and Aunt Bessie. Then she went in, took another look at the dining room and stopped.

Invited Bud Hawley, his wife Sybil, and Hep Hardy, and explained to them that we would all have to sit edge-on at the table and get our meat cut in the kitchen, so as to avoid hitting each other on the funny bone, and it was so ordered.

Hep arrived early. He always does. He generally breezes in with the information that four pages of tango music are waiting for him in some hoof palace, and he has to hurry away, but on this occasion he concluded to see the fight to a finish.

Then the other members of our dinner party began arriving and the mad revel was on.

Uncle Peter brought a friend—the famous food expert, Doctor Smotherjoy.

The doctor is a high card with Uncle Peter.

He is one of those old ginks with beady eyes and a license to hunt for germs, and everything he eats has first to give the countersign and then go through a written examination.

Uncle Peter believes every word that leaves Doc Smotherjoy's face, but for my part I think he's an old Camembert.

At any rate, no sooner were we seated at the table than Doc parted his whiskers carefully, coughed to attract attention, then picked up a little-neck clam on the end of his fork and proceeded to give it the third degree.

"The adulteration of foodstuffs these days is being carried on to an extent worse than criminal," the old bluff began solemnly. "Ah, even here I see traces of sally-silic acid with borax-phosphos even here on this clam."

"Put a little tabasco on it and cut loose," suggested Bud Hawley.

"Have a lemon," said Hep. "Squeeze it over the clams and make a wish."

Uncle Peter listened with marked attention, while Uncle Gregory glanced at his clams and shuddered.

The doctor ate his unconcernedly.

When the soup came on the Doc lifted a spoonful thoughtfully, then sloshed it slowly back into his plate, while the two uncles eyed him nervously.

"It's bullyon," whispered Uncle Peter, anxious to prove the soup's innocence.

"Here," said the doctor, examining his spoonful critically, "here are traces of hydrophosphates and about ten per cent philarmonic acid."

"I never eat soup," gurgled Uncle Greg, "because it's a waste of good space."

The doctor said nothing more, but quietly surrounded his soup.

When the fish was served the doctor danced over his plate with his fork and said, "Hydrostatic acid with here and there symptoms of manganese germs and a few sulphide microbes."

Uncle Gregory pushed his plate back with a sigh that was pitiful to hear.

Peaches was now so nervous that her hands were doing a shaker dust, and there was a big pink spot on each cheek.

The others at the table, with the exception of nervous old Uncle Gregory, paid not the slightest attention to Doctor Busyface.

Even Uncle Peter threw away his germ fear after the clam episode, and took a long chance with everything from soup to nuts.

Next we had some turkey with mashed potatoes, green peas and asparagus tips.

When Uncle Gregory saw all this his face broke out in a smile, and we could see his appetite roll up its sleeves.

"In this," the doctor began again, holding up a turkey wing on his fork, "in this we have a cold-storage turkey which has been treated with oxalic acid and chloride of potassium to keep it in a shivering state."

"Pardon me, doctor," exclaimed Peaches indignantly, "but it isn't a cold-storage turkey, because it was sent me as a present by some friends on Long Island only this morning."

"Possibly," went on Caterpillar Charlie, "possibly my hurried diagnosis was at fault, but we can never be sure

about these things, because here, on the elbow of the wing, I find traces of calithemic acid over the membranes."

"No, thank you," said Uncle Gregory, "I never eat turkey, it gives me the heartburn." And the poor old guy struck such a note of hunger that I wanted to throw that doctor out of the window.

By this time several others at the table were becoming more of less impressed, and the dinner party was beginning to assume the cheerful aspect of a meeting of martyrs an hour before the arena opened.

"Please pass me some mashed potatoes," whispered Uncle Gregory after the pangs of hunger had beaten him to the ropes.

"Here we find," croaked the doctor, raising a forkful of mashed potatoes, "here we find one of the most evil effects of food adulteration. This potato was grown in the fall of the year 1889, but it has been washed in alum water to give it the appearance of being modern, while its eyes have been treated with belladonna to make them bright and snappy."

Uncle Gregory groaned pathetically, and the rest of us, out of politeness, tried to look interested, but only succeeded in looking seasick.

When the ice cream and cake were brought on Doctor Smotherjoy drove his spoon down deep into the chocolate and vanilla mixed and said, "Here is a pitiful illustration of what dishonest tradesmen will do for money. Here we find that some of this ice cream was pale originally, but it was treated with aniline dye to give it this chocolate effect, and then baked in the sun to deceive the eye. On the other hand, we find this vanilla was originally dark and forbidding, but it has been treated with peroxide of hydrogen to make it more of a blonde."

"Pardon me, doctor," snapped Peaches, her teeth chattering with nervousness, "but this ice cream was made in our kitchen by our own cook, with first-class cream, and we never have any but homemade ice cream, so there!"

"Ah," said the doctor, "then in that case it must be traces of thanatopsis which I see, and the evidence is conclusive that a great deal of artificial frappe has been used, nevertheless."

"No, thank you," said Uncle Gregory, "I never eat ice cream because it goes to my head and makes me cold to my friends."

"Take this coffee, for instance," chortled the doctor, juggling a spoonful with the left hand and four lumps of sugar with the right. "Herein you will find copper salts, iodide of chicory, a four per cent solution of gladiolus, together with about a sixteenth of a grain of mocha to the cupful."

"No, thank you," gasped Uncle Gregory; "I never drink coffee; it gives me the hiccups."

After the dinner was over, Uncle Gregory took me outside and whispered: "John, for the love of a blissful heaven, the next time you give a dinner party cut out that bug doctor, or let me wear ear muffs."

Peaches hasn't spoken a sensible word since that bitter evening.

Can you blame her?

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HUGHES FOR ARBITRATION.

He Would Be First to Accord to Labor All Rights Found Just After Consideration.

In his Maine speeches Mr. Hughes made it plain that he was not attacking labor or the equity of the proposed increase of wages for the railroad men. He was simply contending for the all important principle of arbitration as the right means of settlement of such questions. Speaking at different places in Maine, Mr. Hughes dwelt upon this question, saying:

"I deeply deplore, in the name of labor, in the name of justice, in the name of American ideals, the surrender of the Executive and of Congress to force, instead of permitting reason to reign."

The measure to which I have alluded was not, properly speaking, an eight-hour measure. It was a wage measure.

It was a plain proposition for a change in the wage scale. I do not speak of the equity of that. That is a matter to be fairly considered. I want what is just and right with respect to wages. I am for the arbitration and the peaceful settlement of these industrial controversies. We can settle everything in this country if we approach those matters with a fair and open mind and an examination of the facts.

This particular measure shows on its face that it was legislation in advance of the investigation, instead of investigation in advance of legislation. It is said that there was in its favor the judgment of society. The judgment of society in this country has never been passed in favor of legislation without knowledge of the equity and regardless of the facts of the case. There was no judgment of society in favor of the roads which were excepted from its provisions. If there was a judgment of society, why not apply the rule to electric or other kinds of roads or roads less than 100 miles in length? I say, away with such pretense! It was a surrender to force instead of a clear, candid, faithful framed examination of the facts, and then action in accordance with American principles.

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RECORD OF A YEAR

History of 1916 Shows Long List of Memorable Events.

WAR CLOUDS HUNG HEAVY.

Mexican Situation at All Times Acute. President Wilson and Vice President Marshall Honored With Re-election. Nation Wide Railroad Strike Narrowly Averted.

New York.—There were many history making events in the year that is gone. With the nations on the other side of the water engaged in the most devastating war of all time, the United States managed to keep out of the struggle, although at times the clouds of war hung heavy over this country. The Mexican situation at all times was more or less acute.

The big event of the year was the national election. President Woodrow Wilson and Vice President Thomas R. Marshall were renominated by the Democrats and Charles Evans Hughes and Charles W. Fairbanks by the Re-



1, CAPTAIN KOENIG OF DEUTSCHLAND. 2, FRANCIS JOSEPH. 3, THE DEUTSCHLAND. 4, CONGRESSMAN ADAMSON. 5, GEN. PERSHING. 6, LORD KITCHENER. 7, SIR ROGER CASEMENT.

publicans. The Democratic candidates were re-elected, California being the pivotal state which gave the victory to the Democrats.

Many noted men at home and abroad died in the year. In January General Victoriano Huerta, former provisional president of Mexico, succumbed at El Paso, Tex. James J. Hill, famous as a railroad magnate, died in May at St. Paul in his seventy-seventh year. In July death called Mrs. Hetty Green, known as the richest woman in the world. She was eighty-two years old, and her death occurred in New York city. In September occurred the death of Samuel W. Pennypacker, at one time governor of Pennsylvania, in his seventy-second year. On the last day of October occurred the death of Charles Taze Russell, who was known as Pastor Russell. He was sixty-four years old when he died. The death on Nov. 21 of Emperor Franz Joseph, emperor of Austria and king of Hungary, in Vienna at the age of eighty-six was of world interest. On Dec. 5 occurred the death of John D. Archbold, head of the Standard Oil company.

In the latter part of June President Wilson called out the organized militia of the whole country for service on the border and notified the Mexican government that United States troops would not be withdrawn from Mexico. In September an American-Mexican peace conference met in New London and later at Atlantic City. At the end of the year, while many of the militia were recalled from the border, General Pershing had a force in Mexico to look out for bandit raids.

There was a revolt in Ireland April 27, led by Sir Roger Casement, who was captured while trying to land arms for the revolutionists. On Aug. 3 Sir Roger Casement was hanged for treason in London.

A nation wide strike on the railroads, which would paralyze the commerce of the country, was averted by the passing by congress of the Adamson eight hour law.

World attention was attracted during the year to the exploits of the German merchant submarine *Deutschland*.

In Europe the German attempt to take Verdun resulted in failure. On June 4 General Kitchener was drowned while on the way to Russia. Roumania took sides with the allies. The Germans captured Bukarest near the close of the year. This was followed soon after by the announcement of Chancellor Von Bothmann-Holweg that the effect that Germany was ready to begin peace negotiations.

FINDS FALSE IDEALS GREAT FOES OF CUPID

Cause More Divorces Than Mother-in-law or an Affinity.

Kansas City.—Investigations by Miss Tiera Farrow, Kansas City's first woman divorce proctor, have convinced her that the affinity, the mother-in-law and the corner saloon do not play the most potent part in causing unhappy homes. The trouble, she believes, is to be found in a false ideal of married life. Her inquiry, she says, has developed

That because girls dream of movie heroes with wavy hair and caressing eyes as husbands they decide marriage is a failure when their plumber or carpenter spouses are commonplace.

That because their ideal of married life, born of novel reading, as a rose garden of love does not come true the young wife grows discontented and fails to make a success of her job as a homemaker.

"Of course the fault is not all with the woman," said Miss Farrow.

"In perhaps a greater number of instances,

the men are to blame, but there would be many more successful marriages if girls were brought up with less of the romantic idea."

BORDER GUARDSMEN WILL BE COMFORTABLE

Record Order of Lumber Will Provide For Flooring and Walling Their Tents.

Fort Sam Houston, Tex.—It is stated at the office of the quartermaster's corps of the southern department at Fort Sam Houston that the recent call for bids to furnish 7,000,000 running feet of lumber that was issued by Major William Elliott, depot quartermaster at El Paso, is a separate order from that which is soon to be placed for lumber and other materials for the erection of winter quarters of officers and enlisted men at Fort Sam Houston and different camps upon the Rio Grande border.

Plans for the different type of buildings that are to be erected are now under consideration by Colonel H. L. Rogers, chief quartermaster. The bachelor officers on duty with the troops will be provided with a winter home somewhat resembling a clubhouse. Each married officer will be provided with a small frame cottage to cost about \$900.

Cantinons will be built for the regulars in the form of the usual type of barracks. The guardsmen will be made comfortable by their tents being floored and sides built to them of boards. It is stated that an appropriation of \$1,600,000 for the construction of these buildings was recently made available to the war department.

EXCHANGE FOR CIVIL CAPTIVES

British and Germans Over Forty-five Years Old to Be Freed.

London.—After protracted negotiations through the medium of the United States arrangements have been made for the exchange of German and British civilian prisoners over forty-five years old. About 4,000 Germans are interned in the United Kingdom, and 700 British civilians are interned in Germany. Whether the prisoners will reach their respective homes depends on the success of the admiralty in finding a neutral steamer on which to make the exchange.

Preparations are being made to break up the camps for Germans on the Isle of Man and those established for British civilian prisoners in Germany. Only 2,200 of the Germans interned in the United Kingdom expressed a desire to return to Germany. If the opportunity offered many would prefer to go to America, it is said.

BUILDING HOUSE INDOORS.

Workers in Fleischmann Summer House Inclosed in Huge Shed.

New London, Conn.—Neither sleet nor snow nor arctic weather will impede the construction at Eastern Point of the summer home designed for Julius Fleischmann, the Cincinnati millionaire. He is determined that the elements shall not interfere with the opening of his house next spring.

Therefore the workmen and their building operations are inclosed in an immense shed that shuts out the external conditions. They will work under this protection on the foundations and carry the shed to wider dimensions as the height of the house increases.

Only when the weather permits unrestricted construction will the outer shell be removed.

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