

CHRISTMAS TOYS AND THEIR MAKERS



IF the boys and girls who have dreamed of visiting Santa Claus' workshop were suddenly to be transported to certain rooms on Fourth street, near Washington square, in New York city, they would certainly think that their dreams had come true, for in these rooms are displayed samples of every sort of toy made for the holiday season, and these samples represent the work of the toymakers of all countries.

Of mechanical toys there is apparently no end, and the Germans seem to provide the greatest number of these. There are loop the loops and aerial railroads, ready to give thrilling rides to the dolls of toydom; there are automobiles from the small tin affairs at 25 cents to those several feet in length, with a real storage battery and a clockwork chauffeur, and only less thrilling than these are the electric cars and the battleships with real searchlights.

Enough to delight the heart of any boy is a workshop as big as a dining table, with an engine, belts and shafting to transmit power to the various tools. Equally interesting to girls are the dolls and doll houses. The former represent all nations in both feature and costume, while the doll houses are fitted with every modern miniature appliance for miniature housekeeping. There are carpet sweepers, electric lights, gas ranges and bathroom conveniences. At a quaint German shop one has only to press a button and the door opens, the shutters fly up and a sleepy looking shopkeeper walks out, rubbing his eyes. A fort, armed with a full battery of guns and garrisoned with soldiers, is equipped with electrical devices for firing.

Strange as it may seem, this great toy bazaar is a very quiet place just before the holidays, for the buyers of toys from all over the country come during the summer months to make their selection and place their orders. This is very different from the custom which prevails in Bavaria. Instead of the buyers all going to one large city to select their stock of toys there are traveling lecturers sent out from the Trade museum, who visit the merchants of different cities and show them their models. These men put in operation the locomotives, motors, submarine boats, divers and other mechanical toys and at the same time deliver a lecture upon the merits and advantages of the toys they are operating.

A great deal of attention is being paid in these days to the playthings of children. In the great museum at

Amsterdam is to be seen what is probably the most wonderful doll house ever made. It is completely furnished with everything that is to be found in a modern home, but everything is upon the most diminutive scale. There are wineglasses of the size and form of a single blossom of the lilac, and pipes for the men dolls are no larger than pins. The very small size of all the furnishings, called for the most exquisite workmanship, and to the small girls who visit the museum this doll house is a dream of delight.

Not long ago an exposition was held in Paris for the sole purpose of showing historical toys. These were of great interest and beauty, as they had belonged to children of the nobility, children who later became prominent figures in the history of France. In this collection there were tables, chairs, dressing tables, beds, cradles and stoves. Some of these had been used by the children themselves, while others on a much more diminutive scale were the property of their dolls. All were of elaborate workmanship and expensive material, but the doll furnishings were even more elaborate than those used by the children, for these tiny bits of furniture were upholstered with small pieces of the most costly fabrics to be obtained.

A Doll That Sleeps, Laughs and Cries.

There are dolls who talk and dolls who walk, but the greatest novelty of the season is the doll who not only goes to sleep, but who laughs and cries with absolute fidelity to life. To be sure the laugh and the sob are not audible, but they are nevertheless unmistakable. This remarkable doll always wears a cap, and for the reason that she has three faces, any one of which may be turned to the front at the will of the owner, who has only to turn a small metal cap at the top of the head. One of the three faces wears a fat, loving smile which is simply captivating; the second face is drawn into an expression of touching distress, with the tears actually rolling down the cheeks; and the third face shows the same Miss Dolly fast asleep.

Germany is known as the land of toymakers. All over the country, in the little cottages of the peasant class, whole families spend day after day throughout the year painting, carving, sewing and modeling the wonderful German toys. Even small children are taught certain parts of the toymaking and work away as industriously as any of their elders, carving a fat pig from a small block of wood or staining in bright colors the carved lines in a sand mold.

While there are factories in Germany in which toys are made, by far the greater proportion are produced in the hundreds of small homes scattered throughout the land. Small mills by the mountain streams of southern Germany are operated by families who utilize them in the production of marbles and chinaware, from which are made tea sets, toilet sets and even the dolls for which the diminutive wares are to be utilized.

Every member of a family has his special share in the work. If a family makes the market houses which produce in miniature the markets of rural Germany, the father probably fashions the figures of the marketmen and one of the older girls paints them, an older son makes the small shed or stall and the mother reproduces the wares which are to be displayed for sale in the stall. The younger children fill the little molds from which these are fashioned or stick bits of artificial flowers into the diminutive pots with which the stall is adorned.

Germany Home of the Toy.

The love of children is a strong characteristic of the German race, and a striking illustration of this national trait is shown by the fact that all the toymaking of the country is under government surveillance. The use of poisons or any coloring matter which is poisonous in its nature is strictly forbidden. Toys for young children must be rounded at the edges and not finished with sharp corners, and britania

ware is always used instead of pewter for dishes and similar articles, as the britania ware is mixed with German silver and is not injurious, while the pewter is.

The toys partake of the character of the people who make them. They are strong, sturdy, not given to glittering show, perhaps not always artistic, but substantial and honest and lasting. The cuckoo clock, the telephone, the music box and the kitchen range—all made to furnish a playhouse and all miniature in size—are made to do the work required of them, to do it well and to do it for a long time if reasonably handled. The railway with its sections of track, its switches, stations, signal lights and boards, telegraph poles, complete trains with mail cars, moving vans or trucks—after the fashion of German moving—snowplows and engines which may be made to go slow or fast and also to reverse—every possible device, in fact, of the German railway system in miniature, even to the conductor's bell and punch—will last a boy's lifetime and keep in good order.

All Sorts and Conditions.

The toys are as varied in character as are the wants of humankind. In fact, they represent a miniature Germany. There are representations of all sorts of stores, markets and greenhouses, filled with small reproductions of the wares which they offer for sale. There are miniature theaters, with shifting scenery, drop curtains, com-

plete even to the prompter's box, which every German theater contains. Then there are schools fully furnished, and houses which are complete from piano and piano lamp to the hot water bottle, which is to relieve the pains of the small boy doll who has partaken too freely of the miniature foods and the seductive plum pudding. There are mechanical toys, musical toys, dolls of all nations and of all occupations, doll furnishings of every kind from school to wedding garments, sets of jewelry and even the shell combs and hairpins which are a necessary part of the present style of coiffure.

Carved wooden toys are a distinctive feature of the German trade as well as of the Swiss. Every known animal is represented, and some of the carving is very artistically done.

Twice a year a market is held in the small towns throughout Germany, and as the time of these fairs approaches the father packs his kipper and starts out on foot, often over the rough mountain roads, to dispose of the wares which the family has produced. His kipper is a light wooden cage or basket with several tiers, one above another, in which the different kinds of wares are placed.

When the market place is reached he meets the dealers who buy handmade toys for the large wholesale houses. Doubtless he meets the buyer of the great toy houses in New York which we have described and sells to him for the delight of the children of America some of the wonderful toys which his own little Hans and Gretel have helped to make.

J. D. COWLES.

LAST SESSION OF SIXTIETH CONGRESS

THE second session of the Sixtieth congress begins next Monday, Dec. 7. It will be a short session—that is, it has a fixed day for expiration—from the time when the sitting begins. Its work in the lower house ceases March 4. The senate, as is customary every four years, remains in session until the incoming administration's appointments are confirmed.

There will be no new faces in the lower house this session. It will be different in the senate, as several senators will be chosen by state legislatures during the winter. One of these new senators will be the successor of Senator Platt of New York. When the senate meets it will be called to order by Vice President Fair-

banks, who as presiding officer will retire as soon as the oath is administered to his successor, James Schoolcraft Sherman. This will occur early in the session. The hour fixed for noon, Mr. Fairbanks took the oath March 4, 1905. Previous to his election as vice president United States senator from Indiana in 1897 and was re-elected in 1903. He resigned during his second term to take effect on the day he became vice president.



C. W. Fairbanks.

The lower house will have its old presiding officer, whose title is speaker, Joseph G. Cannon, of the Eighteenth Illinois district, whose congressional career began in the Forty-third congress. He has been re-elected to every succeeding congress except the Fifty-second, and he will be a member of the Sixty-first congress, in which he will again be a candidate for speaker. Mr. Cannon will be seventy-two years old May 7. He is a native of North Carolina.

A familiar figure in the senate, whose term expires March 3, 1909, is James Benson Foraker, soldier in the civil war, judge of an Ohio court, governor of his state and delegate to several Republican national conventions. He presented the name of William McKinley to the conventions of 1896 and 1900 for nomination to the presidency. He was born in Ohio July 5, 1816.



J. B. Foraker.

An interesting political holdover in the senate is Robert Marion La Follette, born in Wisconsin in 1855. He was elected to the lower house for several terms and has been three times governor of his state. He was elected United States senator by the Republican legislature of Wisconsin January, 1905. Senator La Follette has a national as well as a state reputation. At one time before the recent campaign he R. M. La Follette was a presidential possibility and received votes in the Chicago convention of last summer.

One of the leaders of his party in the lower house, in which he has been a representative from his district in Mississippi for several terms, is John Sharp Williams. He was born in Tennessee July, 1854. He was the minority party candidate for speaker of the Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth congresses. In 1907 he was chosen at a primary election to be the candidate of the Democratic party for the United States senate to succeed the Hon. H. B. Money, whose term expires March 3, 1911.

Few members of the lower house are better known in the country than Champ Clark, Democratic representative from the Ninth Missouri district. He has been in congress since the Fifty-third session. He was born in Kentucky March, 1850. He has been farmer, clerk, country editor, prosecuting attorney, presidential elector and was permanent chairman of the Democratic national convention which nominated Judge Parker in 1904.

A possible candidate for speaker of the next congress is J. Warren Keifer, Republican member of the present congress from the Seventh Ohio district. He was first elected to the lower house in the Forty-fifth session of that body. He was speaker of the Forty-seventh congress. He was in the civil war and is an author and orator. He was born in Ohio January, 1836.

A retiring member of the present congress will be Charles Beary Landis of the Ninth Indiana district. He has been a member of the lower house since the Fifty-fifth session. He was born in Indiana July 9, 1858. He has been one of the conspicuous members of the Republican side. He was defeated for re-election last November.

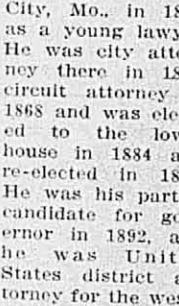
Major William Warner, the first Republican senator from Missouri since the civil war, was born in Wisconsin June, 1840. His term will not expire until March 3, 1911. He went to Kansas City, Mo., in 1865, as a young lawyer. He was city attorney there in 1867, circuit attorney in 1868 and was elected to the lower house in 1884 and re-elected in 1886. He was his party's candidate for governor in 1892, and he was United States district attorney for the western district of Missouri in 1870, 1882, 1898 and in 1902. He was commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1888.

FRANK H. BROOKS.



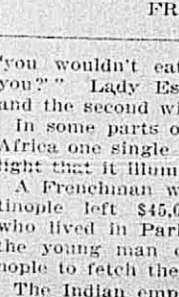
J. W. Keifer.

C. B. Landis.



C. B. Landis.

William Warner.



William Warner.

MERE MENTION.

The ravages of an insect pest threaten total destruction to the fine plantations on the edge of Lake Thirlmere. A variety of the sawfly has made its appearance and is completely stripping some thirteen acres of promising young larches planted by the Manchester corporation.

The owner of a block of flats in Paris has hit upon an idea which is popular with his tenants: on the floor of every apartment is a number, and on the first of each month the landlord draws a number by a lottery, and the

occupant of the flat bearing the winning number pays no rent.

The telephone is a fine receptacle for every kind, and little attention is paid to sterilizing this much used machine. It should be washed out with alcohol as often as required, and to keep the dust out of it make a small round cover of soft leather or heavy cloth and stitch a broad ribbon sewing and molding the wonderful German toys. Even small children are taught certain parts of the toymaking and work away as industriously as any of their elders, carving a fat pig from a small block of wood or staining in bright colors the carved lines in a sand mold.

Sir Lauder Brunton, the well known

London physician and food specialist, has invented a snake bite lancet which, having been widely distributed to officials in India, has already saved numerous lives. By its use immediately after a bite from a reptile the flesh is cut away and the dead poison prevented from spreading in the human system. One official has saved the lives of twenty persons within a year by the use of one lancet.

The perfect woman of the artist is sometimes a very impossible creature and to ordinary eyes at least, very removed from perfection either in face or form. It has been said, how-

ever, that every painter observes a beautiful woman through a special spiritual lens of his own, and it is doubtless true that in the majority of cases the artist's ideal is evolved from his partiality for one particular woman.

Lord Charles Berosford, who commands the channel squadron, Britain's premier fleet, has become a vegetarian. He had been a teetotaler for several years. "I drink no wine, spirits or beer," he once said, "not because they do me harm, not because I think it wrong to drink, but simply because I am more ready for any

work imposed upon me, day or night—always fresh, always cheery and in good temper."

Though Mr. Swinburne, the poet, is a great hater of tobacco smoking, it seems that he does not object to a "hint of bitter." At 10:30 each morning he leaves his Putney home on a three mile walk and calls at an ancient inn for a "large Bass." "You see, he sits there and never speaks from one year's end to another," says the attendant. "We know what to take him, and he does not even say 'Thank you,' but just throws the money over the counter. He comes here every

morning except Sunday and sits in the same chair by the window." The veteran poet, who was recently seventy, is very deaf and lives in a world of his own.

The Countess of Essex, who recently became a vegetarian, says that she was led to adopt it as a result of a visit to a slaughter house. "As I was hurrying away," she says, "three beautiful lambs were brought in by a man holding a long, shining knife. Filled with pity and indignation, I said, 'How can you be so cruel as to put those innocent little lambs to death?' 'Why, madam,' said the man,

'you wouldn't eat them alive, would you?'" Lady Essex is an American and the lucky wife of an earl.

In some parts of Central and South Africa one single firefly gives so much light that it illuminates a whole room. A Frenchman who died in Constantinople left \$35,000 to his nephew, who lived in Paris, on condition that the young man cycled to Constantinople to fetch the legacy.

The Indian empire has the cheapest postal service in the world.

The Duke of Portland has the largest private picture gallery in the world.