

Once again - the spirit of Christmas (with its age-old message of peace on earth) illuminates a troubled world in a heartening glow of goodwill. On the Continent, Brussels was among the first with the glad tidings. 2

A lead quickly followed in Dublin.

There, the transformation of city streets into a festive fairyland co-incided with the opening of a Children's Toy Fund that will bring Christmas cheer to needy youngsters.

In London, twinkling main thoroughfares and the rich gift displays dazzle the shoppers....while big figures extend a seasonal welcome - ~~except~~ ^{maybe} except on the price labels.

But while you're waiting for the Club to pay out - window shopping can prove a fascinating past-time.

Once, every ~~child~~ child believed the story of the "Sleeping Beauty".

~~Nowadays, they're too wide awake.~~ ~~They're too wide awake.~~

~~that's the way it is.~~

Across the Channel, ^{PARIS} ~~Paris~~ goes even gayer ^{than usual} ~~(if that's possible)~~ for the season of Noel.

The boulevards become mechanical playgrounds - casting an enchanting spell on the young-in-heart.

Having broken the ice - let's go to ^{ATLANTA} ~~Atlanta~~ - where the "Snowball Express" (a department store's monorail train) captures a new angle on toyland for wide-eyed American kids.

Yet, when the junior spacemen come down to earth - it's often the popular old favourites that win their hearts.

Up North - there's a glittering Yuletide welcome to New York, as the City sparkles with good cheer.

And crowning the festive scene is a sixty-four-foot Christmas tree

~~and twinkling lights.~~

So, back to London, where a monster 160-pound Christmas Pudding (the goodwill gift of Australian Dried-Fruit Growers) is presented to the Lord Mayor.

The Pudding will be distributed to aged people in the City - kindling ^{AUSTRALIAN} new friendships in the warm glow of festive cheer...