SOCIETY OF FLAT NOSES

New Order Springs Up Among Omaha Small Boys.

RESULT OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Inspection of Show Windows Brings About a Certain Condition that Establishes the Youngster's Reputation.

Christmas toys and Christmas buying is the same this year that it has been ever since Santa Claus was first invented—only more so. Not only all the old toys are on the market from which to select, but countless thousands of new, made solely for the purpose of mystifying the young and worrying the life out of the old.

Doubtless it has never worried parents where all these toys come from each year, but it has the children—to such an extent that a crowd of them has solved the mystery, according to a little episode that occurred out on North Thirty-third street several days ago and also what it is that caused the prevalence of flat noses among the younger generation.

Four boys were returning from a trip downtown, where they had been to see the Christmas toys—without their mothers—and met one of their playmates who had not sufficiently come from under the protecting wing as to go downtown by himself. Their conversation was something like this:

"Hello, Willie! Your mamma wouldn't let you go down and see the Christmas windows, would she? I'd hate to be a mamma boy; haf to stay in the house all day."

"I did, too; I's down all day yesterday and saw every window and every toy in town," bravely answered the Willie boy. "In one window was a train running around, Santa Claus on a horse, lot of dolls——"

"Aw, come off—your mamma told you," interrupted the tormentors. "Let's see your face. There, I knew he wasn't down. We've caught him, sure."

Where Willie Lost Out.

"How'd you know I wasn't?" anxiously inquired Willie and his face took on a crimson hue.

"'Cause you' nose ain't flat," proudly proclaimed the spokesman of the tormentors, at the same time he and his companions displaed five little flattened noses caused from coming in contact with Christmas windows.

"And I'll bet you don't know where all these Christmas toys come from. Keep still now, you fellows, and let him answer."

"Men makes them, of course," answered Willie.

"Naw, you're 'way off. You don't even know your third reader. Now, I'll tell you. When the rich man stole the grind organ from his brother and sold it to 'grind salt, salt, nothing but salt,' and it was lost in the ocean, Santa Claus got onto it and fished it out. He told it to 'grind toys, toys, nothing but toys,' and it has been grinding nothing but toys ever since. And that's why the toys never run out."

And Willie had to accept the statement of the tormentor, for the latter asked, when Willie looked doubtful, if he ever saw a man who ever knew a man who had ever thought of a toy that was not on the market. And Willie hadn't.

"If you have," interrupted the older boy, "tell him there's a fortune waiting for him when he springs his thoughts."

How the Merchants Buy.

Toy merchants buy with their eyes shut. All they want is variety, for thousands of big, little, old and young are to be selected from the stock and the merchant has never yet been discovered who ever bought anything that someone didn't believe was the prettiest toy in the stock. The merchant has an easy task compared with the mother who takes her children to the toy counter to select their own presents. From the time the child goes in until it is dragged out it is a continual: "Mamma, buy me that." "Mamma, get me this; please, mamma." "No, mamma, I want this." "I won't have that old doll. I want one like Ethel's." And a wonder indeed is the little child—or the grown up one—who can select a present and be contented after twenty-four hours. It has been proven beyond doubt, according to the statement of an old toy dealer, that no person ever came to the toy counter with the intention of buying a certain article and, after looking around, made the intended purchase.

And no wonder. The toy stock consists of everything that mind can conceive. From a private soldier to a major general; from a canoe to a battleship; then there's the steam engines, trains, magic lanterns, talking dolls, sleeping beauties, negro and the banjo, singing quartets, jumping jacks, crazy jakes, games of every description, dear old Punch and Judy, sleds, wagons and ten hundred thousand other toys indescribable and unnameable. A magician couldn't tell which of the lot is the most popular.

Incidents in the Counter.

Many amusing incidents come under the notice of Christmas clerks. Several days ago two boys about 7 and 5 years of age, the clothing of each being very poor covering for Christmas weather, walked up to a clerk in the toy department of one of the big stores. The elder of the boys pulled out a 5-cent piece and showed it to the clerk.

"Miss, me and my brother want to buy some Christmas toys and we don't want to waste our money; we want something that will do us some good."

The heart of the sympathetic clerk was touched and she determined the boys should get their money's worth at her counter. She devoted her entire attention to the boys, showing them, first a savings bank, then knives, pistols, tool chests and hundreds of other presents both useful and useless, some worth 50 cents, but the boys bought not.

The clerk was almost in despair of making the sale, when the older boy noticed a little toy that the clerk had failed to show them. "Let me see that, please mam." The clerk handed over the toy. After a critical examination by the two brothers the older, with a Solomon look on his face and judge-like drawl, said: "Now, brother, I think this will do us more good than anything we could buy." And the clerk wrapped up a "jumping jack."

What Some Women Know.

Mothers who quarrel with their children for becoming bewildered when trying to select a present and drag them home with the promise never again to take them to the toy counter find themselves children when it comes to selecting presents to be given away.

A few days ago a mother who had fussed at her children for wanting everything in sight and then not wanting what they got, returned to the store with the remark that "as the children are at home I will have no trouble in selecting a present for my husband." She was shown everything suitable for a present for a man. She picked out at least twenty that "would do to select from." The twenty finally dwindled down to three and the mother concluded "they weren't just what I want," and sauntered over to the gents' furnishing department. Her husband will get the regulation 25-cent lavender necktie and will doubtless return thanks that it isn't a box of cigars.

Mothers and children are not the only ones that are worried about what to buy. The uncertainty is experienced by all. Young men with sweethearts are in the same boat. Those who can afford them are sending the time-honored ring or a pair of opera glasses; some are still staying with the dressing cases that are ever with us and always a tried and true friend of the boy with a sweetheart.

Presents of Possession.

Those who are "dead sure" of their sweethearts are sending books. And many are "dead sure" of their sweethearts, for a dealer said yesterday that more books had been bought this Christmas than ever before. No favorites are being played in the book line. The boy who wants a sweetheart, but is not sure of her, is sticking to the five-pound box of candy.

With the girls it is the same thing. Smoking jackets are coming in for a good share of favorable attention. Most of the girls will send the usual necktie or watchcharm, however, with a few books and smoking sets thrown in.

Santa Claus this year has got the twentieth century idea and in many stores has tied up his faithful reindeers and has sallied forth in a brand new automobile. As the latter has more capacity for toys and presents the children offer no objection and the Christmas rush is on, and woe unto the man who puts off to the last day to buy

BABY ESCAPES FROM A FIRE

His Perambulator Ignites and Burns a Few Minutes After He is Taken from It.

After this it will never be denied that the Somberg infant is a "warm baby." Shortly after 9 o'clock yesterday morning his mother, Mrs. Sam Somberg, 1916 South Tenth street, took him out of the perambulator, which was standing in the parlor, and sat him in his highchair in the kitchen, where she could watch him as she did the breakfast work. A few minutes later she smelled burning feathers and, rushing into the parlor, found the carriage, with its pillows, quilts and linen, to be in flames. She tried to smother them with a blanket from a bed, but failing in this, ran out and turned in a fire alarm.

The department arrived in time to keep the fire from spreading and the blaze was confined to the perambulator, which was almost entirely consumed. How the fire originated is a mystery. The parlor is heated with a base burner, which makes it improbable that a spark could have flown into the cab.

An alarm of fire was turned in at 6:40 a. m. yesterday from the Auditorium hotel, 602-8 South Thirteenth street. A quantity of table and bed linen in the laundry department was consumed, which was the extent of the damage, the blaze being out by the time the fire department arrived.

YOUNG WOMEN HAVE A FIRE

Early Morning Blaze in Rooms of the Association in the Paxton Block.

Fire was discovered in the rooms of the Young Women's Christian association on the third floor in the Paxton block at Sixteenth and Farnam streets at 2:45 o'clock this morning. By the time the fire department arrived the entire third story was full of smoke and the kitchen ablaze. Prompt work extinguished the fire, with a loss of not more than $100.

The fire was discovered by J. T. Cooper, who had been at work in the rooms of D. C. Bothwell on the fifth floor. Cooper was leaving the building and noticed the smoke, immediately turned in the alarm. The fire, it is thought, caught from the large gas range or the heater. It ran up the partition that separates the kitchen and dining room and badly scorched the ceiling. A table near the range was burned.

Many of the guests in the Merchants hotel were awakened by the arrival of the fire department. Several rushed downstairs, but the fire was extinguished so quickly that a majority knew nothing of it.

HONORS FOR ROBERT E. SACK

St. Andrew's Preceptory Administers Impressive Service of Knights of Kadosh.

The solemn and impressive services of the Knights of Kadosh were held over the body of Robert E. Sack in Masonic hall last night by St. Andrew's preceptory No. 1. The hour was midnight, Washington time, or 10:30 p. m. local time. A large audience filled the hall and many members of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of which Mr. Sack was a member, were in attendance.

The beautiful symbolic ceremonies were interspersed with music by a quartet composed of Mrs. Flora Phileo, soprano; Miss Andrews, alto; Dan Wheeler, tenor; A. Haverstock, bass. The following knights participated in the ceremonies: Luther M. Kuhns, preceptor; R. W. Dyball, first sub preceptor; R. S. Parker, second sub-preceptor; F. W. Slabaugh, almoner; S. R. Crickmore, recorder; C. S. Lobingier, orator; J. S. Davis, treasurer; M. A. Hall, draper; Gustave Anderson, marshal; C. W. Baxter, trumpeter; C. L. Shook, J. F. Shultz, B. E. Wilcox, D. L. Holmes, J. N. Westberg, J. R. Stine, J. W. Disbrow, J. B. Brown, assistant knights; Tolf Hansen, F. S. Hayes, Julian Boonstra, J. B. Hadfield, guard of honor.

MATCH MAKING BEGINS SOON

Last of Machinery Required by Omaha Factory is Received and Partially Installed.

At the Omaha match factory the last of the machinery is being placed in position and it is said that work will be started in earnest by January 1.

The Omaha match factory has had difficulty in starting. In the first place, it was difficult to let contracts, as all machine shops making these machines were very busy last spring. Then came the strike of the Chicago machinists, delaying the work on the machines at least two months. When these machines had been delivered it was found impossible to secure the equipment for making and printing the pasteboard boxes, but finally the last of these has been unloaded and is being installed. The factory will have a capacity sufficient to meet the requirements of the Nebraska territory and the capacity will be increased as warranted by the demands of the trade.

SHORTCHANGES HIS FATHER

Sam Polsky of Lincoln Accused of Securing Ninety-Five Dollars Unfairly.

Sam Polsky was arrested Saturday afternoon by Detectives Dunn and Fisk, charged with robbing his father of $95. The robbery occurred in Lincoln and the young man was taken there last night by Chief of Police Hoagland. Polsky worked the shortchange racket on his father, according to the latter's story, on a large scale. The father gave the young man what he thought was a $5 bill to get changed. The young man brought back the $5 all right and then left town. Upon counting the money remaining in his purse the father found that he had given his son a $100 bill. When arrested young Polsky had $106. He denied that he had robbed his father.

TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Special Musical Programs Arranged for Today and Wednesday.

PROTESTANTS WILL CELEBRATE TODAY

Catholics and Episcopalians to Hold Special Song Services on Christmas Day—Many of the Programs in Full.

The natal day of the Christ child will be celebrated in all the churches of Omaha. Special Christmas services will be held in many of the city churches today and others will hold their services Christmas day. In song and story the birth and life of Jesus will be reviewed. All the Catholic and Episcopal churches of Omaha will observe Christmas day with special ceremonies, while most of the other churches will have Christmas music today and will have Sunday school entertainments Christmas day or Christmas evening.

Musical programs to be given at various Omaha churches today are as follows:

First Presbyterian.

First Presbyterian—Morning at 10:30. Mrs. Howard Kennedy, jr., organist and director.
Soprano Solo—"The Everlasting Light"..... Miss Northrup.
Anthem—"Bethlehem" ..... Bartlett
Organ and Harp Duet—"Christmas Song" ..... Warren
Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Blake.
Evening at 7:30:
Duet—"Gulding Star" ..... Brugdon
Miss Northrup and Miss Becker.
Solo ..... Selected
Mr. McCune.
Anthem—"It is the Blessed Christmas Day" ..... Bartlett
Organ and Harp Duet—"Holy City" ..... Adams
Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Blake.

First Methodist Episcopal.

Thomas J. Kelly, Director of Music.
Sunday morning service at 10:30 a. m.:
Organ Prelude—"The Manger"..... Gulimant
Opening Hymn, 42.
Response—"Angels from the Realms of Glory" ..... Old English
Organ Interlude.
Chant—Magnificat, "Hymn of Mary" ..... Handel
Anthem—"Now, When Jesus Was Born" ..... Cruickshank
Hymn No. 182.
The Sermon—"Christ the Ruler of Nations"
Offertory Hymn—"Hark, 'tis the Watchman's Cry" ..... Advent Hymn
Gloria Patri.
Closing Hymn, No. 919. Omit Third Stanza.
Organ Postlude.
Evening Service at 7:30:
Organ Prelude—"Improvisation on a Theme of Max Vogrich"
Chorus (the Magi Kings)—"Where is He" ..... Cruickshank
Organ Interlude—"The Waiting Shepherds"
Chorus of Shepherds—"O, Lord, be Gracious Unto Us" ..... Stainer
Organ Interlude—"Pastoral"
Chorus of Shepherds—"We Have Waited for Thee" ..... Stainer
Hymn No. 190.
Response—"Angels from the Realms of Glory" ..... Old English
Chant—(Hymn of Simeon) "Nunc Dimittus" ..... Elvey
Anthem—"Like Silver Lamps"..... Barnby
Offertory Carol—"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" ..... Old English
Organ Solo—"Prayer" and "Cradle Song" ..... Gullmant
Finale—"Ring Out, Wild Bells" ..... Damrosch

Hanscom Park M. E. Church.

Hanscom Park Methodist Episcopal Church—Morning at 10:30:
Organ Prelude ..... Selected
Hymn No. 186 ..... Hanover
Response ..... Selection by the Choir
Organ Interlude
Anthem—The Star that Now is Shining ..... King
The Gloria Patri.
Offertory Solo—The Birthday of a King ..... Neidlinger
Miss Ellsworth.
Hymn No. 192 ..... Tune, Christmas
Anthem—There Were Shepherds ..... Williams
Hymn No. 183 ..... Tune, Antioch
Organ Postlude
Evening at 7:30:
Organ Prelude.
Opening Hymn, No. 195 ..... Tune, Carroll
Prayer
Response ..... Selection by the Choir
Organ Interlude
Anthem—"Glory to God in the Highest" ..... Thompson
Offertory Solo (Violin)—"Melodie in F" ..... Rubinstein
Anthem—"The Star of Bethlehem" ..... Earle
Duet—"Charity" ..... Faure
Mr. Dale and Miss Ellsworth.
Anthem—"There Were Shepherds" ..... Stillman
Soprano Solo—"The Christmas Herald" ..... Coombs
Miss Blanche Sorenson, with violin obligato by Miss Ellsworth.
Closing Hymn No. 441 ..... Tune, Repose
Organ Prelude

Unity Church.

Unity Church—Morning at 10:30:
Mr. Gareissen, Musical Director.
Organ Solo—"Chorus of Angels" ..... Scotson Clark
"Old Hundred"
Choral Response
Response ..... Schumann
Trio, Andante Cantabile, op. 38 ..... Beethoven
Violin, Violincello, Organ.
Bass Solo—"Undaunted" ..... Sieber
Mr. Gareissen.
Offertory ..... Batiste
Quartet—"A Psalm of Life" ..... Henry Smart
Miss Gareissen, Miss Isabella Gareissen, Mr. Eduard Gariessen, Mr. Gariessen.
Hymn
Coronation March ..... Meyerbeer
Mrs. Anna C. Davis, Organist.

First Christian Church.

The choir of the First Christian church, under the directorship of Mr. Henri Edward, assisted by Miss June Smalls, soprano; Mr. George Southmayd, tenor, and Miss Ona Masters, organist, will render the following music at the morning service:
Organ Prelude—"Largo" ..... Handel
Hymn—"Joy to the World"
Anthem—"Come, Thou Fount" ..... Excel.
Hymn—"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" ..... Adams
Solo—"Night of Nights" ..... Water
Offertory—"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" ..... Barnby
(Solo and Chorus).
Doxology
Postlude—"Festal March" ..... Gullmant

First Congregational.

EVENING AT 7:30.
Harp Solo—Selected
Miss Marie Swanson.
Solo—The Christ Child ..... Sheppard
Mrs. A. G. Edwards.
Solo—He Shall Feed My Flock ... Handel
Miss Bertha Williams.
Quartet—Hark! What Mean Those Holy Voices? ..... Schumann
Anthem—The Glad Tidings ..... Brewer

Kountze Memorial.

MORNING AT 10:30.
Anthem—God of Abraham Praise ..... Dudley Buck
EVENING AT 7:30.
Anthem—Calm on the Listening Ear ..... Malston
Solo—Selected
Mr. Delmore Cheney.

St. Mary's Avenue Congregational.

MORNING AT 10:30.
Anthem—Behold I Bring ..... Barnby
Violin Solo—Selected
Mr. Guy Woodard.
Anthem—Hallelujah Chorus ..... Handel
Anthem—And the Glory of the Lord. Handel
EVENING AT 7:30.
Anthem—Praise the Lord ..... Watson
Anthem—God Be Merciful ..... Loud

First Baptist.

MORNING AT 10:30.
Selections from Handel's "Messiah" will be sung. The quartet will be assisted by Miss Louise Holtorf, soprano, and a large chorus. The soloists will be: Miss Holtorf, soprano; Miss Florence White of Plattsmouth, soprano; Mrs. W. E. Hitchcock, contralto; Mr. A. W. Lansing, tenor; Mr. J. E. Pelgar, basso. Miss Margaret Bolter will be at the organ.

Special musical programs to be given Christmas day are as follows:

Trinity Cathedral.

MORNING AT 10:30.
Hymns 58, 59, 51
Te Deum (Tours in F)
Communion Service (Tours in F)
Anthem—Sing Oh Heavens ..... Tours
Organ Voluntaries—
Prelude on Xmas Carols
T. H. Wright.
Variations on "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful"
Spark.

Kountze Memorial.

MORNING AT 10:30.
Anthem—Strains Uprise, Alleluia ..... Buck
Gounod's "Sanctus"
Tenor Solo by Mr. Hazelton.
Solo—Oh Babe Divine ..... Dressler
Mr. Cheney.
Sermon subject, "Bethlehem's Touch on Scholar, Sage and Seer."

St. Philomena's Cathedral.

At the pontifical mass, sung by the bishop at 5 a. m., this program will be rendered:
Kyrie—Mercadante
Chorus.
Gloria—Mozart's Seventh Mass
Credo—Mercadante
Offertory—Adeste Fideles
Chorus.
Sanctus and Agnus Dei—Mercadante.
At the solemn high mass, celebrated at 10:30 a. m., the following program will be sung:
Kyrie—Marzo
Christe
Mr. Clinton Miller, Mrs. T. A. Cobry.
Kyrie
Chorus
Gloria—Mozart's Twelfth Mass
Qui Tollis
Mr. Clinton Miller and Choir.
Quoniam Tu Solus
Mr. William Brown and Choir.
Cum Sancto
Chorus.
Credo—Marzo
Et Incarnatus
Mrs. T. A. Cobry.
Et in Spiritum Sanctum
Mr. William Brown.
Et Vitam
Chorus.
Offertory—Adeste Fideles, arr. by Novello
Sanctus—Marzo
Chorus.
Agnus Dei—Marzo
Miss Ella Croft, Mr. Clinton Miller and Choir.

The Christmas cantata, "Miss Christmas Day," will be given by the Sunday school of the First Methodist church in the church parlors Christmas evening.

St. Mark's English Lutheran Sunday school will hold Christmas anniversary services Christmas evening, at which a special musical program will be given.

The Sunday school of Grace Baptist church will give a cantana, "Santa Claus," in the church Christmas night.

APPOINTED VICAR GENERAL

Father Hugh Cummiskey in Charge of Cheyenne Diocese Pending Selection of Bishop.

Bishop Scannell has returned from Dubuque, where he attended the funeral services over the remains of the late Bishop Linihan of Cheyenne. Contrary to expectations there was no meeting of bishops after the funeral and it was understood that the matter would be held in abeyance until spring.

Father Hugh Cummiskey, vicar general of the diocese of Cheyenne, has been appointed administrator of the diocese pending the selection of a bishop. This is the second time Father Cummiskey has held this place, he having been appointed administrator upon the removal of Bishop Burke from Cheyenne to St. Joseph, holding the place until the installation of Bishop Linihan. So far there is no talk made publicly of a probable successor to Bishop Linihan, it being said in official circles that the best way to defeat the aspirations of any person for the position is to mention him for the place before the bishops have met to make a selection.

Bishop Cunningham of Concordia was in Dubuque, spent Friday night in Omaha and left yesterday morning for Kansas.

CONFER ON BIG CONTRACT

Mayor and City Council Hold Session Over the Union Pacific-Omaha Agreement.

The mayor and city council held a brief conference yesterday noon concerning the contract settling all litigation with the Union Pacific. No decision was reached, but the matter will probably be brought before the council at a special meeting Monday. City Attorney Connell has arranged for a conference with City Engineer Andrew Rosewater and General Solicitor Kelly of the Union Pacific, and says that he hopes to have the contract in such shape Monday that it will be acceptable both to the council and the Union Pacific. The city attorney believes that the contract will be formally approved at the council meeting Tuesday night.

ASSAULT STORY IS DENIED

Lord Pauncefote Makes Refutation of Rumor of Alleged Attack on the President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Both at the White House and at the British embassy an emphatic denial is made of the published story of an assault alleged to have been made upon the president Thursday afternoon. The president himself declares the story is not true and authorizes the denial of it. Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador, who is said to have been a witness of the assault, emphatically denies the statement.

The story of the assault grew out of the fact that an intoxicated man was lurching along Massachusetts avenue Thursday afternoon as the president was taking his daily walk and that the man brushed against the president. A secret service officer arrested the man, but it is understood he was soon afterward released.

A sensational story that the president had been struck in the presence of Lord Pauncefote was printed in New York today.

PAST THE CRUCIAL POINT

Chicago Begins to See Hope of Relief from Threatened Fuel Famine.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Chicago has passed the most serious aspect of the coal shortage and after Monday manufacturing establishments and big downtown buildings will be in a better position to fight the possibility of anything approaching a famine. The coming of Sunday and the apparent break in the cold spell are the two things that coal men believe will bring about this change in conditions. Tomorrow the great majority of the coal supplies of various plants will remain undisturbed and within the next forty-eight hours the railroad managers say they will be able to pour enough soft coal into the city to prevent any further shortage.

The actual shortage and the scare resulting from it caused a wild rush for coal. All kinds of prices have been asked and paid for fuel within the last two days.

CARS TUMBLE DOWN MOUNTAIN

Train of Merchandise at Bottom of Missoula River Near Garrison, Mont.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 21.—A freight wreck occurred on the Northern Pacific last night two miles west of Garrison, and as a result twenty cars of merchandise are lying at the bottom of the Missoula river and traffic is suspended, three overland passenger trains are being held at Missoula. The cause of the accident is not known, but it is supposed to have been caused by the breaking of a rail or wheel flange by the cold weather, which caused the train to separate, uncoupling the rear portion, which tumbled down the mountain into the river. No one was injured.

Hospe's 3 stories of Christmas Goods

All the Newly Arrived Art and Music Novelties are Placed in This Big Sale

together with the stock on which we received the liberal insurance adjustment. Everything goes at discount which leaves no alternative, as to here you will spend your Christmas money.

Look at the immense variety of most useful and sensible presents which are attractive as well as ornamental.

PIANOS

The highest grade, the best known, the most durable makes, the leading pianos of the world, at prices within reach of all.

The KNABE pianos, in mahogany and walnut cases.

The KRANICH & BACH pianos, in rosewood, mahogany and walnut cases.

The KIMBALL pianos, in oak, walnut and mahogany cases.

The HALLET & DAVIS pianos, in walnut and mahogany cases.

The McPHAIL pianos, in walnut cases.

The MELVILLE CLARK pianos, in mahogany and oak cases.

The SCHUMANN pianos, in mahogany and walnut cases.

The HOSPE pianos.

The WHITNEY pianos.

The BURTON pianos.

And twenty other makes in all the desirable cases, marked down to $98, $138, $158, $187, $198, $227, $268, $287, $311, $338, $387, $395.

Terms $5, $10, $25 down, $5 to $15 installments.

Piano Stools, Benches and Chairs, only 25c, 50c, $1, $1.50, $2 up to $10.

PIANO SCARFS—In velvet, satin, silk or cloth, only $1, $1.50, $2.50 up to $10.

Art Materials

Water color boxes outfits, 25c up.

Crayon drawing outfits, $1.50 up.

China color boxes outfits, $3.75 up.

Pyrography or wood burning outfits, $4.50 up.

Oil painting boxes and outfits, $3.75 up.

Calendars from 10c up.

Music Instruments and Novelties

Talking Machines from $12 and up—on installments if desired.

Regina Music Boxes from $15 up—on small payments.

Swiss Music Boxes from 25c up.

Musical Steins, Musical Albums, Musical Pigs, Musical Cigars, Singing Birds, at all prices.

Violins, complete, from $5 up; Guitars from $5 up, Mandolins from $4 up, Banjos from $4 up, Cases for all instruments from $1 up, Harmonicas 5c up, Accordeons from $3 up, Strings for all instruments from 5c up, Fifes, Drums, Flutes, Zobos, Jews Harps, Band Instruments, Base Violins, Tambourines, Ocarinas, Flute Harmonicas, Violin Bows and trimmings for all instruments, from 5c up.

Music Rolls, 50c, 65c, $1, $1.50 up to $3.

ORGANS

The KIMBALL organs.
The BURDETTE organs.
The HOSPE organs.
The IMPERIAL organs.
The ITHICA organs.
—all in oak or walnut cases, for $12, $22, $32, $42, $52, $63.
Terms $3 to $5 down, $3 to $5 installments.

Picture Department

Water Color pictures in gold frames, from $2 up to $100.

Etchings in hard wood frames, $2 up to $50

Carbon Photos in oak frames, $2, $4, $6, $10.

Platinotype Pictures in black and gold frames, $1.50, $2.50, $3.50 up to $10.

Framed Pictures, 50c, $1.00 and up.

Florentine Gold Mirrors and frames, from $2.75 up to $50.

Oval Gold Frames, oval black and gold, oval hard wood frames, for photographs, from 25c up.

Gold plated and gilt Card and Cabinet frames from 25c up.

Miniature and China Paintings from $1.50 up.

Picture Frames, to fit all sizes of Pictures, from 25c up.

Great variety of Art Novelties, 25c up.

Apollo The only perfect easy running Piano Player on the market. Prices from $25.00 to $50.00 cheaper than any other player. Sold on monthly payments.

A. HOSPE,

1513 AND 1515 DOUGLAS STREET.

CHRISTMAS TRADE THRIVES

Omaha Dealers Do Largest Business in Local History.

PROSPERITY IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT

Money Spent Freely and All Sorts of Things Bought with Readiness that Astonishes the Oldest Tradesmen.

Personal statements made to The Bee last night by the managers of more than a dozen firms, representing as many different lines of business and selected at random, indicate that more money was spent at the retail stores of Omaha yesterday than on the corresponding day of any previous year in the city's existence.

The Saturday before Christmas is always a big trading day, second only to that in the evening of which the mythical Santa Claus is due to appear, but this year it has been doubly so because of earlier shopping having been restricted by the severe cold weather, and for the other reason that money is unusually "easy."

Everybody in a household has the necessary trade lubricant this year and is willing to apply it. The head of the family has apparently opened his checkbook clear out, his wife, sons and daughters have let loose of their private savings and even Annette in the nursery and Bridget in the kitchen have been in line at the gift counters.

On the streets and in the stores all day yesterday and last evening there were thousands of happy souls and wet uppers. The rise in temperature and the reappearance of a genial sun had made slush of the snow and mud was tracked into store aisles at the rate of a pound a minute, but nobody seemed to care. There never was a more distinctly good-natured, happy crowd and never one that squeezed the eagles less miserly as they took their flight to the aerie of the cashier, high up above the corset counter or the long tables on which the mechanical toys held sway.

Everyone Liberal with Coin.

From every alternate street corner came the dolorous pealing of a grind organ, and from all the other corners came the disastrous peeling of the banana venders. Small coin rattled into the boxes of the former and the pockets of the latter as briskly as hail into a pansy bed and the just, the unjust and those not yet classified were all made equally happy. Somewhere, in dismal rooms unlighted and unheated, there may have been suffering and want, but the happy street crowds knew not the places and could only give alms where alms were asked.

Today the drawn blinds will screen many a crowd of Sabbath breakers, who, with brooms and mops and possibly even with shovels, will clean the storerooms, straighten up the confused stocks and otherwise prepare for the trade of the next two days, expected to equal if not surpass that of any other two days that Omaha has ever known.

Record for Sixteen Years.

A member of a Sixteenth street dry goods house said:

"This is our sixteenth year in business, but never before, with the exception of October of the Transmissippi year, have we had such trade as in this December and never such a Saturday as this one. Prosperity is here. Omaha is all right."

The manager of the clothing department in a department store said it was the best Saturday he had ever seen, but was only a correct climax to a trade that had been splendid ever since Ak-Sar-Ben week in September.

A leading book and stationery store's chief representative said: "Our best days are due next week, but this one has brought a trade far in excess of that of previous years. People are investing in more expensive books, higher-class magazines, better stationery, more costly games for the children, and as for our calendar stock, it is nearly cleaned out already. This latter feature is important, for the new styles, in poster effect and water colors, are the most artistic and original that have ever been gotten out and the demand for them, even at stiff prices, has shown us that the public, when times are prosperous as now, is willing to reward ingenuity and is quick to detect it. The calendar sale this year is already nearly double what it was last year, and not for economy's sake either."

Shoemen Are Jubilant.

"Women are spending $5 bills for shoes without hesitation and without asking to see something cheaper. When they do that you can bet that the family finances are on a sound basis," said a salesman of the wear.

On Farnam street there is a chinaware dealer who has been in business in Omaha just forty years, and in those forty has never seen such a holiday trade as the present. "It is now 6:30," he said, "and I am still without my dinner, though I had breakfast at the usual early hour this morning. I have eight clerks on the floor and have been obliged to bring my wife down to help out. Monday I shall employ ten clerks. Five years ago, with idle men walking the streets hunting for work, I hardly felt that anyone should be expected to buy Christmas presents, but now all men who want work have it and gift-giving has again become a justified joy."

A jewelery dealer said that he had had twice as many customers as usual, but for reasons which he was totally unable to explain the amount of sales for the day had not equalled the total for the same day last year.

A florist reported business about the same as last year, with some very good sales, as, for instance, $40 worth of violets and $20 worth of other flowers for one woman, the violets being sold her at the flat rate of $1 a bunch. "American Beauties are selling at $18 per dozen this year instead of $24 as last year," he said, "but notwithstanding this the demand for them is less, the popular demand seeming to center now in holly."

Tobacconists Thrive.

"Missouri meerschaums won't do this year," said a Fifteenth street cigar dealer. "Briars are the cheapest pipe we have any call for and those to be given as Christmas presents are, in the majority of cases, meerschaums of genuine and aristocratic title. Nor have we ever before had so many orders for good cigars in such large lots. It is the finest holiday trade we have ever had since we started here a good many years ago."

Druggists and confectioners said that their harvest is not until the eleventh hour, but that the Saturday business was most assuring. Haberdashers said it was only a question of being able to take care of the customers who came.

"Swamped; literally swamped! That's what we are," said the local manager of an express company. "And I don't believe that any of the other companies are any better off. The shipping from Omaha this year I would estimate as at least 25 per cent greater than that of any previous year. The packages are not only more numerous, but larger and entered as of higher value. This has been our big day for the shipping business, but the bulk of the receiving work is still to come and I now have three wagons out making delivery of what has already been received, that we may have all the room possible to handle the enormous consignments of Monday.

"The Sabbath observers will have to forgive us for working our teams tomorrow, for we will simply have to do it and we purpose to deliver every bundle that we can. It's wonderful, positively wonderful the amount of Christmas remembrances that are in transit this year, and Omaha is doing its full share, if not more."

Coffee Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—COFFEE—Spot, steady; No. 7 invoice, 8¾c; mild, steady; cordova, 7½@11c. Futures opened steady in tone with prices unchanged. Prices stiffened up rapidly 5 to 10 points, the market closing firm and 5 to 10 points higher.

POSTOFFICE MEN GET BUSY

Santa Claus Mails Two Tons of Presents Daily from Omaha.

CONSTANT STREAM IN PACKAGE CHUTE

Entire Staff of Local Office, with Exception of Carriers, Working Overtime to Keep Up with the Holiday Rush.

Saturday morning an additional table was placed in the lobby of the postoffice just outside the stamp room, for the accommodation of those having Christmas bundles to weigh. It was the first confession that the holiday rush had grown beyond the capacity of the ordinary stamp windows, where such weighing is usually done.

Nor was it put there any too soon. Since early morning people of all sizes, ages and colors had been filing in with arms full, faces radiant—and purses flat. It was the opening day of the final holiday influx of domestic mail, and Assistant Postmaster Woodard, who is personally superintending the forces, finds the rush just as big as in any previous year.

To give an idea of its enormity it is only necessary to quote Mr. Woodard's prediction that Saturday and Monday there will be deposited in the Omaha postoffice four tons of merchandize mail, or two tons each day. No package can exceed four pounds in weight and the average is not more than two pounds. Figuring on this weight average the number of bundles that will shoot the chutes in these two days will be 2,000, exclusive of all the cards, envelopes, calendars and bits of knick-knack that weigh but a few ounces.

A watchman who stood guard at the package chute says that he timed the rate of deposit and found that a three-bushel basket is filled in two minutes when the rush is fastest. There is a long row of these baskets just inside the package window, and as fast as one is filled it is whisked to the tables and another slid into its place.

Open On Sunday.

Custom and rules will be set aside today and the register window kept open from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. for the accommodation of the public. The other window will be open only the usual time unless the rush at the stamp window requires an extension there, which is not probable, as the register window will have stamps for sale.

No additional help has been employed, but the entire regular staff at the postoffice is working overtime, the one exception to this being the carriers, who are officially forbidden to work more than the stipulated eight hours per day under any circumstances.

The railway mail clerks are having a particularly busy time, as the holiday mail is as large as in any previous year in the entire history of the service, and in addition they have to contend with the delays that still continue in the east because of the cold wave, and which have resulted in important connections being missed every day for more than a week. At the local headquarters Chief Clerk H. F. Shears and Deputy W. J. Metlen keep the telephone wires hot in an effort to prevent any delay at the Union Pacific transfer or at the local station.

Objections to Saloon Location.

The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners completed its hearing of the protest against the location of a saloon at the corner of Twenty-fourth and Hickory streets last night and took the protest under consideration. The protestants introduced evidence to show that 130 children live within a radius of a few blocks of the proposed location of the saloon and that the district is a residence rather than a business district.

Transatlantic Steamer is Launched.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 21.—A new 11,000-ton transatlantic steamer was launched here today. It will be known as the Shawmut and is one of the twelve steamers being built for the Boston Steamship company.