

**OMAHA ILLUSTRATED BEE.**

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**Pen and Picture Pointers**

The coming of Christmas and the holiday season, together with its time-honored gift-giving practices, always stimulates the feeling of good-will and charity which takes the form of unselfishly doing things for the pleasure of others. The Christmas feast has come to be celebrated not only in all Christian countries, but practically in all the civilized world, and is everywhere marked with the same disposition to alleviate distress and assist the poor and unfortunate. To a great many people Christmas is the only time of the year when they have any enjoyment outside of the usual routine of their lives and for that reason it is looked forward to with special expectation from one end of the year to the other. It is always interesting to note how amiable children become with the approach of the yuletide and how anxious they are to be on their good behavior lest some misstep into mischief might bring down upon them the penalties of misbehavior in the withholding of some of the looked-for Christmas joys. The spirit of Christmas is one of the first things which children comprehend and appreciate and people never grow old enough to get entirely over it.

In the frontispiece of The Christmas Bee will be seen the famous painting of the Christ Child, by Hofmann, that hangs in the royal gallery at Dresden. With reference to this picture, Van Dyke's critical work on "The Christ Child in Art" says:

"This conception of 'Christ Among the Doctors' has been expressed in modern art by two most admirable pictures, significant in the deepest sense of the intense interest which the best minds of this century have taken in the real life of Christ. One of them is Mr. Holman Hunt's brilliant painting of 'The Finding of the Saviour in the



MOTHER OF GENERAL LEONARD WOOD, RECENTLY VISITING IN OMAHA—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.

Temple." The other is the picture by Prof. Heinrich Hofmann at Dresden. It is not entirely free from a touch of academic formality. One can feel the sense of effort and the influence of conventional types in the attempt to render the heads of a stern Pharisee, a scornful Sadducee, a keen philosopher, a mild old Rabbi and an earnest seeker after truth in the five men who are grouped around the young Jesus. But the Divine Child is a supremely lovely figure. Clad in a simple white tunic, He rests one hand upon a reader's desk, and with the other He points to a passage in the open book as if asking for a solution of its meaning which shall reveal its living power. He lifts His dark, luminous eyes to the face of one of the doctors with the earnest, searching look of one who already knows that the word of God is the food of the soul. He feels that He is in His Father's house, but He is there as a child, to learn His Father's will. And it is in this spirit that He goes down again to the home in Nazareth and lives there in subjection to his parents and growing in favor with God and Man."

Hofmann, the artist, was born in Darmstadt March 19, 1824. He devoted himself chiefly to history and portrait painting, studying at the Dusseldorf academy under Theodore Hildebrandt and Schadow and then at the Antwerp academy. He visited Hol-



THE REAL SANTA CLAUS—HIS HONOR, MAYOR FRANK E. MOORES—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.

land and Paris and returned to his native city, where he painted portraits. He was in Munich in 1847, in Darmstadt and Frankfurt in 1848-51 and in Dresden in 1851-53. He went in 1854 to Italy, where he spent four years, mostly at Rome, and was influenced by Cornelius. He removed to Dresden in 1862, where he became honorary member of the academy in 1868 and professor in 1870.

The Bee presents a number of pictures of Christmas shopping which will strike readers with a familiar air. Merchants all agree that in no previous year has the volume of Christmas shopping in Omaha been so great or the number of patrons so large. They know also that the crowds of holiday buyers include many people not usually found among them and represent all classes of the community. Not only this, but the demands of the people have become more exacting. They have more money to spend and they insist upon better prices and better qualities in the goods. The live merchants of Omaha have fully met all demands this year and have naturally reaped the re-

ward of their enterprise. No prettier picture can be imagined than the throngs of children gazing at the toys in the shop windows, the crowds of good-natured, jostling humanity pushing from one counter to another in the great stores which are the centers of the retail trade.

Christmas of 1898 is remembered by a great many Nebraska men for having been spent as members of the First Nebraska regiment of volunteers in camp in the Philippines. For the first time in their lives they enjoyed a tropical Christmas, and Christmas was made as much if not more of a gala day in the far-off camp than it would have been at home. The Christmas dinner was the event of the day, the tables being spread in the tents and loaded with all the attractive delicacies which could be found in the market within the reach of the funds at the disposal of the various companies. The picture which we give shows the Christmas dinner spread on the table in one of the tents of Company A of York of the First Nebraska at Santa Mesa and is typical of the



McCartier. Harnish. Engle. Donahower. Applegate. PROTECTIVE BOARD BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN, UNION PACIFIC DIVISION.

dinners enjoyed by all the soldier boys of the regiment.

Another picture appropriate to Christmas represents the Christmas dinner on the plains. Many of the pioneers who settled in this section of the country before it was built up and assisted in reclaiming it to the uses of civilized man were in their time forced to celebrate Christmas in this way, with few of the comforts of life. The great emigrant wagons would stop at some convenient point, where fires would be built and a dinner improvised, such as the materials carried with them would permit, sometimes supplemented by a wild fowl or a piece of venison or buffalo steak, according to what luck might have attached to the hunter's gun. Christmas on the great plains in the days before the railroad and telegraph was hardly so enjoyable as the Christmas of today in the busy towns and cozy, warm houses with which they are now dotted.

The real Santa Claus is introduced to the readers of The Bee in the person of his honor, Mayor Moores, just starting from his office after a shopping tour with a messenger boy to carry the bundles and packages and Christmas tree. There is probably no one in Omaha who has a more extensive giving list for Christmas time than the mayor and dozens and scores of friends, big

attention she sought out an unpretentious family hotel rather than stop at a large hostelry frequented by the general traveling public. Mrs. Wood is in excellent health, which promises her many more years of useful life.

Attention of readers is called to Bee advertisers. We believe that nowhere will be found a more high class set of advertisements, emanating from firms and business houses whose established reputations guarantee their patrons honest dealing and generous treatment. The Bee's advertisers may be depended upon to carry out whatever they agree to do and we are sure that the readers and the advertisers will form through it an acquaintance which will prove instructive and profitable to both.

The Bee's newsboys form another set of incipient capitalists without whose all the paper could not be the success it is. We have caught a few of the enterprising literature vendors before the camera, which shows them in the act of crying their wares. They are an intelligent group of youngsters, with healthy lungs and persistent ways, and if they do not get along in the world it will not be for lack of energy and enterprise. When you hear the newsboy crying The Illustrated Bee, remember that he is a business man in a small way and invests his money and turns his profit on small margins. Secretary Jewell.



Governor Poynter. DELIVERING THE COMMISSION TO SENATOR ALLEN. Senator Allen.

and little, are annually made happy by his thoughtful remembrances. He comes as near being the real Santa Claus in Omaha as any other one person.

The mother of General Leonard Wood, who is pictured here, was a visitor in Omaha last week and her face will be recognized by those who made her acquaintance at that time. Mrs. Wood is a most benevolent looking woman, who takes great pride in her son and feels as much as he does the honors which have been conferred upon him. One of her most noted characteristics is her bashful and quiet manner. For fear she might attract more than usual

earning by unremitting labor every cent of the surplus which he counts aside after making good his expense.

An interesting picture which is really historic is that reproduced from a photograph of the scene attending the delivery of the senatorial commission to the recent appointee to the vacancy caused by the death of the late Senator Hayward. The photograph is taken in the private office of the governor in the state house at Lincoln, the figures being Governor Poynter, Senator Allen and Fred Jewell, the secretary to the governor. The commission was made out by the secretary and by him taken to the governor, who, after affixing his signature to the document, handed it to Senator Allen. The whole chapter was completed in only a few minutes and the announcement made public that the governor had appointed Judge Allen, who had accepted the tender and received his commission. The scene is vividly pictured by the work of the camera. The date was Wednesday, December 13, 1899.

This number of The Bee contains the first article of a short series dealing with practical problems and new developments of the public school system of Nebraska. This series will be illustrated from photographs showing the work as performed in the most progressive schools in Nebraska towns. The articles themselves will be written in a popular style, explaining the object sought by our educators and the plans adopted for bringing about the desired results. We feel sure they will prove a popular feature and that they will be carefully read by all who recognize the importance of the public schools as one of the foundation stones of the republic.

Omaha has a new railroad entering the city and asking for its patronage in the Illinois Central, whose extension to the Missouri river has just been completed. The first passenger train pulled out of Council Bluffs at 9:35 in the morning last Sunday. This marks another turning point in the growth of our city and is fully worthy of commemoration in picture as here set forth.

**Historic Banquet**

History's greatest banquet took place August 18, 1889, when the 40,000 mayors of France sat at a table in the Palais de l'Industrie in Paris. There were three relays of about 13,000 guests each. To prepare the feast required seventy-five chief cooks, 13,000 waiters, scullions, cellar-men and helpers, 80,000 plates, 82,000 glasses, knives, forks and spoons in proportion, 40,000 rolls and fish, meat and fowl by the ton. The banquet was part of the centenary celebration of the events of 1789.