

# BOOK TELLS STORY OF CHRISTMAS SHIP

Part Played by The Bee and Its Readers in Great Charitable Enterprise Related.

WRITTEN BY LILLIAN BELL

Just a year ago intense interest was excited all over the country, and especially among readers of The Bee over the sailing of the famous Christmas ship, laden with valuable gifts from America, for the little children of Europe's war-stricken region, who would otherwise lack Christmas cheer. Of course, at that time no one had any idea that the war would be continued over another Christmas, or that the number of hapless children shadowed by sorrow would be so great by this time as to render repetition of the Christmas ship impracticable.

The inception of the project belongs to Lillian Bell of Chicago, who enlisted the support first, of the Chicago Herald, and of a large number of newspapers throughout the country, including The Bee. The story of the Christmas ship is now told in a handsome book just off the press, and the important part played by The Bee and its readers is told in this chapter, entitled "Nebraska's Splendid Contribution," which is a timely review of the Christmas ship of last year:

**Nebraska Generous.**  
"Nebraska was one of the most generous states in contributing to the Christmas Ship. The campaign was conducted by The Omaha Bee, which on October 25 came out with the following stirring and well-written editorial:  
"The Christmas Ship typifies both the symbol and spirit of the work of love that will show the far away fatherless children of war enthralled Europe with Christmas gifts from the children of free and peaceful America.

"When these gifts of useful comforts, and toys, too, have served their material ends and gladdened such material hearts, the whole magnificent scheme then stand forth in bold relief against the dark, forbidding background of hideous war as a melancholy monument to this crime of the ages perpetrated by enlightened nations, not one of which is now, or ever will be, able to satisfy its own conscience for its part in the slaughter.

"Little short of a miracle can now end hostilities before Christmas, when again the nations of the earth will lift their voices in the anthem of 'Peace on earth, good will toward men.' But to what people, save the United States, will this shepherd song bring the spirit that it bore as it echoed from out against the Judean hills on that first Christmas morning? It is not enough that we shall feel the depths of all this meaning; our prayer is that Europe may feel it stronger, if possible, than we do—and feeling, shall some day, surely before another Christmas rolls round, cease firing. With all the strained constructions put upon His words, the world, regard to the life in whose name all this is done meant—as He said to an impetuous disciple on a crucial occasion, 'Put up thy sword—that His kingdom was not to be propagated by violence.

"So we of America, whatever our religious professions may be, are growing deeper in the doctrine of peaceful arbitration. And we stand as the good friend of all nations, ready to serve any. The Bee is rejoiced to have had a part in furthering this superb mission of peace, of altruism, of stern, practical philanthropy. And as it comes to its glorious climax we desire to hail in a spirit of genuine fellowship and appreciation all those fine little folks, and their elders, who joined so nobly in an enterprise whose immediate and future benefits are not for us to estimate.

**How The Bee Did Its Work.**  
"I give herewith a charming letter written me by Mr. T. W. McCullough, managing editor of The Omaha Bee:

"Your note of the 13th is before me. I do not understand exactly what you want for your book. Am enclosing a copy of the editorial which appeared in The Bee on Sunday, October 25, last, which fairly sets forth the attitude of The Bee toward the Christmas ship.

"Our campaign was a very satisfactory one. We found the readers of The Bee eagerly responsive to a request for donations, and very likely would have been able to have secured a good deal more than we had had it not been for the early closing of contributions. We loaded one of the biggest freight cars owned by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad company, in addition to which we sent the following week, by express, about 6,000 pounds of donations.

"I don't know that I can add anything to what I have already set forth further than to say that interest in the Christmas ship still abides, and we find that our readers have eagerly watched its progress from the time it left New York until it reached Saloniki, which, I understand, is to be the last port.

"The spirit of giving then engendered still persists, and many generous and liberal donations for the relief of the suffering people of the war-stricken countries are still being sent out from Nebraska.

"If you think of any further information that I could possibly give you, or require a more detailed statement than I have made, please let me hear from you.

"Your idea was a splendid one, and I am sure you must take great personal satisfaction in the glorious outcome of your project. Your history of the movement will be eagerly read by all who contributed and will be a lasting memorial of your great work."

"MANAGING EDITOR."

**Tribute from the Sponsor Paper.**  
"From the Chicago Herald: 'A furniture car packed to the roof and now on its way to the coast represents the contributions of the people of Nebraska and neighboring states to the Christmas ship cargo. Many other packages are going forward by express.

"The Omaha Bee, edited and published by Victor Rosewater, co-operated with the Herald throughout the Christmas ship campaign.

"Omaha's 14,000 school children contributed over \$50. This sum was processed by a committee of principals for shoes and stockings. Council Bluffs children added many gifts.

"The little village of Syracuse, Neb., sent two packing cases which contained 200 worth of new goods, in addition to two boxes and a barrel of gifts. Woodbine, Ia., was another small town which contributed liberally. Eighty dozen girls' and misses' coats were sent by the girls of the Peru (Nebraska) Normal school.

"The Burlington railroad transported the big car to Chicago. Express com-

panies have carried more than 5,000 pounds of presents and more are on the way. Shipments were received by the Bee from points as far west as Green River, Wyo., and Salida, Colo.

"Decorah, Ia., sent the following: 'Hours of America's school children have been deeply touched by the need of their old-world brothers and sisters.' A draft for \$115.46 and seven large boxes of gifts, weighing 1,600 pounds, represent the work of the public schools of Decorah, Ia. H. H. Green, superintendent, writes: 'Inclosed is a draft for \$115.46 from Decorah. We have shipped via Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, seven boxes of goods. If anything more is received, we shall forward it immediately.'

"And this touching incident is related from Oregon: 'Little Miss Shirley Overholt brought in a big yellow box containing her beloved roller skates, a top, a knife and other toys, the Portland (Oregon) Journal relates. Not satisfied with this gift, she solemnly removed the lid, opened up her little purse, and shook out the contents in a sort of baptism of pennies and dimes. Then she put on the lid and walked out, just as if little girls giving their fortunes to war sufferers was an everyday occurrence.'

"Thus The Omaha Bee drew material from all the surrounding country and sent a well-filled car, as calmly as if such a monthly contribution were an everyday occurrence—all in the day's work—hardly worth speaking about.

"But these things take my breath away when I write about them!"

## "Cupid" Stubbendorf Heads Off Elopement

An attempted elopement by Joe Dopokat, Jr. aged 21, and Mrs. Olena Swanson, 24 years old, both of South Side, was frustrated by "Cupid" Stubbendorf after he had prepared a marriage license and was about to turn it over to the couple.

Mrs. Swanson's son, Julius Swanson of St. Paul, Minn., had requested the county court to appoint a guardian for his mother for the express purpose of preventing the threatened marriage.

When the couple appeared at the marriage license bureau, Mrs. Swanson's name was given as "Sophia Parson."

Almost too late, "Cupid" remember the guardianship case and by a few questions learned that the bride-to-be was Mrs. Swanson. He cancelled the license.

for the Room. See Want Ads Do the Work.

## ABANDON COUNTRY CHURCHES

One-Ninth Have Been Closed and but One-Third of Remainder Growing in Membership.

### PLANS FOR UNITY IN THE WORK

COLUMBUS, O., Nov. 27.—One out of every nine country churches has been abandoned in recent years. Only one-third are increasing in membership and two-thirds have either ceased growing or are dying. Eighty-three per cent have less than 100 members, 21 per cent have between twenty-five and 100, and 34 per cent have between fifty and 100. Only 6 per cent have individual preachers, while 20 per cent share ministers with another church; 23 per cent have one-third the time of a minister, 27 per cent have one-fourth time, 14 per cent have one-fifth time, 5 per cent have one-sixth time. A large proportion of preachers receive about the same pay as a day laborer. Less than 40 per cent of the rural population are church members.

Will Survey Other States. These facts, shown in an extensive

rural survey of Ohio, whose results were announced today, are applicable to most states, according to officers of the Commission on Church and Country Life. Plans for scientific surveys in all states will be formulated at the national convention of the Commission on Church and Country Life, to be held in Columbus, O., December 2, 3 and 4, with President Wilson and Gifford Pinchot among the speakers.

The Ohio survey is considered the most thorough ever undertaken, but the campaign not only for surveys, but also for speedy reforms to make churches community centers as well as houses of religious worship, is to be carried into every part of the country within the next year.

**Church a Community Center.** Here are the causes which the country church of the near future must promote in order to save itself, according to a much-discussed report by President Kenyon L. Butterfield of Massachusetts Agricultural college, ready for presentation to the commission: Good roads, better farming, encouragement of agricultural college extension courses, community beautification, public health and recreation, temperance, better schools, Saturday half holiday for agricultural labor-

ers, community athletics, observance of religious and patriotic holidays and homecoming weeks, community planning and contentment with farm life.

The church must become the social center for the community, with its minister leading in a variety of interest, and religion thereby will become a stronger appeal, says the Butterfield report. Naturally this program is expected eventually to dim denominational lines.

### Concrete Plans Suggested.

Concrete means of promoting the community church movement are disclosed in another report which the commission is expected to adopt as working plans. President Wilson, who will make an address at the convention, December 10, is reported particularly interested in these plans.

They are summarized thus. First, rural ministers and church leaders during the next year will receive publications issued by the Commission on Church and Country Life devoted to the problems of rural church federations and combinations. This will prepare the way for discussion of church co-operation. Then in each township or natural community, churches will be urged to form a federation, with delegates and ministers from each church forming a supervisory committee to coordinate community activities. Ultimately

this federation might employ a common minister and pay him a salary adequate to allow him to undertake wider social work. In many cases these churches could merge. Denominational connection with a certain church organization could be maintained, but within the community sectarian differences would be largely ignored.

## Nebraska Health Association Will Hold Meeting Here

Manager Parrish of the bureau of public health has received word that the Nebraska Public Health association will hold its annual convention in Omaha, January 25 and 26. Hotel Rome will be headquarters. A strong program of outside speakers is being arranged by Drs. Cutter, Crowley and Connell, the local committee. The bureau of public health will send out announcements to doctors and all other interested persons in the state, and expects about 400 to attend the sessions. Every person interested in the conservation of health is eligible to attend.

See Want Ads Produce Results.



# Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> 1 P to Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Week

## Electrical Prosperity Week



Six days will be observed from ocean to ocean. One great aim is to show how strongly electricity is linked with modern progress. Timed for the beginning of the Christmas shopping period, it will afford an effective stimulation to the "shop early" idea. The movement originated with the Society for Electrical Development, incorporated, with headquarters in New York. It is backed by the united electrical interests of the nation.

# "DO IT ELECTRICALLY"



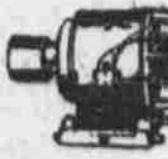
All people are not fully aware of the vast possibilities of electricity in solving domestic and business problems. Homes where drudgery exists can be made cleaner, brighter and healthier by this willing servant. Do you know that this practical fact has been so clearly demonstrated to Omaha Home Lovers that for the past five years an average of 2,500 new houses each year have been wired for electricity, while 1,200 old residences have been remodeled electrically each year during the same period. Get in touch with your electrical contractor today. Make this Christmas an electrical Christmas—Wire your home.



The home that follows the slogan of doing things electrically is always the happier place in which to live. Omaha Electrical Dealers, whose names are listed below can supply you with anything in the way of practical electrical appliances. They have in for your inspection Electric Percolators for your hurried breakfast coffee; Efficient Little Toasters; Flat Irons; Flash Lights—to "brighten the corner where you are;" Electric Bed Warmers, for the cold winter nights; and even Electric Heaters for the sick room or the bath; in fact their list of Electrical Appliances must be seen to be appreciated.



What better than a common-sense, long lasting, inexpensive electrical gift for Christmas? Leading Omaha Electrical shops have displays of electrical gifts which are sure to settle that tiresome question of "What shall I give?" Why not buy him an Electrically Heated Shaving Mug or have delivered to her door on Christmas morning one of those inexpensive Electric Curling Irons, or what do you think of an Electric Washing Machine to take the "Rub" out of Wash Day?



A sure mark of Progress and Metropolitanism is the adoption by a city of the "Do It Electrically" spirit. You who want the "drudge" taken from your work; who look for labor-saving devices which toil seemingly with almost human intelligence, who have learned to love the purr of the motor that does your bidding at will, should hark to the call of the 20th century, when the little things—those that are worth while—are done by the mystery of mysteries, Electricity.

CALL ON THESE FIRMS FOR ELECTRICAL INFORMATION, AND DO NOT FAIL TO SEE THEIR ELECTRICAL DISPLAYS DURING PROSPERITY WEEK—IT WILL PAY YOU.

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| Thew & Luhr,<br>Point Store, Flatiron Bldg. | Shelby Lamp Division,<br>1810 Farnam St. | Thomas Durkin,<br>2223 Cuming St.            | Burgess-Granden Co.,<br>1511 Howard St.   |
| Omaha Electrical Works,<br>1214 Harney St.  | Wolfe Electric Co.,<br>1810 Farnam.      | James Corr Electric Co.,<br>207 So. 19th St. | Johnston Electric Co.,<br>1207 Harney St. |

WHOLESALE ONLY.

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| The McGraw Company,<br>1208-10-12 Harney St. | Mid-West Electric Co.,<br>1207 Harney St. | Western Electric Co.,<br>802 Farnam. |
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