OMAHA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1924. \*

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God is the I of the Infinite.-Hugo.

# EAKS, DROWN, 9 MISS

# Hobart Dead Samaritan Robbed to Be Buried by Stranger He Aided

Recheck of Fire at Schoolby Blaze Started by Candle on Tree.

### But 10 Can Be Identified

Hobart, Okla., Dec. 25 .- With 32

bodies, most of them burned beyond recognition, lying in a temporary morgue in a two story building, and ing as a result of a Christmas eve fire at the district school house at Babb's Switch, seven miles from here, Hobart citizens tonight were continu ing their efforts to identify the dead nd were planning for their funeral. At a mass meeting today, called by

It has been decided to bury all the unidentified in one large grave in the sales this year will exceed former Hobart cemetery and late today a years by 10 per cent. Family Dies Together.

Early tonight only 10 of the dead days of the Christmas holidays. had been identified, despite the fact that the morgue was early thrown open to the public. A steady proces- Belden company said the sales at his sion of grief stricken relatives filed store exceeded other years by 10 per all day long between the shrouded cent. forms, but so terribly had they been "It was the greatest Christmas year burned that it was impossible in in the history of our store," Mr. Belmost cases to mark the features of den said.

nized is the family of T. O. Coffey, a had been very good. placed by themselves in a corner of much larger business than ever escape cut off, threw their arms regarding the Christmas business. about one another and fell together down. Amid the awful confusion of the scene, survivors say they were "We are satisfied with our holi struck by the placidity with which business," he said. the Coffey family met death.

Teacher Dies Saving Children. had she not tarried in a futile effort strictly cash basis. to find some avenue of escape for her All the merchants declare that the little charges. A woman from Fort coming year will be a record breaklittle charges. A woman from Fort coming year will be a record break. A woman from Fort worth, formerly Juanette Clemmens ing year from the standpoint of clarged. Numerous punctures showed of the Babb's Switch district; her merchandising in Omaha. daughter, Mary, 3, and Vesta Jacksan daughter, Mary, 3, and Vesta Jacksan complete the list of the identified PARIS ENJOYS dead early tonight.

Death entered the Christmas celebration suddenly, cutting off at its height the program rendered by the children of the neighborhood. The last little girl had spoken her "plece" to capacity, looked on.

#### Panic Sweeps Crowd.

Santa reached for one of the few remaining candy sacks. His arm struck a candle on the Christmas tree. The tiny blaze fell from its perch and I nan instant a ball of cotton on the tree burst into flame. A rush to put out the fire and the tree fell over, cattering blazing twigs. In an instant the room was in a panic. Men and women sprang for the single exit at the rear and to the windows, beat ing out the panes, only to find the openings covered by a heavy wire netting. The windows shattered, a brisk wind blew through the room, fanning ne flames and the flimsy structure

aught like tinder. Many were crushed in the jam be fore the door, and it is believed that (Turn to Page Two, Column Five.)

# **OLDEST WOMAN**

Kimball, Neb., Dec. 25.-Mrs. Anna B. Shafto, 102, died Tuesday evening at the home of her son, Judge M. E. Shafto, at Harrisburg, Banner cour ty, according to word received here today. Mrs. Shafto, it is said, was the oldest woman in Nebraska.

She was born at Point Pleasant, N. J., in 1822. Her father was an ad juster for wrecked ships on the At lantic coast. Mrs. Shafto was a resi dent of Banner county for 32 years.

### We Have With Us Today

harles L. Hogan, vice president, Knickerbocker Portland Cement com-pany, Albany, N, Y.

Mr. Hogan with Mrs. Hogan is spending Christmas week in Omaha ed, it will be his duty to visit Omaha Muldoon. He has made his home at better positions for ex-service men. Albany, N. Y., for many years where has been associated with the Knickerbocker Portland Cement company of which he is vice president. its products all over the world

in One Grave purchased him supper and plotted a place for the man to sleep Wednesday night, his efforts, as a good Samaritan, were rewarded by the stranger relieving him of his purse containing \$50 and a gold watch, John Phillips of Correctionville, Ia., House Party Shows 32 Died reported to Council Bluffs police Thursday. The stranger's name was given to police by Phillips.

### Retailers Declare **Holiday Business Shatters Records**

five persons listed as dead or miss- Sales Will Exceed Those of Former Years by 10 Per Cent, Merchants Say; Outlook Bright.

Owners of Omaha retail depart-Mayor F. E. Gillespie, committees ment stores at the close of business were named to look after every de- Wednesday night announced that the tall of the sad task and the work Christmas season this year had brokwas going forward systematically. | en all previous years' records. Several of the merchants said the

crew of men broke the snow that Abe Herzberg of the Herzberg Togblanketed the burial ground to throw gery, declared that his store was unup a long trench of gray red earth. able to take care of all the trade com ing into the store during the last two

Exceeds Wildest Hopes. Carrol Belden of the Thompson-

"It was the greatest Christmas year

At the Brandeis stores, Karl Louis Among those who have been recog- declared that the business this season farmer living near the Babb's Switch Thomas Flynn, president of the

school. Six bodies, the father, mother Hayden Brothers store said, "The unadn four little forms, have been expected happened to us. We did a the awesome room. Survivers tell a fore in the store's history. It has heart rending story of how the fam- given us added confidence that good standing in the center of the times have returned to Nebraska." azing school room, every means of Other stores were as enthusiastic

Coming Year Bright. into the inferno as blazing refters William L. Holzman at the Nebrasloosed from the roof struck them ka Clothing store said business this "We are satisfied with our holiday

Thomas Redmond of the Burgess-Nash company said, "The business There, too, in a place apart, is the this year has not been as large as in body of Mrs. Florence Hill, teacher former years." He gave as his reaat the school, who might have escaped son that the store had been on a

## GAY CHRISTMAS

and today celebrated its Christmas and a jolly Santa in a red suit and with a zest that has seldom been called to Chicago a noted expert on furs had distributed to each chubby equalled. All the pews in the typhoid and typhoid germs. The jur pair of eager hands a little sack of churches were allotted for midnight ist has held a number of secret con candy, while parents and friends who masses wooks ago, and many of the ferences with this specialist. packed the small one-room structure faithful were turned away. All the until dawn.

Last night's prices in the cafes, on the whole, were not excessive exment of the Montmartre.

After midnight in these places champagne cost 400 francs a bottle. All supper bills bore a tax of 271-2 per cent on the total, and the treas. Clintock's death. ury is counting on a respectable sum by way of a Christmas present. Another traditional feature of the

celebration today was the swimming the will which McClintock signed race in the Seine for the Christmas shortly after he reached his maturity cup. There were 19 entries, includ- last spring. In this will the major ing one woman, Madeline Nissen. part of his \$2,000,000 fortune was be The race was won by the Hungarian, queathed to Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd, Dukasz, last year's winner. His after an annuity of \$8,000, was destime was 2:51 1-5 seconds. Mile. Nis- ignated for Miss Pope, but without sen finished last.

#### IN STATE DIES Santa Not Bothered by

Contagious Disease Contagious diseases don't mean a thing to Santa Claus. If you don't be lieve it, ask John and James Childe. sons of C. E. Childe, manager of the firm of which Mr. Shepherd, the for traffic bureau of the Chamber of Com-

with a mild attack of chickenpox. gifts by Santa Claus some time dur- failed to share in the estate. ing Christmas evening.

John is 9 years old and James is Vanderlip's Condition 4 years old.

#### Employment Officer

Suggested for Legion can Legion is considering employing own," Dr. Norman Barnesby, an employment officer. The present family physician, announced today. employment bureau, officers of the post say, is becoming too small. If the employment officer is securwith relatives, Mr. and Mrs. James business firms in an effort to secure

Largest Gas Well in

# McClintock Case Begun

Pathological Examination of Body of Young Heir to Fortune Expected to Require More Than Week.

### To Question Shepherd

Chicago, Dec. 25 .- William D. Shep erd, foster father of young William (Billy) McClintock, the "millionaire rphan" and chief heir to his estate will be questioned at the state's at torney's office as soon as he reaches Chicago, regarding the death of the outh at the Shepherd home three veeks ago, it was announced tonight

By A. J. LORENZ,

Universal Service Staff Correspo Chicago, Dec. 25 .- A pathologica xamination, so minute that it will equire at least a fortnight to con lete, is being made of the body of William Nelson McClintock, youthful eir to a \$2,000,000 fortune, whose leath, ascribed to typhoid fever, is he subject of a legal investigation. Chemists in the coroner's office this afternoon took up an examination of the vital organs of the youthful millionaire, whose death thwarted the consummation of his romance with his childhood sweetheart, Isabello

Upon the exhumation of the body esterday, a preliminary autopsy was performed by four pathologists. Every external scar, even to the num ber of marks from hypodermodic ncedles were noted by stenographers o permit the preparation of an ex t is believed the chemical analysis the vill have been completed.

Solid Food Theory. As Chief Justice Olson, who ordered the investigation into the circum-McClintock's death, intimated, particular attention is being given to the possibility that the millionaire patient may have been given solid food during the crisis of his

poison. fied by any statement, revealed in the lung tissue and a number of

"The lymph nodes in the bronchial "The lymph nodes in the bronchial area were extremely small" this rein the pancreas."

#### Evidence Withheld.

The specialists in toxicology and pathology refused to say whether hey had found evidence that solid By Associated Press. food had been given McClintock Paris, Dec. 25.—Paris last night shortly before his death.

Justice Olson, it was learned, has While medical authorities were in

restaurants and cafes in the poorest charge of the scientific phase of and richest quarters of the city were the case, officials of the state's at crowded with merry-makers who torneys department continued their consumed great quantities of food examination of other witnesses, chief and drink. The merriment kept up among them being Miss Pope, Mc Clintock's fiancee.

Miss Pope's statements that William D. Shepherd, foster father of cept in the most elaborate establish her flancee, discouraged the attempt of the young couple to have a sick bed marriage ceremony performed, it was intimated, formed the basis of this parallel investigation into Mc-

#### Shepherds to Return.

Such a marriage, the authorities pointed out, would have invalidated provision of a trust fund from which this annuity might be paid. The Shepherds were reported as

having left Albuquerque, N. M., where they have been visiting at the home of James E. Davidson, a friend, since their wealthy ward was buried. Robert H. Stoll, partner in the law bilizing effect of the operation of the mer Salina (Kan.) druggist, was a member, declared that the Shepherds The two boys are confined at their were hurrying back to Chicago to home, 111 North Fifty-fourth street, take part in the investigation they claim was prompted by disgruntled Their stockings were filled with distant relatives of McClintock who

Reported "Favorable" Scarborough, N. Y., Dec. 25 .-Frank A. Vanderlip, former financier who is ill at his country home here The Omaha post No. 1 of the Amer- with typhoid fever, is "holding his where in the country and that there He said that it will be two more days before the crisis of the allment will have been passed,

Noted Sculptor Dies. ly today. His most noted works in-Sheridan Field Sruck clude a monument to Garibaldi re his feet, owing to the continuing one eye.

### Autopsy in sque Adventurer, Wanted in w York, Arrested by Italian Police

Major Thomas Mac Fie, "Perfect Gentleman," Has Amazing Career Checked on Charge of Embezzling \$50,000 From American Club on Riviera; Alleged Slayer.

By C. F. BERTELLI,

Universal Service Staff Correspondent Paris, Dec. 25.-The amazing career of a "perfect gentleman" said to be wanted in New York for murder, ended at San Remo, Italy, last night when on a warrant from Nice, France, the Italian police arrested Maj. Thomas Mac Fie. Mac Fie is secretary of the famous Winter club, at Nice, and is declared by the police of that city to be the "handsomest adventurer unhung."

The charge on which Major Mac Fie was arrested is for the embezzlement of \$50,000 entrusted to him by the American club on the Riviera for purchase of land on which to build a proposed clubhouse. Of the money \$30,000 has been recovered in a bank at Monte

Invariably garbed as an undoubted gentleman, soft spoken and ingratiating, Mac Fie, who is about |

40, has had one of the most pic turesque careers on record. According to the police he originally was cashlered from the British army when the war broke out. He had been in a Canadian prison, from which his mother obtained his release in order to permit him to

enter the army. At the same time, it is explained, he is being sought by New York authorities for murder. He had a brilliant record on the French front, won the D. S. O. military medal and the war cross of the Legion of Honor. After the war he was chief aviator in the British expedition to Archangel. Next he commanded a legion of the famous 'Black and Tans" sent against Ireland by Premier Lloyd George and it is alleged he was the man who ordered the "Black and Tans" to fire on the crowd at a football game in Dublin where 30 were slain and 100 wounded.

### New York Poultry Mrs. W. W. Marsh Barred in Iowa Dies Christmas Day

ation of "Fowl Plague" in East.

Mark G. Thornburg, state secretary "fowl plague" exists in New

During the continuance of the em bargo, all cars, coops and crates used for shipment of live poultry in the two eastern states must be disinfect-

authorities pointed out that the administration of solid food at such a new poultry disease existed in Iowa. "The eastern embargo against The preliminary report of the against loss of birds while in transit church will officiate. Mrs. Marsh pathologists, which was not ampliment is taken to protect the health black deposits of a foreign substance of the chickens of the producers and

### **USUAL NEWS FAST** By ROBERT J. PREW.

Universal Service Staff Correspondent London, Dec. 24.-England began its annual news fast tonight, no pa pers being printed tomorrow or Fri-

day, which also is a holiday.

The following day news summaries

Saturday morning the newspapers one issue.

Before the wireless became popunary crops of rumors, mostly about another year. imaginary disasters the world over, but radio broadcasting has proved present at the meeting were Archie an efficient corrective to alarmist Payne, Red Oak, Iaz M. M. Mohney. news mongering.

Stormy weather with sunny intervals is promised for tomorrow.

### **GREEN SAYS 1925** PROSPECTS GOOD

Coshocton, O., Dec. 24.-Prospects for labor, considering the country at iarge, during 1925 are "reasonably William Green, newly satisfactory.' elected president of the American Federation of Labor, declared here today. Green is here spending the wealthy parents supplied. holidays with his home folks. His belief, he says, is based upon

two factors. The first, he declared, is the Dawes plan in Europe. The moral effect of the settlement of the reparations controversy upon the working class will be great, he asserted, adding that the markets that will be created abroad will have a direct and immediate effect upon industry in

this country. The second factor is the absence of listurbing influences in the field of labor and industry at the present time, he sets forth. He pointed out that there are no strikes or shutouts of labor of any major proportion any the is no immediate prospect of any.

Herriott Up For First Time Since Illness December 10

Paris, Dec. 25.-Premier Herriot.

Embargo to Continue for Dur- Resident of Omaha for More Than 50 Years; Widow of Late Captain Marsh.

Mrs. W. W. Marsh, a resident of omaha for more than 50 years, died in the city. at 2:30 Christmas morning at her home, 304 Pine street. Mrs. Marsh was the widow of the

late Capt. W. W. Marsh, who died Wednesday afternoon and continued haustive report by January 20, when of agriculture, to continue as long as in 1901. She is survived by three sons, Frank, William and Allan, She was born on February 1, 1838, at North New Portland, Me. She came west in 1859 to Sioux City, where a brother had already located. She remained in Sioux City but a short ed and cleaned under supervision of time, then went to Ponca, Dakota the federal bureau of animal industry county, Nebraska, to teach school. before they are permitted to enter She also taught school in Ida Grove,

First Congregational church.

Gertrude Marsh has recalled invi- performances and did their bit to tations for a tea which was to have cheer each other. been given at her home, 5014 Chicago street, Saturday afternoon, owing to the death of Miss Marsh's grandmother Mrs. W. W. Marsh.

### **GREETERS ELECT** EGAN FIVE TIMES

association was established Tuesday, woodshed or somewhere out of sight. King George will join his subjects when at the annual meeting of the tomorrow night in an eager rush to Nebraska-Iowa Greeters, charter No. was a big man, not so large of girth at Sau Fernando, Cal., to cost ap the wireless receivers in order to 1, John F. Egan, manager of the hear a brief summary of the world's Hotel Sanford, was re-elected to the cate, but a good big fellow, bearing news which will be broadcasted at 10 presidency of the organization for the a sriking resemblance to Charles Veteran's bureau. The North Pafifth consecutive time.

No other presidents of local charters will be sent out in the afternoon as throughout the country have approached the record established by will appear with three days' news in Tuesday's meeting were W. H. Owens, galloped out. Creston, Ia., first vice president; Henry Heckert, Lexington, Neb., sec rived on the heels of Santa Claus. At Among the out-of-town Greeters boy was born.

> Fremont, Neb., and Carl Mericle, Sioux City, Ia. Leopold and Loeb Will

#### Spend Christmas in Cells at 6:10 Christmas evening. By Universal Service.

of Robert Franks, will spend the suffering to others, and death to two. greater part of Christmas day in their It was the coldest Christmas day cells-in contrast to the yuletides of in many years, the mercury dropping Leopold's father and brother visit-

ed the young convict today and death, five others suffered frozen brought him a box of food. Loeb's hands and feet and scores reported mother visited him last week. The Christmas meal in the peniten cold, the city made merry and thou tlary which the sons of the Chicago sands of the destitute and homeles

Men Who Took Inebriate

fee and cigars.

Home Steal His Machine Houston, Tex., Dec. 25.-L. N. Thompson had a drink or two the meate the underworld and its mem other night, he told the police. He bers celebrated the day, indulging it couldn't make his car go right, some numerous holdups, robberies and kidhow, although it was a new sedan, napings. One woman was robbed of ow, although it was a new sedan, napings. One woman was robbed of Two nice young men offered to a diamond ring valued at \$3,500 and driven into the street with a calculation of the role of Santa Claus. The drive it home for him. They did. \$100 in cash. They left him at his front door and drove off in the car. practically destroyed a five-story

Bomb Sent as Present. Glendale, Cal., Dec. 25 .- A bomb in and a score of them probably saved who has been confined to his room the form of a Christmas package re their lives when, warned by the by filness since December 10 was al-ceived by Ernest M. Torchia, an at-Sienna, Italy, Dec. 25.—Emilio Gallowed to leave his bed for the first torney, exploded here early today. Scurried from the building just as the lori, the noted sculptor, died sudden time today. The doctors, however, blowing off his left hand, driving (Turn to Page Two. Column Seven.) have ordered that he must stay off fragments into his body and injuring

Rev. John Fox, 71, Dies. This company, he states, is a branch of division of the International Portland Cement company that distributes and Cement company that distributes are in today with a list products all over the world.

Dunkirk, N. Y., Dec. 25.—The largement of the Gardens of the calffless in the muscles of the calffless in the muscle Easton, Pa., Dec. 24.-Rev. John

# **Brings City** Cheery Day

Rising Temperature Marks Omaha's First White Christmas in Four Years; Family Reunions General.

### Special Church Services

Omaha welcomed Santa Claus

Christmas cheer, remembrance and the spirit, the lack of which made old Scrooge famous, were outstanding features of the day. And not least was the warmer veather which the old gentleman

rought with him. Omaha was successful in its white Christmas, the first in four years. But there were no tears shed when the forecast of the weather man, that the whiteness must be accompanied by a near-zero temperature, went wrong and the mercury

egan to climb. The mercury climbed so rapidly hat by 8 Christmas evening ther-

#### legrees above zero. Special Church Services.

Special services were held in the fracture of several ribs, as well hurches throughout the day. The as severe cuts and bruises about the first service started at midnight head and body. Wednesday. From that time on alnost every hour saw a service of some kind in some church somewhere

Parties were confined largely to family reunions. The annual parties charitable organizations began n until afternoon of Christmas day. Hundreds of boys and girls, entire families who might not have enjoyed Christmas quite so much, were cared

sides Mr. and Mrs. McGuire there malady, diagnosed by specialists as a declaring that investigations of the seven case of typhoid fever. Medical authorities pointed out that the administration of solid food at such a seven solid food at such as possible to the seven solid food at such as the seven solid food at seven solid food at such as the seven solid food at seven solid food at such as the seven solid food at seven solid fo were seven sons and daughters and

#### Crippled Children Cheered.

All of the parties were not conwas one of the first members of the fined to homes. At the theaters the

At the Hattle E. Munroe Home for Crippled Children in Benson, Santa

childre nthat their patron saint had childre nthat their patron saint had arrived. They crowded t the wfn. CONTRACTS LET dows in an effort to see the reindeers Santa Claus, but the reindeers were A national record for the Greeters' tethered on the roof or behind the

#### Gardner of Ak-Sar-Ben fame. Two Christmas Babies. At the Riverside home the story

At least two Christmas babies at

At the home of Mr. and Mre. R. Sibilia, 714 South Thirty-eighth ave to permit enlargement to a 1,000-bed ing the crashing of the timbers and nue, an eight and one-half pound capacity. baby girl was born.

The Thomas baby was born at 10:30 Christmas morning. The Sibilia baby

Chicago, Dec. 25 .- White and cold. Joliet, Ill., Dec. 24.-Nathan F. Leo- Christmas in Chicago today brought pold, fr., and Richard Loeb, slayers happiness to thousands, misery and

entire day. Two persons were found frozen to nipped ears and noses. Despite the millionaire families will share with were fed and cared for by philanthe 2,000 other prisoners, will con-thropic agencies. Religious services, sist of roast pork, dressing, pie, cof big dinners and an afternoon of en- a \$75 fur coat for Mrs. Keller, a new tertainment featured programs in the hat and overcoat for Mr. Keller and ials, hospitals, charitable institutions toys for the children. City detectives predecessor.

#### and homes for the aged. Numerous Roberies

The Christmas spirit failed to per

brick building with a loss of \$20,000 crackling of breaking mortar, they

# Santa Claus LINCOLN WOMAN DIES OF BURNS

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 25.—Christmas eve cheer turned to tragedy for a Lincoln family when Mrs. H. F. Ludwig, mother of three small children, died in a hospital from burns received when she poured kerosene on the kitchen fire. Death occurred at 1:15 a. m. today, seven hours after the accident. Mrs. Ludwig had returned from a shopping trip, buying gifts for the children when she poured oil Improvised Hospital in Drug on the fire to "hurry it along."

### Mrs. Wickham's Condition Critical; Death Toll May Increase **Husband Improves**

and Son Out of Danger; Services Today for Nurse Killed in Crash.

Mrs. E. A. Wickham was still in over adrug store at Saltville. critical condition as a result of injuries suffered when a Rock Island nearby towns were aiding those hurt. reight train crashed into her hus while other relief was given those band's automobile at the South avenue crossing in Council Blucs Wednesday afternoon.

ham, his son, were pronounced out of mometers were registering about 12 danger early Christmas day by hos- that some of the missing may be pital authorities. Mrs. Wickham suffered a compound fracture of the right arm and storage dam gave way.

Mr. Wickham and Bernard Wick

Burial at Wahoo. his rapid recovery from his injumore seriously injured. A bad gash the Holston river. across his head led physicians to beileve that he might have a fractured Traitor, the only identified dead, was

proved this theory. The body of Miss Florence Brodahl, nomes in all parts of the city. In for burial today. Her father, John of the missing were guests at the Brodahl, was unable to reach Council Traitor home. Harry Traitor, the ed their 26th Christmas party. Be Bluffs Thursday. He is in ill health father, was among those unaccounted

Inquest Tuesday. Funeral services will be held at 2 was the 25th time that Joseph Mc-deckared that he would not hold the p. m. Saturday afternoon at the Guire and his wife have celebrated inquest until after some member of stored behind the dam. time would have proved as fatal as western live poultry has been taken home, 804 Pine street. Rev. Frank Christmas in that same dining room, the Wickham family is out of the hospital and can be present at the of the disaster indicated the death toll

hearing. Mrs. Dan Farrell Mason City. Ia. actors gathered on the stage between mother of Mrs. Wickham, arrived in

#### Claus called in person and cheered on his way to Council Bluffs and is miles north of here early today, re-Dr. William Farrell, a brother, is Ringing sleighbells notified the expected to arrive this morning,

FOR HOSPITAL Washington, Dec. 25 .- Contracts banks. Then, in walked Santa Claus. He for construction of a 232-bed hospital as many of his pictures would indi- proximately \$1,000,000 have been hundreds of heads of livestock awarde dby Director Hines of the drowned. cific Construction Co., of Los Angeles, was given the general construction

contracts on its bid of 755,999. Other accepted bids were: heating, was repeated. Santa galloped in, T. E. Thomas, plumbing and heating waters. Mr. Egan. Other officers elected at spread a good portion of cheer, and company. Ogden, Utah. \$58,221; plumbing, J. M. Eustace, Los Angeles \$111,962; electrical, Gans Brothers, lar in British homes the absence of ond vice president, and Charles Ryan the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. bids for general construction were mile. Inc., Los Angeles, \$56,739, Fifteen news used to lead to most extraordi- of Omaha was re-elected secretary for Thomas, 3427 Hamilton street, an opened, the next lowest being \$22,000 eight and three-quarters pound baby higher than the accepted bid, and the ber of homes were swept into the highest being \$230,400 in excess.

#### "Meanest" Thief Steals "Good Fellows' " Toys

Denver, Colo., Dec. 25.-There is no Mennonites Awaiting spirit of Christmas in this story. Rather it is a tale of the meanes man in Denver today. While an automobile filled with toys and foodstuffs to be delivered by an organization of good fellows was parked in former years, when they were sur- to five below zero early today and front of a home in a residential rounded with every luxury that their hovering near the zero mark for the district, a thief stole all of the toys. Lack of time and fear of being ap prehended probably caused him to

leave behind the footstuff. Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 25.-After Santa Claus had come down the the minister of railways of the former chimney a "meanest" thief entered a Mexican administration had promised side window of the home of Ike Kel- them free transportation and they exler here last night and departed with are investigating.

#### Fire Destroys Hotel.

Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 25.-The Mc. Gee hotel and several business houses adjoining were destroyed by fire to Wednesday afternoon. Charles Gardday with an estimated loss of \$200,driven into the street with a cold Ice-encrusted firemen spent part of the holiday battling a blaze which 20 degrees above zero.

### The Weather

For 21 hours ending 7 p. m., Decem

Store Cares for 35 Injured, While Parties Search for Victims.

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 25 .- Six persons are known to be dead and nine are missing as the result of the breaking Doctors Report Contractor of a "muck" dam of the Mathieson Alkali works at Saltville last night. Thirty-five are in hospitals at Abingdon and Saltville, some seriously in-

Most of the injured were said to he lying in an improvised hospital Physicians and nurses rushed from

left homeless. Searching parties were scouring the banks of the Hoiston river for miles below the alkali works in an effort to recover more bodies. It was feared

#### leased with the waters when the Trapped in Homes,

The flood which bore down at 19 Bernard Wickham's youth is aiding out warning, and the victims, trapped in their homes, were unable to escape. ries. At the time of the accident it All the missing are believed to have was thought that he was one of the been swept into the north fork of

One body, that of Mrs. Harry skull. An X-ray examination dis- found four miles below the scene of the disaster at her home, in the first house below the dam. A Christmas urse, who was killed in the crash, party was said to have been in growill be taken to Wahoo, her home, gress, and it is thought that most

Ten houses occupied by workmen

for tonight.

#### Telephonic messages from the scene would possibly reach 15.

By Universal Service. Bristol, Tenn., Dec. 25 .- Five are Council Bluffs Christmas morning known to have perished and others She went directly to the hospital and are missing following the bursting has been at her daughter's bedside through of the dam of the Mathieson Alkali works at Saltville, Va., on the north fork of the Holstein river, 45

> sulting from the recent torrential Property damage of \$500,000 was caused and many homes along the banks of the stream are tonight mass es of wreckage strewn along the river

Searching parties today found number of injured and discovered

Rescue Work Difficult. The known dead are four members of a family named Pauly and W. H. Scott, who lost their lives when their homes were swept into the swirling

Rescue work is made difficult be

cause of the high water which prevails today. The river at Saltville is out of its banks for more than So rapid was the rise that a num surging water while the occupants Plans for the hospital were drawn were still asleep, their warning be

Transportation South Saskatoon, Sask., Dec. 24 .- One hundred Mennonites with their household effects in railway cars at Hague and Osler, near here, were awaiting today the fulfillment of a promise they said had been made by the Mexican government to transport them, free of charge, to a settlement 500 miles south of the United States bor-

Leaders of the Mennonites said that pected to receive word from the minister of the new administration, confirming the agreement made by his

#### Altrusa Club Santa Claus.

The Altrusa club played Santa Claus to the crippled children at the taken from the Christmas party of the Rotary club. Wednesday noon by Gardner and Ira Jones were also give en the children.

#### Balkan Issues to Be Discussed Sofia, Dec. 25 .- Premier Trankoff. under an agreement of the Jugo-Slavian and Rumanian governments, left tonight for Belgrade and Buchar-

est to negotiate understandings among the Balkan states on various pressing issues. No details of the premier's program were siven out by the Nulsarian government

the inrush of the tcy flood. It is feared that the known fatalities will be added to when a complete checkup is possible,