

DAY OF CHEER IN OMAHA

Christmas Observed Generally and Generously This Year.

NIPPING AIR, BUT CLEAR SKY AND GROUND

Charitable Organizations Temper the Day's Cold by Making Abundant Distribution of Food and Gifts—Musical Programs.

The benevolents of Bethlehem were yesterday in Omaha. The refrain of the angels was caught up by those nearest like them, the children, and by choirs of the devout. Those there were who said, "For it was the holy day in which the great and the obscure, the fortunate and the unfortunate, the aged and the youthful, felt a common interest. It was that one hell-day which Christian people everywhere recognize and generally observe. It was Christ-mas."

Not, perhaps, an ideal Christmas, because the thermometer registered nearly zero and little snow was left upon the ground, but a Christmas which had at least the virtue of a sunny sky and a clear, crisp air. A Christmas which made the family friends the most enticing of places and kept old and young together under the same roof, no matter how humble or how ornate that roof might be.

At the churches there was one grand hour of praise and rejoicing, singing, bells, keys and music, measured but always with a sense of reverent admiration dominant, and with such arrangement that this note might well come from every soul. Congregations content to listen through the year demand to lead on Christmas day.

At the jails, supposedly the churches' opposite, there was no choir and there was no preacher, but there were prayers, there were psalms and there were sermons, the latter preached by kindly people who reached the erring heart by the alimentary canal, and taught the gospel of charity, forgiveness and good cheer.

At the doors of those of scanty purse knocked latter-day Samaritans, who called not to reprove, but to encourage and to soothe. The Salvation Army alone cared for 230 families with its burdened baskets.

Plenty for the Poor.

Others of the Samaritan tribe labored at fixed centers of congregate. From 10 in the morning until 10 at night plenty burdened long tables at the Newboys' home and all were free to share. At the Tenth Street City mission there was ministration to those who must be taught by charity how different is good from evil and how open the hand of the truly godly.

At the county farm a number of those who remember the needs that others forget gave a concert and entertainment supplementary to the dinner given by the superintendent.

And in a hundred of other places that the public know not of and never will know of were other acts of kindness small and great, but all because it was Christmas, the day of peace and good will. Employers gave armies of employees remembrances, feathered and unfeathered, and the employees in turn gave their employers tokens of a kindly feeling. The warm bird is ever incidental to the warmed hand and the warmed heart.

In order that others might splice their meal with laughter the stage folk did double duty, but as recompense received gifts by the wagon load, and at the Roxy were banqueted by their managers after the night performance.

POOR CHILDREN ARE MADE GLAD.

Miss Magee Plays Santa Claus at City Mission.

Probably in no place in Omaha did Christmas mean more to the children than at Tenth Street City mission. Not Christmas in the truest sense, perhaps, but in all its bewildering delight of anticipation, surprise and satisfaction. The 160 children in regular attendance were provided with presents, and a half hundred more, some strangers and others only occasional visitors from other parts of the city, were given bags of candy. Following her plan of last year, Miss Magee, the city missionary, had ascertained the wants of the children and as nearly as possible supplied each package with at least one of the desired articles, the rest of the bundle being made up from toys that had been contributed.

To avoid all possible confusion, the girls had been told to come for their things at 8 o'clock and the boys at 10, but heedless of the cold, a good-sized group had assembled half an hour before time to be admitted. The rear end of the mission room had been partitioned off to hide the bulging packages that were piled high on tables and benches, and when the door was opened the girls came trooping in—about 100 of them—with a baby brother or sister, and sat quietly down to wait until their names were called, a strangely subdued assembly, considering the occasion.

Those children who had the stamp of early responsibility were mingled with radiant expectancy as they watched the window through which Miss Magee passed the packages. As each received her package she passed out, for none was allowed to open a bundle in the building, and was greeted with a shout from the large crowd of boys that pranced up and down the walk and steps in front of the building in their impatience to be admitted and their effort to keep warm. The arrival of Santa Claus at this juncture averted any real disorder, and when a few minutes later the girls had been disposed of and the door was opened again, there were no stragglers among the boys as they burst into the room. They were seated at one side of the room, where they squirmed and twisted in eager impatience, awaiting their turns.

There was considerable variation in the packages, for the children receive their rewards according to their attendances and behavior during the year. There was little complaint, however, though several enterprising street urchins, not regular members of the mission, energetically endeavored to trade their gifts for those they considered more desirable.

By 10:30 the building was cleared of all save those who had remained to carry home the dinners that had been provided for some of the poorer families and a few of the mothers who had come to help the smaller children with their bundles.

There was no distribution of clothing, for these wants are supplied as they occur. It was truly a children's Christmas.

FOR NEW YEAR'S DINNER DESSERT
try JELLO, prepared according to the following recipe:

WINE JELLY.

One package Jello-O, 1 pint of boiling water, 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of port wine, juice of six oranges. Cut each orange in two, being careful not to break the rind, add jelly in partly congealed till soft, add sugar and orange juice, with whipped cream piled on top. May be served in sherbet cups if desired. A delicious wine jelly may be made by adding one glass of good sherry or port wine to any of the Jello-O flavors.

A nice dessert for any meal, at any time. Four flavors—Lemon, Orange, Raspberry and Strawberry.

At grocers, 10 cents.

GET A PACKAGE TODAY.

of toys and candy and, best of all, it was reflected back into the homes, for it was there that the bundles were opened and enjoyed.

STAGE FOLKS FARE VERY WELL.

Christmas Supper at Boyd's and Gifts at Front of the Houses.

A real meal, accommodating real appetites, was served on the stage of Boyd's theater last night after the performance of "Floradora." The entertainers were Mr. John C. Fisher and Mr. Thomas W. Ryley, proprietors of the piece, and the guests were the seventy-eight members of their company. It was distinctly a Christmas feast, with the spirit of good fellowship and the festive, the fortunate and the unfortunate, the aged and the youthful, felt a common interest. It was that one hell-day which Christian people everywhere recognize and generally observe. It was Christ-mas.

The members of the company had all fared well in the matter of presents—so well, indeed, that a full wagon load of express was delivered at the theater before they arrived and had to be stored until yesterday evening after the matinee.

Manager Burgess of the theater received a silver set from his stage employees and various gifts from the members of his executive staff, who also exchanged presents with each other.

Carl Carter of the Orpheum theater received a famous leather case for his opera hat from some of his employers, a seashell cap from others and pleasing mementoes from Lillian Burkhardt and from those now playing the house. Billy Byrne received, besides a silver-trimmed umbrella and cane, fancy mufflers and eight boxes of cigars and of their contents had ten smokes left at 6 o'clock.

The managers state that the public was also particularly aggravating in the demands made upon the agencies, expecting a boy to be upon the doorstep the moment he had been called. The boys labored earnestly to serve their patrons and many were rewarded by very generous "tips," several receiving as high as \$10 from a single trip. All the boys reaped a harvest during the holiday service, which they think well repays them for the extra effort which they put forth.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CELEBRATE DAY

Fifteenth "Christmas Libations" of Mt. Calvary Commandery No. 1.

Mount Calvary commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, enjoyed with their wives and friends yesterday morning at Masonic temple, their fifteenth annual "Christmas Libations." The members were clothed in the full Templar regalia and the program was a most impressive one.

Following the song, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," by the choir, Eminence Sir Knight Benjamin F. Thomas delivered the address of the day. The Knights Templar have the holidays of the year and pointed out how far the Christmas day outlasted all of the others. Sir Knight Asiel Steere, Jr., spoke of the Knights of the Cross and their objects and duties. What Christmas meant to the Knights Templar was told by Sir Knight Sylvester A. Searle. The departed sir knight was eulogized in the address of Sir Knight E. Combe Smith. "The Real and the Ideal" was the subject of Sir Knight Frank H. Gaines' address. The music of the occasion was under the direction of Sir Knight E. M. Jones. Jo F. Barton sang the solo, "Face to Face."

ENTERTAINMENT AT POOR FARM

Takes Place in Long Corridor After Big Dinner.

Food, Clothing and Fuel for One Thousand Families.

The work was undertaken by the members of the Salvation Army and which was successfully accomplished Christmas day, brought comfort and good cheer to over 1,000 families in this city who were in direct need of charity, many of whom, ashamed and regretting to ask for aid, were sought out by the army and Health Officer Wooldridge after a most diligent canvass had been made. To each of these families a basket full of food and good things was given. The gifts served to brighten the gloomy holiday which seemed destined to settle over many a household. Clothing in large quantities was also given to the needy poor, while coal and fuel brought warmth to many fireplaces.

The members of the Salvation Army worked far into the night that the distribution might be accomplished, and sorrowful tales are unfolded by the workers of the conditions which were found by them while they were engaged in their duties.

"Houses which contained several families were located and there we found that not sufficient fuel remained to even heat the place during the night. In others food was entirely gone and the members of the impoverished homes were all too scantly clad. There was not one of those 1,000 families that had not the substantial aid that was sent to it," said one of the army after he had returned to headquarters from his mission of mercy.

The bread donated by the bakers' union was used in the distribution, while the meat was furnished by the Cudahy Packing company.

CITY PRISONERS IN GOOD LUCK.

Those Who Are Detained Get an Unusual Dinner.

Christmas day was not permitted to pass unnoticed and unobserved at the police headquarters, as the occasion caused the usual diet to be greatly changed, and pork heart and stew were not on the menu for the men behind the bars. Judge Berka, while holding police court sessions, permitted prisoners to go without the customary fines or sentences, as the most appropriate way of showing his good will. He dispensed with a large array of inebriates with: "You may go, and a merry Christmas to you."

The delectable array of good things which adorned the jail board consisted of chicken potpie, roast beef, cranberries, prunes, mashed potatoes, pickled beets, celery, fruits, fruit and coffee. It was such a spread that it tempted several of the officers on the day shift to avoid the zero weather and enjoy their Christmas dinner from the jail bill of fare.

During the day women from the Tenth street mission called and remembered the prisoners with gifts.

BIG DINNER AT FLYNN'S HOTEL

Host Makes Speech on Dividing of the Ways.

Sixty-two prisoners at the county jail, including six women shared in the Christmas festivities to the extent of a good, big dinner, and not a few of them received special gifts from friends at large. There were some cases after the meal had been eaten that the meal had been given to the rear end of the prison.

Following the day women from the jail bill of fare.

During the day women from the Tenth street mission called and remembered the prisoners with gifts.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

Those Who Are Detained Get an Unusual Dinner.

The role of Lord Abercrombie, in "Florentina," will be sung at the Boyd tonight by a former Omaha boy, T. E. Whitehead.

The role is one of the most prominent male roles in the piece. It is usually sung by Charles Bowers, who, however, gives it to Whitehead for the night in order that the latter may show his friends how well he can handle a difficult part. Whitehead was formerly in the employ of Armour & Co. and was a favorite socially.

HOLIDAY RATES—THE NORTHWESTERN LINE.

Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota.

December 24, 25, 31, January 1.

Very low fares.

1401-1403 Farnam street.

A Beautiful Calendar.

At KOUNTZE MEMORIAL CHURCH,

Christmas Anthems by Chorus of Forty Voices.

Christmas was appropriately observed yesterday by the members of the Kountze Memorial church, special services having been held in remembrance of the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. The renderings of

the soloists were excellent.

Children Entertain at Hanscom Park.

The members of the Hanscom Park Methodist Sunday school appropriately observed the Christmas day yesterday evening, when a pleasing entertainment was given by them before a large audience. The little people admirably rendered carols and recitations that were exceptionally entertaining. Songs by the entire school and several by the different departments served to make an excellent program. The renditions by the little people showed careful drill and preparation.

CANTATA AT GRACE BAPTIST.

One of the pleasing Christmas entertainments which was given in this city Thursday evening was that of the Grace Baptist church, Tenth and Arbor streets. The program for the evening consisted of a cantata entitled, "A Good Time with Santa Claus." The production was listened to by a large audience and merited much praise for those who took part in the entertainment.

LOW TAKE NO RISK.

In using Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. It cures all lung troubles or no pay. 50¢ and \$1. For sale by Kuhn & Co.

Monroe Coal and Feed Co., 807 N. 16th St. Tel. 971.

HOLIDAY HOURS.

On December 24, 25 and 31 and January 1 the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway will sell round trip tickets to points within 200 miles of Fare and one-third Final limit, January 2.

City Office, 1504 Farnam St.

A Woman's Work in Club and Charity

WOMAN'S WORK IN CLUB AND CHARITY

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