

GREAT CITIES MAKE MERRY ON THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS DAY

Municipal Celebrations Are Everywhere Held on the Night Before.

CHILDREN SING IN STREETS

Poor Remembered by Charitable Throughout Every Part of the Nation.

SANTA PLAYED TO THE WORLD

New York Preachers Today Will Speak for Suffering in Europe.

AID OF BELGIANS TO BE PLEA

Call for Help for Distressed Victims of Dreadful War Sounded from Pulpits of Gotham Churches.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—In their Christmas sermons tomorrow more than 2,000 ministers of all denominations throughout the United States, if not the entire world, will dwell at length upon the needs of starving Belgium.

This action of the priests and ministers and bishops, it was stated tonight in an announcement by the commission for relief in Belgium, will come as a result of a request in country-wide form to them by the commission.

Among those who will take up the war in their sermons is the Rev. Frederick T. M. C. Birmingham of Nebraska, who, it is stated, is the author of a sermon entitled "World Peace," which was printed as a public document by congress in July, 1913.

It was said at the office of the commission for relief in Belgium today that the entire cargo of the steamer Perona, sailing from Philadelphia for Rotterdam, should be credited to the Rockefeller foundation, as it was donated entirely by it.

Observance at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 24.—While hundreds of children sang carols and a band played selections appropriate to the season, a large crowd thronged the public square tonight, the occasion marking Cleveland's second festivities in connection with the community Christmas. A mammoth Christmas tree, decorated with scores of electric lights towered above the crowd.

The zone of the charity work extended outside of Cleveland, including the eastern Ohio coal fields, where 15,000 miners have been on strike since April 1. Many families in that section were sent clothing and food.

Celebration at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 24.—Christmas festivities here opened this evening with a municipal celebration around a great illuminated cedar tree which had been set up on Twelfth street place. Seventy-five smaller trees lined the plaza. A chorus of 20 sang Christmas carols around the tree, after which they went to all parts of the city and sang in front of every window in which a lighted candle had been placed.

Boy Scouts Play Santa.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—Five thousand persons, 2,000 of them Boy Scouts, played Santa Claus in Kansas City's Christmas celebration, begun tonight. They played Santa Claus for children, for grown persons, for European war sufferers, for Colorado strike sufferers and for animals.

The Boy Scouts, working in troops, cooperated with a charitable organization in caring for the city's poor. They reported, so far as they know, not a poverty-stricken family had been neglected. Boxes of clothing and food, collected under the direction of Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations, were sent to the Colorado strike sufferers. Tomorrow plans are being made to entertain 2,500 children in Convention hall at the mayor's Christmas tree.

The horses of the city were given a Christmas dinner at Convention hall, every animal getting half a bushel of oats.

Candle in Windows.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 24.—In thousands of windows here tonight candles were burning in celebration of Christmas eve. The custom in vogue throughout several European countries, (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

The Weather

Forecast until 7 p. m. Friday: For Omaha, Council Bluffs and vicinity—Unsettled with probably snow; no important change in temperature.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday. Hours. Deg. 5 a. m. 9 6 a. m. 10 7 a. m. 11 8 a. m. 12 9 a. m. 1 10 a. m. 2 11 a. m. 3 12 p. m. 4 1 p. m. 5 2 p. m. 6 3 p. m. 7 4 p. m. 8 5 p. m. 9 6 p. m. 10 7 p. m. 8 8 p. m. 9

Comparative Local Record. Highest yesterday 1914, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1900, 1899, 1898, 1897, 1896, 1895, 1894, 1893, 1892, 1891, 1890, 1889, 1888, 1887, 1886, 1885, 1884, 1883, 1882, 1881, 1880, 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, 1871, 1870, 1869, 1868, 1867, 1866, 1865, 1864, 1863, 1862, 1861, 1860, 1859, 1858, 1857, 1856, 1855, 1854, 1853, 1852, 1851, 1850, 1849, 1848, 1847, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, 1842, 1841, 1840, 1839, 1838, 1837, 1836, 1835, 1834, 1833, 1832, 1831, 1830, 1829, 1828, 1827, 1826, 1825, 1824, 1823, 1822, 1821, 1820, 1819, 1818, 1817, 1816, 1815, 1814, 1813, 1812, 1811, 1810, 1809, 1808, 1807, 1806, 1805, 1804, 1803, 1802, 1801, 1800, 1799, 1798, 1797, 1796, 1795, 1794, 1793, 1792, 1791, 1790, 1789, 1788, 1787, 1786, 1785, 1784, 1783, 1782, 1781, 1780, 1779, 1778, 1777, 1776, 1775, 1774, 1773, 1772, 1771, 1770, 1769, 1768, 1767, 1766, 1765, 1764, 1763, 1762, 1761, 1760, 1759, 1758, 1757, 1756, 1755, 1754, 1753, 1752, 1751, 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