Unusual Spirit In Christmas Shopping Noted

Old Rush of Former Years Is Lacking—Buying Is More Consistent and With an Eye to Practicability.

With only nine days remaining in which to do Christmas shopping, the grand rush is on in full force to complete all the required purchasing yet, according to downtown merchants, it isn't the surging crowds of former years, rushing pell mell through their stores, undecided as to what they want to buy, but an orderly, well-behaved crowd of customers with a definite plan as to what they want, which results in quick sales and efficient service.

The spirit of Christmas seemed to visit Omaha Monday with the light snowfall, which lasted the greater part of the day. The streets downtown were crowded and the stores were doing a brisk business with Christmas shoppers. While the snow was welcome, it made walking unpleasant because of the wet sidewalks, but the weather didn't interfere with business.

Buying In Earnest.

"Omaha has entered into the spirit of Christmas buying in earnest," Karl N. Lewis of the Brandeis stores said. "Our Christmas rush started some time ago and last Saturday was one of the best days, relative to the volume of business done, we have had for some time.

"Monday our stores were comfortably filled with customers who were doing nothing but Christmas shopping. I know the business done this season will compare favorably with that of last year. I do not look for any mad rush in the last few days before Christmas. I'm sure Christmas shopping will have been done in time avoid any rush."

Shopping Is Consistent.

Thomas Flynn, secretary of Hayden Brothers, can see nothing but an optimistic future and he bases his predictions on the present Christmas shopping.

"Our business has been steady each day," he said. "There have been no mad rushes, yet the buying has been consistent. I note one thing which places this Christmas buying ahead of that of last year. People are buying more pratical and substantial things. This tone prevails in all departments. Most gifts this year will be useful. I can't say as much foresight was used in Christmas buying last year. People, especially the farmers, had plenty of money and they spent it just as they wished, regardless of cost and practicability of gifts.

"I look for good business after the holidays. There are calamity howlers who can see nothing but clouds in the future, but I see a much brighter outlook."

T. P. Redmond, superintendent of the Burgess-Nash stores, is satisfied with the trend of Christmas shoppers. "While we expected a good brisk Christmas trade," he said, "business has over-reached any expectations we had. We hadn't intended to open our new basement until after the holidays, but the Christmas shopping began so early and with such a rush we saw more room was necessary to accommodate the trade and the new basement, with its Christmas merchandise, was opened.

No Rush Expected.

"Buyers are spending their money in a businesslike way. Business has been good in all departments and I expect it to continue until the last day."

Big downtown merchants were not the only men who had nice things to say about the success of Christmas shopping this year. The smaller merchants are getting their share of the Christmas trade and business with them "is good," they say.

Most merchants do not expect a last-moment rush. They say the consistent advertising and warnings to customers to "do their Christmas shopping early" have brought their reward.

3 Men Who Broke Paroles Returned to Penitentiary

Joseph Adcock and Albert Gard, sentenced to from one to 10 years in the state penitentiary for automobile theft, and furloughed on April 9, were returned to the penitentiary from Omaha yesterday by E. M. Johnson of the Board of Public Welfare.

The two men were arrested in connection with the theft of an automobile in Omaha which they are said to have taken to Kansas City, thus violating their parole. They were sent to the penitentiary from Lancaster county.

Leon Hudson, who recently confessed to assisting two woman inmates of the York Custodial School for Women to escape, was also returned to the penitentiary today.

Rivalry of Kings Led to Cloth of Gold Textiles

The endeavors of two kings to outrival each other in wearing the most beautiful woven cloth resulted in weaving cloth of gold textile and brought the weaver's art to its highest form, according to Miss Elizabeth Bennett, Chicago Art museum, who spoke before the members of the Society of Fine Arts Monday.

Miss Bennett traced the development of weaving from the time this art was introduced into Italy through the 17th century, in which weaving became recognized as one of the highest arts.

Council Approves $125,000 Loan to Omaha Water Board

Formal approval of a loan of $125,000 from the municipal government to the Metropolitan Water board was recorded at the city council meeting yesterday morning. The money will be used for the payment of the first interest on the gas plant bonds which were issued July 1, 1920.

"I feel that the city's credit must be maintained—that is a cinch—notwithstanding personal feelings on the matter," said Mayor Smith.

Betterment Society Meets.

Annual meeting of the Omaha Association for the Betterment of Girls and Boys will be held next Thursday at 12:15 p. m. in the Chamber of Commerce.

A Remnant

By Charles Dana Gibson
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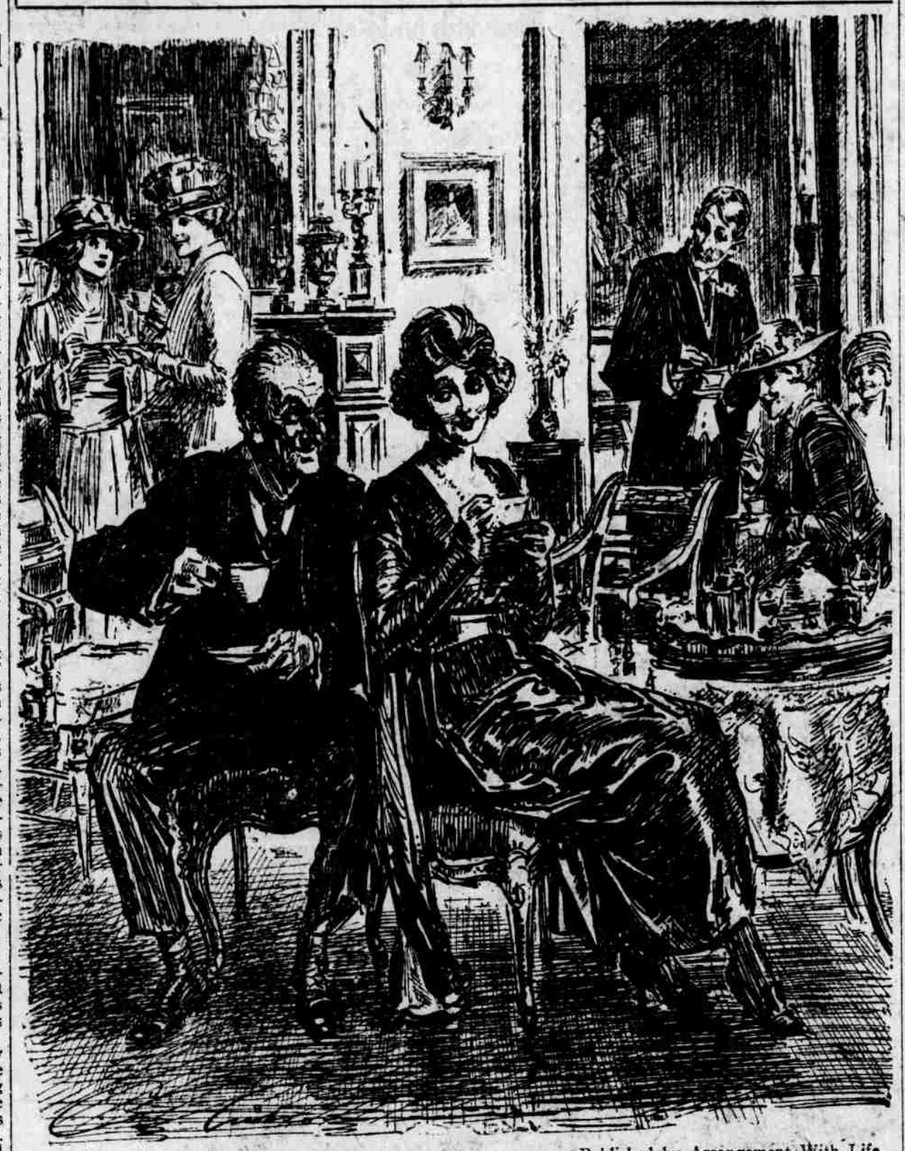

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"I am going to give you myself for Christmas."

"Don't do it; I don't want folks to say that I didn't do my Christmas shopping early enough."

Argentina Not to Notify League of Its Withdrawal

Government Holds It Never Was Member and Hence Will Not Remain for Two More Years.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 14.—The Argentine government will not give any notification of withdrawal from the league of nations in accordance with Article I of the pact, because it does not consider that Argentina ever has been a member of the league, The Associated Press was informed by the foreign office today.

Geneva dispatches had indicated that notification of withdrawal from the league was expected from Argentina as the next diplomatic step, and that it was considered she must continue to be a member of the league for two years after such notification was given, in accordance with the terms of the pact.

Deny Membership.

The foreign office points to a series of diplomatic documents published last week regarding the relations of Argentina to the league, which are held to show that she only accepted the formation of the league "in principle." Her adhesion, it is declared, was "adhesion in general."

The documents are adduced to show it was clearly stated that Argentina sent delegates for the purpose of assisting in the organization of the league after having set forth in diplomatic communications that it favored the establishment of a league in which all nations would participate without distinction.

Adhesion Only General.

The government's adhesion, therefore, was conditional, it is further explained, and its delegates went to Geneva to discuss the conditions of the league's establishment.

The Argentine government's view it was declared, is that since the Geneva assembly did not permit discussion of the Argentinian conditions as to the formation of the league, the withdrawal of Argentina's delegation ends the matter for her so far as the present league is concerned.

Speeder Copies Road Laws In Longhand as Punishment

Santa Barbara, Cal., Dec. 14.—Sentenced by Judge C. E. George to write six sections of the motor vehicle act of California in long hand, E. B. Bleakney, arrested here last week for speeding, today turned in a manuscript to the court which included 23 pages. Bleakney completed the job in two days, he said.

Deaths and Funerals

John H. Willett, 2103 Webster streets, known among pioneer residents of this city as "Johnny" Willett, died yesterday at a hospital. Mr. Willett was 55 years old. For the past 35 years he had been employed in the Union Pacific shops. Funeral services to be held at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon will be conducted by the Masonic lodge. Burial will be in Forest Lawn cemetery. Surviving Mr. Willett are his widow, two sons and a daughter.

R. B. McWhiney, 27, vice president of the Omaha Tenants' Protective league, died in his apartment at Drake court Monday night from an illness of one week. Cause of death was given as pneumonia. Mr. McWhiney had been married but a year following his discharge from military service in the army.

Notification of the death in New York City of Mrs. Alexander Shaler has been received by Mrs. K. R. J. Edholm, her granddaughter. Mrs. Shaler was 91 years of age and the widow of Gen. Alexander Shaler, who served in the Sixth Corps army of the Potomac during the Civil war.

Mrs. Caroline Yost Snell, 63, whose niece, Miss Ethel Yost, resides in Omaha, died early Monday at her home in Waterville, N. Y., after two years' illness.

Cleveland Judge Placed On Trial On Murder Charge

Chief Justice of Municipal Court Will Battle for Life for Alleged Slaying of Former Saloon Man.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 14.—William H. McGannon, chief justice of the municipal court, was placed on trial in common pleas court here, charged with second degree murder for the slaying of Harold C. Kagy last May.

An indictment charging Judge McGannon with the crime was returned by the Cuyahoga county grand jury on November 27 after a six-day investigation of the case. Judge McGannon pleaded not guilty and was released on $10,000 bond.

John W. Joyce, former downtown saloonkeeper, indicted for second degree murder for killing Kagy, was found not guilty by a jury on November 17. The next day the grand jury started a second investigation of the case, resulting in McGannon's indictment.

Was Prosecution Witness.

Judge McGannon was one of the principal witnesses for the prosecution at the Joyce trial and it is expected that Joyce will be one of the state's principal witnesses against McGannon. A motive for the killing of Kagy was not developed by either investigation.

The case is one of the most important ever brought before local courts, involving, as it does, a jurist who was chosen by the people for a position of high trust and responsibility and presenting a dramatic contrast—a judge before whom many have been arraigned—accused of murder. As assistant county prosecutor in 1905 McGannon prepared cases against men accused of murder.

Kagy Was Killed.

Harold C. Kagy, garage owner, after spending the evening of May 7 in company with Judge McGannon and John W. Joyce, a former saloon keeper, was shot at the corner of East Ninth street and Hamilton avenue, early in the morning of May 8, dying in a hospital on May 23, after making a statement a few days previously that Joyce had shot him.

Joyce was indicted and placed on trial. McGammon, a witness for the state at the Joyce trial, testified that he was not present when the shot was fired. He testified that Kagy, Joyce and himself came down town from the East End in McGannon's automobile but that he got out of the machine at Euclid avenue and East Ninth street, three blocks away from the spot where Kagy was shot.

Other witnesses at the Joyce trial testified that McGannon was the "third man" present when the shot was fired and one witness testified that it was McGannon who fired the shot.

Movies at Bancroft Center.

Attendants at the Bancroft Community Center meeting last night were entertained with a series of motion pictures, according to announcement by William Von Kroge, jr., supervisor.

Deserter Is Held.

Clinton, Ill., Dec. 14.—William Thomas, aged 17, was in jail here today on orders from San Francisco, where he is alleged to have deserted from the army some time ago.

Thief Takes Army Blankets.

Two army blankets were stolen from the Bancroft school Monday night, Principal Mary Austin reported to Central police headquarters.

Three Are Burned When Gasoline In Stove Explodes

Woman and Two Children Suffer Injuries—Girl's Foot May Have to Be Amputated.

Three persons were severely burned in an explosion caused by pouring gasoline on embers in a stove at the home of Mrs. Kate Kurtz, 4610 South Thirty-third street, at 8:30 yesterday morning.

The burned are:

Stanley Barber, 14, Thirty-ninth and R streets, burns about the body and left hip.

Mrs. Kate Kurtz, burns about the face, head and hands.

Vivian Kurtz, 14, body burns and left foot. The girl's foot may have to be amputated, according to police surgeons who were called to attend the injured.

Gasoline By Mistake.

The Barber boy was on his way to school and stopped at the Kurtz home. He offered to assist in starting the fire, which was believed to be out.

Mrs. Kurtz told him to get a can of coal oil in the corner of the kitchen, but the lad picked up a can of gasoline by mistake. As he poured the gasoline on the shavings and paper in the stove on the ashes, the explosion shot flames through the doors of the stove, burning him, Mrs. Kurtz and the girl.

Firemen Check Flames.

Firemen from the station house at the corner heard the explosion and rushing with chemicals, extinguished the flames before material damage was done the home.

None of the burns is believed fatal, although attending surgeons say all three victims are in a critical condition.

Young People Must Heed Dry Law, Bishop Declares

Making the 18th amendment really effective in the United States is up to the younger generation, Bishop Homer C. Stuntz, head of the Omaha area of the Methodist church, told 500 young men and women members of the Epworth League union of Omaha churches at the annual banquet in the Henshaw hotel Monday night.

The bishop also spoke of Sunday as a day to be kept holy "in reading and actions." Rev. J. W. Kirkpatrick gave a "Toast to Our Bishop." Miss Jennie Brubaker spoke on "Slippers," J. Bruce McLean on "Back to Earth," and Miss Ruth Gordon sang a solo. The Trinity male quartet led community singing. Robert Anderson was toastmaster.