

CHRISTMAS EVE JOYOUSLY KEPT IN CITY AND COUNTRY

RICH AND POOR SHARE SEASON'S GOOD CHEER

Rags and Tags and Velvet Gowns Mingle About Tree in Madison Square.

DINNERS TO ALL WHO NEED

Christmas Spirit Abroad in Many Public and Private Charities.

There is one statement about a public Christmas tree that cannot be gainsaid: its appeal is to all, regardless of race, creed, color or surroundings.

When the huge Christmas tree in Madison Square Garden blazed into light at 5:10 yesterday evening 10,000 people were in the park.

There were outside hundreds of them, but they were lost sight of in the great throng. And so it continued until midnight a scattering of poor, a scattering of the lower classes and thousands of persons who have Christmas trees at home.

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man tree last night. The neighborhood was out in force to take in the sight yesterday at the New York farm colony, Castleton Corner, Staten Island, today will include turkey, cranberry sauce, celery, parsnips, pumpkin pie and other good things. Saint Joseph Pick has arranged a Christmas entertainment for Saturday afternoon.

Dinners for the Newsboys. William M. Fliess, Jr., will continue the habit of his dead father by providing his dinners for the newsboys at the Brace Memorial Lodging House, 14 Chambers Street.

Mrs. Robert Stafford of the Hotel Imperial will entertain 100 newsboys at her hotel, providing a huge dinner with all the trimmings. The hotel's caterer, Richard Crumby of the Newsboys Home Club, Second Avenue and Eleventh Street, is helping Mrs. Stafford in her project, and several prominent members of the society have agreed to act as patronesses.

The Tough Club will have its annual Christmas celebration for the children of Greenwich village at the clubhouse, 243 West Fourth Street, at 2 P. M.

Salvation Army Dinner To-day. Generous as yesterday was with Christmas cheer, the city begins its real Christmas celebration to-day. The Salvation Army will give its annual Christmas dinner this morning. Between 25,000 and 30,000 dinners will be furnished in New York city alone. The Ninth Regiment Armory will be used as headquarters.

The Bowery Mission has planned to break all records. Usually dinners for 20,000 are given on the Bowery. This year the number will be 3,500, in 350 baskets, each containing dinner for ten.

Special Church Services. Nearly all the New York churches have arranged for special Christmas services at 11 o'clock this morning. St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, in Duane Street, has arranged for an early mass at 3:15 A. M. for nightworkers.

In St. Patrick's Cathedral Mgr. Lavelle will offer the first mass at 4:30. Cardinal Farley will sing pontifical mass at 11 o'clock and will impart the papal benediction.

Bishop Greer will preach at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at 11 o'clock and will lead the Christmas festival music.

HOSPITAL AIDS SANTA TOO.

Presbyterian Institution cheers Poor of its Neighborhood.

Little home made carts were trundled up to the doors of the Presbyterian Hospital at Madison Avenue and Seventy-first Street, all day long yesterday and were filled by nurses with baskets of chicken and pies and things that make Christmas worth while. The good things were trundled back to tenements by youngsters to whom last night was probably the longest night in the year.

It was part of the work that goes on in the big red brick building all the year round to make life easier and healthier for some of those who live in the neighborhood. The cornerstone proclaims that the hospital is "For the poor of New York city regardless of race, creed or color."

The bringing of good cheer to tenements is part of the work of the visiting nurses' department, headed by Miss Mary A. Bowler. On Thursday the Christmas tree was set up in the dispensary of the hospital and 435 youngsters and their mothers sat around it and sang carols.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in actual cash gifts and turkey, gloves, hats, coats, wash clothes and other gifts were presented today by the John B. Stetson Company, hat makers, to its employees, according to an official statement by the company. The presentation is a regular feature of the firm's system of rewarding faithful employees by making them stockholders in the company, were made in a banquet at the plant at Fifth Street and Montgomery Avenue.

The turkeys distributed to-day weighed more than twenty-one tons. They were given to 2,000 of the firm's 5,400 employees, every one of whom also received a Christmas gift. Included in the gifts were 425 shares of stock in the John B. Stetson Building and Loan Association, which has a common stock present market value \$400 a share, and two \$5,000 life insurance policies.

MRS. BRADY MAKES MANY GLAD.

Widow of Financier Is Blackwell Island's Santa Claus.

Patients in the charity hospital on Blackwell's Island were made happy yesterday by Mrs. Marcia A. Brady, widow of Anthony N. Brady.

Last week she visited that institution with her retinue and personally asked each inmate what he wanted for Christmas. The names and the requests were noted down and on Monday five automobiles went over to the island with the gifts Mrs. Brady had purchased.

Every one of the 750 inmates got exactly what had been asked for. The presents ranged from entire outfits of clothing to sweater vests, woolen socks, fruit and candy.

Some of the patients who didn't take the call Mrs. Brady made with much seriousness were a bit inconsolable when the gifts arrived and it was found that those making the most expensive requests had received just what they asked for, while those who asked for trifles got them.

SANTA CLAUS DIES AT HIS TASK.

Invalid Carries Gifts to Poor Boy and Effort Is Fatal.

DENVER, Dec. 24.—Wilbur Harris, nine-year-old son of a poverty stricken mother, will have his Christmas celebration, but W. H. Heap, who made possible the salvation Santa Claus myth for little Wilbur, is dead.

Mr. Heap came here from Paterson, N. J., suffering with consumption. He ignored specialists' commands to remain in bed and walked block after block in the snow in the poor section of the city with a great load of presents for the children of the Harris family. The automobile he used could not penetrate the deep drifts, and Mr. Heap staggered under his burden to the Harris door.

When he had delivered the presents he was summoned, but they found him dead. He had been carrying the gifts to the Harris door.

The Christmas Tree Show in City Hall Plaza



SAILORS DELIGHT IN FAIRY XMAS TALES

Bluejackets Unable to Pass Day Ashore Love to Hear Fanciful Yarns.

ONE TOLD OF THE WYOMING Spirit of Holiday in Homely Allegory, With Newsboy as the Hero.

On the gun deck of the battleship Wyoming, where 800 men were the other night to find out how I like Santa's sailors spend Christmas, a group of half and hearty fellows sat about telling stories.

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PHENOMENAL DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS—STOCK GOES UP FOUR POINTS.

A rise of four points in Reading and a rush of trading was the remarkable feature of the day in Wall Street yesterday.

As the result, Reading stock on the exchange jumped 4 1/2 points.

Trading naturally followed in the market leaders, Steel, Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Copper.

The belief that Pennsylvania will sell its Norfolk and Western stock was an important market factor.

Western dropped 3/4 points.

The extra dividend from Reading was reported to the fact that in any dissolution or separation of the parts of the system it is the belief of Wall Street that a large margin is in prospect for stockholders through division of the accumulated profits of the company, which are reported to be very great.

PHONE INDEPENDENTS REJOICE.

Send Praise to McReynolds for Bell Reorganization.

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These messages praise Mr. McReynolds for bringing to a successful issue the long struggle which the independents declare they have carried on for fair competition.

John H. Wright, president of the Independent Telephone Association of America, wrote as follows: "The independent telephone interests of the United States, I desire to express our appreciation of the splendid manner in which you have protected our rights under the law."

"May we also through you express to President Wilson our appreciation of his distinguished personal consideration of this controversy and the unflinching patriotism that has characterized his attitude throughout? Again we congratulate you upon the result already attained."

President B. E. Hubbell of the Federal Telephone and Telegraph Company wrote this letter from Buffalo, N. Y.

"I wired you this morning my congratulations on your masterful handling of the telephone situation. You have done a wonderful work for public good and are being proclaimed a hero by the independent telephone interest, which embraces in its scope more than 400,000 security holders."

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POST OFFICE PEOPLE HANDLE RUSH EASILY

Mountains of Mail Came In and Went Right Out on Time.

PARCEL POST CHIEF ITEM

Even That Wasn't Insuperable Obstacle—Two Deliveries To-day.

The Post Office Department surprised itself yesterday by the ease with which it took care of the Christmas rush of parcel post matter. New to the business, and with no past performances by which to judge, it kept abreast of the deluge in a way that caused Postmaster Morgan's bosom to expand with pride.

"The work exceeded all expectations," said Assistant Postmaster Murphy last night. "There was no trouble at all, no delay, and everything is cleared up to-night. There are a couple of deliveries to-morrow, but they will be taken care of easily. We are surprised and gratified."

There were extra men and wagons used, of course, but there always are on Christmas eve. Postmaster Morgan had anticipated matters with so fine a precision that no hitch occurred in the handling of the immense quantity of mail matter. He has been at the Post Office regularly every day, even on Sunday, seeing that no delay occurred in the service.

The Brooklyn department fought the rush by dint of great hustling and the use of 150 extra wagons and five extra depots for sorting. It is expected that by this morning everything will have been cleared away.

At the Grand Central station about 15,000 sacks of outgoing parcel post matter have been handled every night for the last three nights. The rush necessitated the use of about 150 extra men.

The parcel post matter kept pace with the first class mail and went out on the rush was coped with. Just to give an idea of the amount of matter handled it may be said that the first class mail increased largely over last year, and that nearly one-third more postals were handled than ever before.

At Long Island City, the distributing point for Long Island, more than 1000 sacks were piled up in a wall fifteen feet high from the sidewalk around to the main room. Extra men were sent over from Manhattan and by last night they had cleared away most of the parcel post matter. Electric lights were strung out on the roof of the parcel post matter building this morning it is expected that every package will be on its way to its destination.

Altogether the postmasters at the various big stations around New York City were pleased with the way in which they had been able to handle a situation that for them had no precedent. They pronounced the parcel post a decided success, and are now not afraid to tackle any condition created by the service.

TREES AGLOW AT SEA TO-NIGHT.

Christmas Party for 80 Children on French Liner La Lorraine.

The French liner La Lorraine called for Christmas eve last night with presents to bring a happy Christmas at sea to the eighty children among the passengers.

Three big trees were set up before the liner left her pier, one in the first cabin on the second and one in the stateroom, and Capt. Ernest Maurras took along a red Santa Claus outfit in which he will appear when the trees are stripped of presents to-day.

The passengers expected to spend Christmas eve hanging on the presents. There are 632 cabin passengers and 500 in the stateroom.

George Fred Williams, newly appointed United States Minister to Greece, sailed on La Lorraine. He will go directly to Athens.

To-morrow (Friday), Dec. 26th, and until further notice, the Store will be opened daily at 9 A. M.

B. Altman & Co.

Women's Winter Coats and Wraps (sizes incomplete)

at extraordinarily large price reductions.

The following will be offered to-morrow (Friday) and Saturday, in order to effect an immediate clearance:

Coats of desirable woollens and fancy materials, some trimmed with fur; originally \$22.00 to 200.00, at \$10.00, 14.50, 25.00, 38.00, 50.00 & 75.00

Wraps for afternoon and evening; originally \$45.00 to 225.00, at \$25.00, 32.00, 50.00 & 75.00

Large Reductions have been made in the prices of Misses' and Small Women's Tailor-made Suits, Afternoon and Evening Dresses, Coats, Wraps, etc.; also Girls' School Frocks and Coats.

Women's Button Boots (sizes incomplete), comprising all lines about to be discontinued and including a great variety of styles, will be placed on sale to-morrow (Friday), and Saturday, in the Shoe Department on the Second Floor, at per pair \$3.50 (Heretofore sold in the regular stock at \$5.00 to 8.00).

5th Avenue, 34th and 35th Streets, New York.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS From Over the Sea The Management of the HOTEL CHATHAM (PARIS)

Sends its American clientele its best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

EUROPEAN RESORTS. EUROPEAN RESORTS.

Victor Neustadt Cleared of Charge by Commissioner Shields.

United States Commissioner Shields dismissed yesterday the complaint against Victor Neustadt, a beer importer of 202 Franklin Street, who was arrested by the Federal authorities on December 3 on a charge of customs fraud.

Neustadt was held in \$5,000 bail by Commissioner Shields on the strength of the Government's charge that Neustadt's firm had been undervaluing beer brought from Austria each month since 1904. A customs official was said to be implicated in the alleged fraud.

Commissioner Shields failed to find evidence against the importer.