# SEASON'S CHEER IN TENTED CITY

## BIG XMAS FOR ARMY ON MEXICAN BORDER

### 8,000 U. S. Troops in Camp at Texas City Prepare for Celebration.

### RARE MENU PREPARED

### Elaborate Athletic Meet Arranged on Parade Grounds at Galveston.

GALVESTON, Tex., Dec. 24.—For the first time since the civil war a body of more than 8,000 United States troops prepared to spend Christmas in camp. Elaborate preparations have been made, however, to provide a merry celebration for this army at Texas City in which every branch of service is represented.

Rain which began shortly after sunrise this morning and continued throughout the day cast a gloom over the entire camp at Texas City. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon, however, the clouds began to disperse and at sunset there was not a cloud in the skies.

Throughout the morning both the men at Texas City and those camped on the military reservation at Fort Crockett were busy preparing the big athletic meet scheduled to take place on the reservation, while others were getting together the good things for the Christmas dinner.

For the second time since the 8,000 men went into camp at Texas City there will be held a military field mass for the men in the camp of the Fourth Field Artillery at 10 o'clock in the morning under direction of Chaplain Francis P. Joyce of that regiment and the artillery band will furnish the music. Chaplains of the other regiments both at Texas City and Fort Crockett will also hold religious ceremonies at different hours during the day.

#### Rare Delicacies Prepared.

For more than a week men of the different companies who are adept with shotgun and fishing line have been preparing menus for Christmas Day, and no hotel in all the land will offer more tempting repasts than those prepared by the company chefs.

This is the season here of the wild ducks and the vicinity of Texas City is one of the favorite halting places of this bird, so in addition to the 15,000 pounds of turkey and cranberry sauce already listed as a part of the good things, many of the mess tables will carry mallard, canvas back, greenhead and teal ducks; then there will be trout, whiting, red fish and crabs caught in the bay, a short distance from the camp, while oysters from adjacent reefs will be served in every known style.

For the first time in the lives of many of the men they tasted crab and oyster gumbo and flounder chowder, prepared by adepts, residents of this section who have volunteered their services and skill for this particular occasion. The menu of almost every company will conclude with plum pudding, black coffee and "smokes."

After the dinner will come the story telling hour. There are men in the Texas city camp who have seen service in the Boxer rebellion in China, others who have spent some time in the Philippines and yet others who went through the Cuban campaign in the Spanish-American war, and all these will be called upon to fill out the period when the cigars are aiding in the digestion of the turkey and game dinner.

#### Big Athletic Events Scheduled.

Little or no work will be done during the day outside of guard mount, and while a number of minor athletic events are scheduled a large number of men will take advantage of leave and visit Galveston, where an elaborate field meet has been arranged on the Parade Grounds of the Fifth Brigade.

The Fourth Infantry will have possession of the field in the morning and it will be under the auspices of this regiment that the big meet will be held. The twelve companies in this regiment will each contribute one competitor for most of the events, and the regimental detachment and band will each furnish one, making fourteen contestants. Some of the events are unique and have never been seen here up to this time; for instance, event No. 3, pitching the shelter tent, will be contested by two men from each company in the regiment. This tent is used when on march, and when pitched its front support is a rifle and rear a bayonet. This and the mounted tug of war are creating the most interest among participants.

The mounted tug of war calls for four men on each side. Horses will be equipped with saddle blankets only, the rope to be held in hand or under the arms, but not around the body. Next in interest will be the company relay race, participated in by ten men from each company, each man running 100 yards with a handkerchief in hand, which he passes to next man in race. One hundred and forty men will take part in this event. Then there will be the 100 yard dash, with fourteen entries.

#### 28 in Equipment Race.

The running high jump, 120 yard hurdle, three heats, throwing baseball for accuracy and equipment race are also on the programme. The last named event is peculiarly military. At intervals of ten yards will be placed the soldier's rifle, leggings, hat, canteen pack, bayonet and belt. At the crack of a pistol the contestants will run to the first article, don it and so on to the last article, the belt, and then stand at inspection until the judges shall have scored the points made. Twenty-eight men will take part in this race.

The men who are to take part in the different events will be chosen by the company commander. He will have a splendid list from which to select his men, for the regiment contains some of the best amateur athletes in the country.

Besides these events a number of football games and basketball contests have been arranged, and were it not for the dinner the entire day would have the appearance of an athletic exhibition. For the time the men will be permitted to wear athletic costumes so far as the different events will allow.

There will be several individual prizes awarded besides purses, and the company scoring the largest number of wins will receive an appropriate trophy. The field meet will begin at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning and will be continued throughout the day with proper intermission for dinner. Besides holding most of the men in camp the sports are expected to attract many civilians to the reservation to witness the sports.

Several hunting parties have been arranged among the officers in camp and not a few will accept the hospitality of friends in Houston, Galveston and other nearby cities to take Christmas dinner at their homes. As something entirely out of the ordinary, a bathing party to take a dip in the gulf surf will probably be one of the day's events. Other officers will take their Christmas dinner at some one of the big hotels here, where special preparations have been made for entertaining them and their families. A few have arranged for automobile rides to the country club located at Dickinson, about ten miles from Texas city.

Probably the only regret among the men is the one universally expressed over the transfer of Major-Gen. William H. Carter from the command at Texas city to the Hawaiian Islands.

## PATERSON PLANT GIVES $7,000.

### Five New Jersey Cities Celebrate With Municipal Trees.

PATERSON, N. J., Dec. 24.—The 450 employees of the Peerless Plush Manufacturing Company of this city received as Christmas gifts a total of $7,000 besides their regular weekly pay envelope this afternoon. Enclosed in each envelope was a card of greeting signed by Otto Jaeger, president, and Harry Day, vice-president of the company.

President Jaeger announced that the $7,000 represented an excess of profits earned through a system of economy which the employees followed out through the year.

The Second National Bank of this city and the Passaic National Bank gave each of its employees 10 per cent. of the yearly salary as a bonus. Upward of $25,000 in gold pieces was distributed by various mills, business houses and banking institutions.

Mrs. Emma Johnson of 28 Hamburg avenue, Paterson's "Santa Claus lady," to-day distributed wearing apparel, groceries, candies and nuts to 2,000 women and children, among the gifts being 400 dolls.

The cities of Passaic and Paterson for the first time had a community celebration. In this city a forty foot Christmas tree was planted in front of the City Hall and illuminated by electric lights. The tree at Passaic, 65 feet high, was in East Main avenue opposite the Municipal Building and was hung with 1,000 colored electric lamps. Exercises were held under each tree this evening.

Mayor Andrew F. McBride of this city to-day sent out 900 small Christmas cards personally signed.

Jersey City, Newark and Hoboken, N. J., rejoiced over their first municipal Christmas trees last night. The lights on each tree were switched on at 6 o'clock and appropriate singing of Christmas carols accompanied the dedication.

In Jersey City the tree was erected in front of the City Hall, and from their offices in that building former Mayor Fagan and the other Commissioners viewed the spectacle as 350 church choristers and thousands of spectators joined in the singing. Moving pictures depicted Christmas scenes.

Two thousand school children gathered around the fifty foot fir tree in Hudson Square Park in Hoboken and sang for an hour.

The public Christmas tree in Newark stood in Military Park. The city was divided into 140 districts of eight blocks each and children marched through the streets for half an hour singing carols. To-day the formal exercises at which the tree will be presented to Mayor Haussling will take place.

## STAGE CHILDREN PLAY SANTA.

### Entertain 200 Youngsters From Settlement Houses.

The children engaged in "General John Regan," which is being presented at the Hudson Theatre, gave a Christmas party yesterday afternoon to 200 settlement children who attended the matinee chaperoned by the superintendents of several settlement houses. The arrangements for taking the youngsters to the theatre were made by Helen Curtis of the Greenwich Settlement House.

After the performance the little guests were taken in cabs to Wallack's Theatre, where there was a Christmas tree and presents for all. Cyril Maude, the English actor, made an address, and then there were ice cream, cake and other good things.

## LET JUDGE OFF SO HE CAN FREE CHILDREN

### Former "Ungraded Class" of Jersey City Celebrates Without Court Guests.

### FOUR BOXING BOUTS HELD

### Boys Turkey Trot, Waltz, Sing and Revel in "The Battle of Gettysburg."

Judge Harry Lange of the Hudson county, N. J., Juvenile Court; his clerk and court constables were invited to be guests yesterday at the Christmas exercises of "Special No. 1 for Problematic Children, Not Deficients," formerly the "ungraded class" of the Jersey City public school system, in the annex of No. 9, Brunswick and Mercer streets.

Just before the hour the visitors were expected the Judge had a telephone talk with Mrs. Bessie F. Clements, the teacher, and she passed along the news to the thirty-five boys, all of whom are reformed hookey players or "incorrigibles" with whom other teachers could not get along.

"Boys," said Teacher, "Judge Lange tells me that if he comes to our entertainment to-day he will not be able to dispose of the long calendar of juvenile cases before him. He wants to sign as many releases as he can because he wishes the boys to start off brand new with Christmas Day. The question before the house is: 'Will we release the Judge from his promise to come here for the sake of the children in his court? All those in favor will please say 'Aye.'"

There was an explosion of "Ayes" from lusty youngsters ranging from 8 to 15.

"Those opposed, 'No,'" said Teacher.

Nobody peeped.

It was a wonderful programme, just the kind that every perfectly normal boy likes. There were four boxing bouts that stirred the blood, and nobody offended by hitting below the belt. The boys turkey trotted and waltzed and recited and sang until there wasn't a speck of dust in their lungs. But the feature of the day that gave them the most delight was playing the "Battle of Gettysburg." The boys lined up on either side with their respective generals and moved across the schoolroom just as the Yankees and Johnny Rebs manœuvred, although they were somewhat cramped for space.

#### They Give Presents Now.

Among those who saw the forces charge and recharge was a graduate of the "ungraded class," now a pupil at a military academy, who came back to see how teacher and the boys were getting along. He was in full uniform and his military cap was the wonder of the school. All the boys wanted to try it on at once.

At the close of the fun Mrs. Clements's boys took down their Christmas tree and carried it to the home of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children at 165 Grand street, where it made forty small boys and girls happy. But this wasn't all. Out of a Christmas fund which they collected themselves they bought dresses for two little girls of the neighborhood. They also played Santa Claus to the extent of an overcoat for one boy, not a member of the class, and a brand new waist for another.

When the "ungraded class" was organized seven years ago, it was made up largely of boys from the Little Italy and Polish districts. About two years ago the makeup of the class changed and the truants and "incorrigibles" sent to the annex, began to change. There was a time when new pupils had to be cleaned up and in one or two instances sobered up. Many were sickly and in tatters. To-day the Italian and Polish types are in the minority and the majority of the boys come from families in fairly comfortable circumstances.

#### Have Their Own Trees.

There was a time when every member of Mrs. Clements's class got tickets for the Jersey City Elks' Christmas tree and distribution of presents. Only one boy got a card for the Elks tree yesterday. All the others said they were going to have a Christmas of their own at home.

A SUN reporter asked Mrs. Clements yesterday just how she did it.

"Anybody can do it," she said. "Boys are like love and measles. Let them alone and they'll adjust themselves. Let them be natural. Don't nag them. Get their confidence. Boys enjoyed being trusted. In school they work five hours and they work hard. They have no lessons to study at home. I don't believe in home work for young boys. There's only time enough for playing and helping about the house, if needs be, between the hour school is out and it's time to go to bed."

When Mrs. Clements is obliged to go to the juvenile court during school hours she appoints a class president to help the substitute teacher until she returns. She has never had any complaint of misbehavior during her absence. The SUN man asked how she accounted for it.

"It's very simple," she replied. "When boys are put on their honor as all my boys are, they are not going to misbehave."

## POLICIES AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

### National Bank of Commerce Announces Sweeping Insurance Plan.

The National Bank of Commerce has given Christmas presents to all its officers and clerical employees in the form of group life insurace, group disability insurance and pensions.

Every officer and clerical employee is insured by the Equitable Life Assurance Society for the amount of one year's salary. The disability insurance plan provides for the payment of the full salary for the first month of disability, 50 per cent. during the succeeding twelve months and 50 per cent. during the remainder of the life of the employee, providing disability continues.

All employees reaching the age of 65 are to receive pensions amounting to 2 per cent. of the aggregate wage received during continuous service.

Actuaries say that the plans are more complete than any heretofore adopted.

Continued payment under the disability plan during the entire period of disability, irrespective of length of service, is said to be unique.

The pension feature, too, is unusually broad, since it prescribes no particular period of service, although the amount is proportionate to length of service and salary earned.

The entire cost of the plan is to be borne by the bank.

The bank celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary this coming year.

#### Stock Exchanges Closed.

All the exchanges, money markets and banks in every Christian country will be closed to-day. In England and in France the exchanges will be closed to-morrow also.

# Santa Claus Travels by Telephone

HAVE you heard the Christmas bells? They are telephone bells. And it's Santa Claus delivering the bright, cheery messages of Christmas time.

All through the holiday season friends widely separated and perhaps almost forgotten will hear "Merry Christmas" ringing out over the telephone.

Laughter, kindliness and good cheer will go speeding here, there and everywhere, for Santa Claus travels rapidly by telephone. He uses the almost limitless roadway over which the Christmas spirit can travel.

Possibly *you* know someone to whom the greeting "Merry Christmas" would mean much. Possibly you would like to share your happiness with those who may have less. Then why not pay them a visit by *telephone?* Make it a happier, brighter Christmas for yourself and others—

***Just Telephone "Merry Christmas!"***

**NEW YORK TELEPHONE CO.**



Brooklyn Philadelphia **OPPENHEIM, COLLINS & CO** Buffalo Newark

34th Street—New York

## Clearance Sales

*Begin To-morrow (Friday), December Twenty-Sixth*

**Extraordinary Reductions in All Departments**

### Women's and Misses' Suits—*To Be Closed Out*

| | |
|---|---|
| 260 tailored and semi-dress suits, in fashionable models and materials. *Reduced from 35.00 and 40.00* | 18.00 |
| 120 high-grade suits, of broadcloth, faille de laine and imported novelty fabrics. *Reduced from 45.00 and 50.00* | 22.50 |

### Women's and Misses' Coats and Wraps

| | |
|---|---|
| 140 coats of boucle, chinchilla, velour cheviot and wool plush; some fur-trimmed. *Reduced from 25.00 and 30.00* | 15.00 |
| 115 coats of bayadere cloth, Persian cloth, seal plush and broadcloth; silk-lined. *Reduced from 32.50 and 39.75* | 18.00 |
| 75 evening wraps of brocaded velvet, chiffon velvet, plush and satin brocade. *Reduced from 60.00 to 85.00* | 35.00 |

### Afternoon Dresses and Evening Gowns

| | |
|---|---|
| 165 dresses of charmeuse, crepe, velvet and serge, in attractive models. *Reduced from 30.00 and 35.00* | 15.00 |
| 65 evening gowns in fashionable models, made of the materials now in vogue. *Heretofore 65.00 to 95.00* | 35.00 |

### Fur Coats and Sets *At Closing Out Prices*

| | |
|---|---|
| Caracul Coats *Reduced from 65.00* | 39.50 |
| French Seal Coats *Reduced from 75.00* | 48.00 |
| Hudson Seal Coats *Reduced from 125.00* | 85.00 |
| Australian Seal Coats *Reduced from 95.00* | 68.00 |
| Black Skunk Scarfs *Reduced from 22.50* | 15.00 |
| Black Skunk Muffs *Reduced from 30.00* | 20.00 |
| Pointed Wolf Scarfs *Reduced from 15.00* | 10.00 |
| Pointed Wolf Muffs *Reduced from 18.00* | 12.50 |
| New Chinchilla Squirrel Scarfs *Reduced from 32.50* | 20.00 |
| New Chinchilla Squirrel Muffs *Reduced from 50.00* | 30.00 |

*Will Close Out All Incomplete Sizes in*

### Women's and Misses' Footwear

About 1,200 women's and misses' pumps, oxfords and lace and button boots, of patent coltskin, gunmetal calfskin and tan Russia calfskin, in various desirable models, comprising an accumulation of the season's incomplete sizes. *Regular Values 4.00 to 6.00* — **2.00**

*None Credited* — *None Exchanged*



*On Sale in the Young Men's Clothing Dep't—Third Floor*

**OPPENHEIM, COLLINS & CO**

34th Street—New York

Clearance Sale of

## Young Men's Clothing

*Also Suitable for Men of Medium Size*

### 265 Winter Overcoats

*Sizes 32 to 40*

Semi-fitted and belted-back English models, of Shetland cloth, vicuna cheviot, chinchilla and fine fancy fabrics, with self or velvet collars.

*Reduced from 15.00, 18.00 and 20.00*

**10.00**

### 180 Young Men's Suits

*Sizes 32 to 40*

Three- and four-button models, of fine mixtures, stripes and checks, with flap or patch pockets. Also the latest English double-breasted models.

*Reduced from 15.00, 18.00 and 20.00*

**10.00**

*None Altered* — *None Sent on Approval*