

LOS ANGELES HERALD

BY THE HERALD COMPANY. FRANK G. FINLAYSON, President. ROBT. M. YOST, Editorial Manager. S. H. LAVERTY, Business Manager.

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THE HERALD IN SAN FRANCISCO. Los Angeles and Southern California visit. On sale at the news stands in the Palace and St. Francis hotels.

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Only one more week before you swear off. Better commence the tapering process today.

Yesterday was the shortest day in the year. But there seems to have been just as much work to do as ever.

Mayor McAleer's smelling committee is at work. Very appropriately, the outfall sewer is the scene of its labors.

What a dream of happiness and peace that Japanese war must seem to the czar, in his retrospective moments, these days!

In New York they change one letter in Odell's name to express their feelings of his last yawp—and then feel the inadequacies of language terribly.

This is the last day of the great Christmas rush at the stores, which has been the most tremendous and profitable in the history of Los Angeles.

Silk nightshirts, sewing tables, dude collars, and then some, are among the cargo of a Panama supply ship. These things don't dig canals, Mr. President and Commissioners.

Fire Chief Lips will be tried today by the fire commission upon charges of incompetency. It should be a fair and impartial trial—fair alike to the chief and to the people of Los Angeles.

If Mayor McAleer ever had anything to do with a great exposition he would promptly pass the world's fair business up to San Francisco and be glad of an opportunity to let go gracefully.

With a bullhead breakfast at Verdugo canyon today, the visiting eastern correspondents will be prepared for their Christmas journey back to the land of the blizzard and the snow-drift.

Either the czar or the Associated Press should decide definitely whether universal suffrage has or has not been granted in Russia. His little majesty or the news bureau, one or the other, is wobbly on the question.

Through the interposition of his father, Steel Magnate Corey will be reunited to his wife! Everybody will be glad for her sake and everybody will wish for him that it may teach him a useful and unforgettable lesson.

The city of St. Louis has recently established a department of forestry, with a city forester in charge, to care for public trees, their planting, cultivation and protection. It would not be a bad idea for Los Angeles to consider a similar proposition.

The Christmas mail at the postoffice in Los Angeles this season shows a 25 per cent increase of that handled a year ago and Postmaster Flint will ask for a government commission to devise ways and means to handle matters. Wouldn't that new postoffice help some?

Missouri Republicans tried very hard to procure the appointment of Editor E. E. McJinney of St. Joseph as ambassador to Mexico, but his name was against him and he will be sent away down to Peru, where he may have time to consider the Incas and get his mind off Joe Folk for awhile.

The decision of Mr. R. A. Bird, vice president of the Gould system, to locate in Compton, where he has a 100-acre ranch, is gratifying to all Southern California. Men of Mr. Bird's attainments and ability are helping to build up the commercial and industrial resources of this wonderful country.

Students of the high school who have raised \$2000 to pay one-half the cost of a gymnasium—the city paying the other half—are to be congratulated. They have begun life by successfully accomplishing the first thing of a public nature they undertook to do. The Herald wishes them all the pleasure the gymnasium will give to them.

"I have seen his star," is the subject of Francis Murphy tomorrow night at Blanchard hall. And the grand old temperance orator should have a rousing house to greet him and wish him a Merry Christmas. The souls that Francis Murphy has saved from the burning, no man can number. But they will speak for him in trumpet tones and by congregations at the last great day. God bless him!

FRISCO'S WORLD'S FAIR

Through the California promotion committee the city of San Francisco has sent official notice to Mayor McAleer that "the matter of a world's fair has been agitated for nearly two years in San Francisco," and in effect requesting Los Angeles to keep out of the game.

In a letter to The Herald the Promotion committee says: "The idea is not to throw any cold water on the enterprise of Los Angeles at all, because as you know the committee is working to build up Los Angeles, as well as every other part of California, but the matter of a world's fair has been agitated for some time in San Francisco, and it is well that the people of Los Angeles should know this in order that there may not be two enterprises launched that will conflict."

Now what do you think of that? A two years' agitation of a world's fair in San Francisco, and Los Angeles never heard of it! What sort of agitation do you suppose it was? How wide and how deep and how loud was it? It must have been a profoundly secretive agitation—perhaps because the promoters did not care to have Abe Ruef and Mayor Schmitt hear about it.

As a matter of fact we presume that Los Angeles was never in earnest about holding a world's fair, but we notice that the very first move Los Angeles made was loud enough to be heard in San Francisco. If Frisco wants a world's fair to celebrate the discovery of the Pacific ocean, by all means let her have it. Los Angeles can join in and get a lot of reflected glory out of it without the added responsibility and great burden of financing it.

Whether the Panama canal will be in a condition worthy of commemoration by 1913, when it is proposed to hold the world's fair, depends largely on the canal commission and the kind of canal determined upon. At the present rate of doing nothing we may be ashamed to mention it by that time.

But if San Francisco really designs holding a world's fair, let it begin the movement properly, and with a flourish of trumpets and a roll of drums. That municipality should seek first a state wide conference. It should ask the governor to call a convention of delegates representing every county and every chamber of commerce in California. In that convention a program should be mapped out and the whole state should express a wish that a world's fair be held, and that it be held in San Francisco. And, moreover, that the legislature should appropriate a specified sum, probably one million dollars, to help in the establishment of the fair.

These are the points of beginning. You cannot start a world's fair by sitting around a stove in a country grocery store and talking about it.

Bishop Conaty's return from Europe is a very pleasing incident to the people of Los Angeles, who, irrespective of creed or confession of faith, appreciate all that the splendid prelate has done and is doing for the betterment of Southern California. The work of saving the souls of men and women is greater than building cities and harbors, and men like Bishop Conaty are all too rare in this material world of ours.

CRIMINAL IGNORANCE

One Hendricks, superintendent of insurance for New York, is just now affording a shining example of how little of his duties a sworn state official may know or care about, and still hold his job.

Hendricks has been grilled by the insurance investigating committee in New York city. He gave a most remarkable exhibition of ignorance, and at the conclusion of his testimony it was easy to understand how the big insurance companies were able to manipulate, bullyrag and handle affairs in Gotham which eventuated in the present unsavory mess.

What Hendricks said he knew about the facts of insurance in New York state and city may be summed up in one word: Nothing. On every point asked him, he was ignorant. He had no knowledge whatever of any of the inside workings of the company, the handling of the business, its manipulations, the juggling of figures, assets, securities, etc. He knew no more about the dummy directors, bond-signing office boys, syndicate complications and campaign payments than if he had been dead. At stated intervals he demanded and secured from the companies statements of their business, checked these statements with the books they were drawn from, certified that they were correct, and left the details to imagination, taking the statements "on faith."

Such insurance departments are not only farcical but criminal. The people depend on the insurance commissioner for definite reports on companies in which they intend to become interested. If the insurance commissioner neglect his duty in handling his office, he violates his oath, whether it be through intentional fraud, carelessness or ignorance. Superintendent Hendricks possibly belongs to the latter class, but in none is he a fit holder of that office, and the sooner he gets out the better.

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Hats to Match The exact matching of the color of the felt hat to the color of the coat suit or the coat is one of the little things which give the small girls an appearance of being well dressed. Where the hat is made of felt, the facing of velvet is also matched as accurately as possible.

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200 LADS ROUNDED UP

Youngsters Given Surprise of Their Lives When Each Is Handed Box of Christmas Candy. Get Kind Words From Judge Wilbur

There were two hundred of them and they sat restlessly in the stiff backed pews of the Broadway Christian church yesterday afternoon and listened impatiently while Judge Wilbur of deparment eight of the superior court told them what good little and big boys he expected them to be, in the future.

It was the annual round-up of the boys, who have been under the eye of the probation officer during the past year, and although the girls of the same class were expected to be present they were spared that humiliation and were allowed to remain at home during the Christmas holidays without first coming and reporting.

But it was a strange throng that began to fill the church early in the afternoon and the staid old walls of the building, trained by years of experience to hear nothing but the which was highly proper, raised their figurative hands in mild expostulation at some of the stories told by the restless youngsters as they bobbed their heads together and discussed what they intended to do during the Christmas holidays.

At 3:30 o'clock the lecture first started and every boy was in place with the exception of half a dozen who were excused because of ailments peculiar to boys.

Worst in Front The worst boys of the outfit, if such a distinction could be made, were seated in the front rows nearest the pulpit, while the parents and relatives of the other lads were grouped around in various parts of the church, each trying to get the attention of his or her solicitor had offspring. Tall boys, short boys, lean boys, freckled boys, pale boys, fat boys, white, black and yellow, all offensively clean with the soap shining forth from their eager countenances and their hair gelled up in patches from the use of application of much water.

And the manner in which their hair was brushed would have caused a "tonorial artist" to fall dead with despair. In most cases the hair was like the right of left, it failed to go straight and the hair was parted in a straight and narrow path for about an inch before the channel would be lost entirely, only to start up from the scalp about a half an inch to the right or left. The part terminated in a bunch of hair at the top of the head, jointing directly skyward.

"Geed," said one lad meditatively, as he removed his hat and came ambly down the aisle, "I don't see de bouncer anywhere, so I guess 'I'll jus' ditch dis aggregation and skiddoo," said an overgrown lad as he sneaked quietly for the door, but the bouncer was on hand and before the lad could gain his freedom Bailiff George Conart had overtaken him and he was dragged back to church.

The first group of lads was then called before Judge Wilbur and they stood up straight and answered the question put to them with a cherubical expression on their faces and they kicked their dusty feet together and tried to look as though they were not becoming ill from the good behavior they had been guilty of for a few weeks' past.

Many of the mothers were only too anxious to give good reports of their boys in order to have the youngsters at home for the holidays, but some of the women had found that their boys managed to get along all right within the walls of the detention home and several of them stated that their boys had been behaving very badly and ought not to be allowed to have any holidays.

Then came the surprise of the day. Since the first moment of their arrival more than half the boys who had never been inside a church before had been carefully looking over the furniture of the building. Yes, they knew what that thing was that Judge Wilbur was leaning on. That was the Bible stand, and those chairs with the high backs on the pulpit were for the board of examiners, and the high-backed chairs, as remarked, "They looked like queen's chairs," and women good enough for rulers of any nation occupied them.

Get Christmas Candy But the boys were unable to determine the cause of a lack of pretty boxes, gayly decked with ribbons and piled suggestively near Probation Office, Dodge. They were not allowed to remain uneasy, for, long as the first row of boys was each was presented with a package as they filed back to their seats. They soon discovered that each package contained a pound of good candy, not the disreputable sort generally dealt out on such occasions, but delicate looking chocolates and dainty peppermints, provided by the kind-hearted women of the committee of the juveniles. For many of the boys the candy was the only Christmas present they will receive and their faces beamed with happiness as they hugged their boxes and departed one by one for their homes to spend the holidays. Needless to say, not one of the boys, large or small, considered himself too dignified to accept the parcel.

But although nearly all the lads were happy, there was much sorrow and grief in the tragedy of great suffering and grief was written plainly on the honest face of a young lad who stood up before Judge Wilbur and cried like a man, without shame of his sorrow. The boy was Carl Myers, and he was brought here recently by his father, who is a professional horse trainer. The boy's father is said to be a pretty good sort of a father to the lad, but he made the

mistake of taking the boy from a quiet home with his grandmother on an eastern farm and bringing him to Los Angeles to spend the racing season here. The question of deportment marks on reports was then taken up and any boy who had received an "F" for fair on his report was considered in luck, while "good" marks were a premium.

"What did you get on your report?" asked the judge of one negro. "Oh, I fluctuates between fair and sumthin' else," replied the darky, "but I mightener got 'good' onces," he continued with a hopeful grin.

Then came a slight lull while Judge Wilbur talked with Superintendent Poshay and some of the directors. Left to themselves, the boys began planning mischief, and after a brief argument between two youngsters which began with them sticking out their tongues at one another the two lads attempted to clinch but they were seized by their mothers. Then came a whispering sound, and boys in various parts of the court room and men and women began to murmur about unpleasantly and give sudden jumps. The boys were using a cannoodle of spit balls and everyone was uneasy until the judge started the examinations again.

One boy admitted that sleeping at home was preferable to sleeping in a cell, although he thought that an unnecessary amount of lace washing was required.

Then came the start of the day. One of the board of examiners attempted a private examination among some of the little boys, and the first he met was the "Gold Dust" boys, Frost and Jumbo, who were looking very "silly." "Have you been going to school regularly, boys?" inquired the examiner.

"The boys looked at one another in apparent confusion and rolled their eyes. "No, sah, ah! done been no school, reported Jumbo, who was proven very sagacious in de hard and de teacher said I mus stay way from de res of de kids. Frost found out dat I could stay home, so he rubbed haid wid me an' now we both got 'em and so we been home foh some time."

The examiner discontinued the examination. Finally, after one of the boys had presented holly to the judge and all the boys had been examined and given candy, the most successful examination in the history of the juvenile court was completed and the boys were dismissed. All had received kind words from the judge and everyone had been remembered.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

"The Messiah" The finishing touches have been placed on the preparatory work by Prof. Jahn and the Los Angeles Choral society for the presentation of "The Messiah" at the Mason theater tomorrow afternoon. Mrs. Lyon, the soprano, who received her musical education in Boston, has proven very satisfactory to the musical director. Her experience in singing the soprano role in "The Messiah" throughout New Hampshire and the New England states fitted her for the work.

However, it is probable that the result will be Big Ben, Fireball, Don Domo.

Free Handicap, Also The jockey club has dished up its choicest offerings for today and includes, in addition to the stake, the match race and the three-quarters dash, a free handicap for 2-year-olds and upward at one mile and seventy yards.

Eight good performers are carded to start, and as the hour of declaration has passed all will face the barrier.

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As Sung in the East Nobody fires but father. The rest sleep half the day; But he has to get up early. To drive the cold away. The furnace is chill and sulky. The bed is cold and warm; O, land! Nobody fires at our house. But our old man!

PI-Lines and Pick-Ups

"Bouncer" Gets Him "I don't see de bouncer anywhere, so I guess 'I'll jus' ditch dis aggregation and skiddoo," said an overgrown lad as he sneaked quietly for the door, but the bouncer was on hand and before the lad could gain his freedom Bailiff George Conart had overtaken him and he was dragged back to church.

Really, the Russian walking delegate these days is almost up to the Chicago standard as a trouble-breeder.

Secretary Shaw sees only an \$8,000,000 deficit next year. As the secretary will retire then, perhaps thereafter we