BIG TREES GLOW IN MANY CITIES

Scores of Communities Open Christmas with Music and Lights.

YOUNG AND OLD JOIN IN CAROLS

Good Cheer for Needy Provided Everywhere, and One City Gives Horses Feast.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 24.—A huge Norway pine, mounted at the steps of the national Capitol, with a star of electric lights flashing at its top through falling snow, carried a message of Christmas cheer to the country to-night.

Snow fell steadily throughout the day. Late in the afternoon a large force of workmen cleared the plaza of its white blanket, and to-night a crowd of citizens defied the weather to catch the gleam of the star and to listen to the music of the Marine Band.

The "Creation" hymn was rendered, and then, on a stage at the base of the tree, actors presented Biblical scenes commemorative of the first Christmas. A chorus of two thousand voices, muffled by the storm, sang Christmas hymns and "The Star Spangled Banner."

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 24.—The first municipal Christmas tree in the history of Troy was lighted to-night, and Seminary Park was thronged, thousands of citizens standing in a heavy snowstorm and listening to the exercises. School children, singing societies and prominent Trojans, including city officials, took part in the dedication of the tree.

Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—The Volunteers of America gave away six thousand dinners in baskets to-day, and the Salvation Army will distribute an equal number to-morrow. Community Christmas trees have been erected in many sections of the city.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 24.—Scores of whistles and bells announced the opening of the municipal Christmas Eve ceremonies here. Mayor Joseph G. Armstrong pressed a button and a giant Christmas tree, which had been erected in the heart of the city, near the County Building, became a mass of varicolored lights, with a "Star of Bethlehem" bursting into radiance over all. Thousands of persons surrounding the tree were entertained later with band music.

Hundreds of baskets containing food were distributed to-day to poor families by charity organizations, which plan to furnish dinner to scores of others in halls to-morrow.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Public Christmas tree displays and various plans for cheering the friendless and aiding the needy were general throughout the larger cities of the Mississippi Valley to-night, with arrangements for continuing the work Christmas Day and night.

In addition to organized relief for the hungry and cold, many cities distributed toys and goodies to the children of the unfortunate, sending out numerous emissaries of Santa Claus in automobiles laden with the presents.

Many places sent Christmas gifts of food and clothing to Belgium and other nations affected by war, and to families of strikers in Colorado.

Chicagoans made searching efforts to take Christmas cheer to every impoverished fireside that could be ferreted out. One way of discovering these was the tabulating of letters written by 3,000 poor children to "Santa Claus, General Delivery, Chicago."

Cleveland, Dec. 24.—While hundreds of children sang carols and a band played appropriate selections, a large crowd thronged the public square to-night, 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. School children also marched through residence districts of the city to-night singing Christmas carols.

Cincinnati, Dec. 24.—The largest Christmas celebration, in which the municipal officials took part, was held to-day by the Salvation Army. More than four thousand boys and girls gathered around a huge community Christmas tree and received gifts from the hands of Mayor Frederick Spiegel.

Columbus, Dec. 24.—With a big municipal Christmas tree in the State House yard, this city began to-night celebrating a typical snowy holiday season. The Charity Newsies Association, composed of leading business men who were once newsboys, distributed food and clothing to the poor. The association raised more than $6,000 by selling papers in the streets.

Toledo, Dec. 24.—The thirty-five-foot spruce planted on the courthouse grounds, under the direction of the women of the city as Toledo's municipal Christmas tree, was formally deeded to the children of the city to-night. On their knees in the snow nearly two thousand children knelt and prayed that the tree might live forever. The celebration closed with the singing of "America."

Detroit, Dec. 24.—Trumpeters in the City Hall tower to-night announced the beginning of the municipal Christmas Eve ceremonies. Mayor Oscar F. Marx pressed a button and a large snow-laden Christmas tree on the City Hall lawn became a mass of brilliant varicolored lights. The crowds about the tree were entertained with Christmas carols and band music.

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—Five thousand persons, including 2,000 Boy Scouts, played Santa Claus in this city's Christmas celebration to-night for children, for grown persons, for European war sufferers, for Colorado strikers and even for animals. The horses of the city had a free Christmas dinner at Convention Hall, every animal getting half a bushel of oats.

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—Christmas festivities opened to-night with a municipal celebration around a great cedar tree in Twelfth Street Plaza. Seventy-five smaller trees lined the plaza. As the chimes of Christ Cathedral pealed out a chorus of 250 in front of the large tree sang carols. Then the carolers went to all parts of the city and sang in front of every window in which a lighted candle had been placed as a sign that the householder had a contribution for charity.

'Bus Co. Remembers Men.

The drivers and conductors of the Fifth av. 'buses found Santa Claus waiting for them when they turned in at the garages after a hard day's work last night. Heavy grey sweaters were distributed among the conductors, and the drivers received serviceable leather gauntlets. The Fifth Avenue Coach Company, which operates the line, added to its gifts the announcement that wind shields would be placed on all the buses.

TREE AT WHITE HOUSE

Family Reunion to Mark the President's Christmas.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 24.—The President was joined at the White House this morning by his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayres, and this afternoon by his sister, Mrs. Howe, and his niece, Mrs. Perrin Cothran. With the latter two was the President's grandniece, little Josephine Cothran.

Everything is ready at the White House for a joyous family celebration. A great tree has been dressed in glittering balls, ropes of tinsel, stars, Santa Claus and fairies, and is equipped to be lighted with myriads of electric lights under colored bulbs. Gifts for all the members of the family, from the President down, have been left there and will form the chief surprises for Christmas morning.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. McAdoo, the latter the President's youngest daughter, will join Miss Wilson and her father to-morrow, and with them will be Miss McAdoo, Miss Sally McAdoo, Robert McAdoo and William Gibbs McAdoo, jr.

Boxes and bundles of various shapes have arrived at the White House all day by express, mail and special carrier, and the White House automobile has been busy delivering packages at the home of members of the Cabinet and relatives of the President's family in the city. Miss Wilson has remembered certain of her blind friends with warm gloves, sweaters or mufflers, and many children over in Virginia have come in for her generosity.

WAR TAKES MERRY FROM OPERA XMAS

Metropolitan Artists Will Celebrate, but Conflict Clouds Happiness.

Despite the war and the fact that a majority of the artists of the company have near relatives and friends in the trenches, Christmas will not pass unobserved at the Metropolitan Opera House.

There is considerably less outward merriment than in former years, the Teutonic element in the company usually taking the lead in this merriment, and naturally the war has produced a sadness which would permit of little skylarking. There is indeed scarcely a German or Austrian who has not already lost more than one relative or dear friend. Yet for Otto Goritz, or Johanna Gadski, or Rudolph Berger, or Alfred Reiss not to have a Christmas tree is unthinkable, and, war or no war, the German love of the fireside will ever triumph.

There was one little singer, however, who found small consolation in the holiday season, though she is on the Allies' side. This is Mme. Delaunois, the Belgian contralto, youngest and one of the prettiest of the Metropolitan artists, whose husband, a lieutenant in the French army, is in the trenches. In addition Mme. Delaunois has received no news from her family in Liège. Her Christmas is probably to be the saddest of all of Mr. Gatti Casazza's operatic family.

Enrico Caruso will in all probability make his annual gift of $5 gold pieces to the members of the chorus, besides giving remembrances to practically every one attached to the house. In fact, the employes of the Metropolitan no longer believe that Santa Claus wears a beard. They conceive him as a dark complexioned Italian gentleman of forty-two, smooth shaven and a trifle corpulent, and they have good reason for their belief.

Two very happy gatherings will be at the homes of Mrs. Homer and of Adamo Didur. The American contralto has five children, the Polish bass four, and all are here in person. It is the younger Didurs' first visit to America, their father believing New York at present a more certain clime than the vicinity of Warsaw.

The various nationalities at the opera keep largely among themselves, and the exchange of presents seems to have felt little the effect of the great war. Opera salaries are as high as ever, and to them times are good. Therefore, despite the war, Christmas finds them in a mood of thankfulness.

SANTA IN COURT CHEERS DESERTED

Lonely Woman Prefers Cell to Christmas Without Her Two Little Sons.

Deserted by their husbands, many of them homeless and destitute, forty-three mothers and their children clustered about the Christmas tree in The Bronx Domestic Relations Court last night, glimpsing for a few moments the Yuletide happiness which they had thought gone forever and renewing acquaintance with Santa Claus.

He seemed to know them, too, for he gave to the neediest orders for coal and food, clothing and shoes, and to all of them baskets laden with Christmas dinner—chicken, vegetables and dessert. Then he and the children—his children, he called them—danced together about the tree.

Albert F. Volgenau, clerk of the court, wanted to dance with the rest, and would have, too, if he hadn't had to carry one of the boys, who was too small to stand.

A few blocks away, in a flat at 427 East 147th st., Mrs. Ella Walsh was bending over a little pine tree, decked out in bits of paper and a few candles, which she had not lit. Before her lay two little packages, one marked Vincent and the other Frank. She sobbed quietly, and was alone.

An hour later she ran bareheaded into the Alexander av. police station and pleaded with Lieutenant Joyce to restore to her for Christmas her two boys, Vincent and Frank, whom the Children's Society had taken away two weeks ago to Randall's Island, for lack of proper guardianship. But she had made ready for their Christmas, and could not spend it alone. Either they must give her back her boys or send her also away.

On Wednesday morning, broken with grief and loneliness, she went to the Bronx Children's Court and flung herself on the attendant, who would not listen to her. She was warned that a similar scene would be followed by her arrest. Last night, unable to control her grief, she broke down in the police station, weeping and abusing the attendants. She was arrested.

Christmas Mail Burned.

Merrick, L. I., Dec. 24.—A large quantity of packages containing Christmas gifts, hundreds of Christmas postal cards and other miscellaneous mail were burned this morning in a fire which partly destroyed the postoffice here. The grocery stock of Postmaster Harry R. Zeiner was water soaked. A loss of about $1,000 on building and stock resulted. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Parcel Post Rush Heavy.

During the week from December 18 to 24 the Pennsylvania Railroad handled 5,500,000 parcel post packages at the Pennsylvania station in this city, and about 3,500,000 packages at the Broad Street Station, in Philadelphia. According to road officials the parcel post rush in both cities was 50 per cent heavier than a year ago.

LOOKING IN CHRISTMAS WINDOWS.

CITY GLOWS WITH JOY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Continued from page 1

ear drums out of commission with the noisiest horns made anywhere on the face of the globe.

General Ballington Booth, of the Volunteers of America, had everything in readiness last night for the distribution of more than three thousand baskets of food to needy families and toys for the children at 9 o'clock this morning. The main distributing point will be at Madison Square, 26th st. and Broadway, in a vacant store lent for the purpose. Another will be accommodated at Stuyvesant Square and Second av. A third place will be in Brooklyn.

Each basket will contain 8 pounds of baken beans, 1 pound of macaroni, 1 can of condensed milk, 1 pound of granulated sugar, 2 loaves of bread, one-half pound of coffee, 8 pounds of potatoes, 4 oranges, 1 pound box of candy, 1 dry picked chicken, weighing 4 pounds, and one Testament.

At noon one thousand packages of toys will be distributed to children at the Standard Theatre, Broadway and 86th st.

At the new Volunteer Hospital, Water and Beekman sts., members of the staff, patients and associates will be remembered in the way of gifts by the Volunteers.

During the day eight hundred boxes of clothing will be distributed by Mrs. Ballington Booth to the wives and children of prisoners in Sing Sing. Wagons containing the boxes will leave the Volunteer headquarters, 34 West 28th st., and the ground covered will embrace the five boroughs.

The Santa Claus Association, founded by John D. Gluck, which has its headquarters in the caves of the Hotel Astor, has handled 30,000 letters written in childish hope and belief in the existence of an omnipresent but corporeal Santa. These letters are turned over to wealthy—and sometimes not-so-wealthy—persons to provide food and gifts.

Work Made Them Happy.

Automobiles under the direction of the association shot about town yesterday bringing food to needy children. Two financially independent women personally participated in the automobile delivery, and when the day was over they said they had experienced more happiness than fatigue.

This work was enthusiastically taken up by eight teachers of Public School 170, at 111th st. and Lenox av. They took care of 150 children, defraying the expense themselves.

One of the most interesting events will be staged in the New York Foundling Hospital, at Third av. and 68th st. In its forty-five years 60,000 babies have passed through the institution. There are now in the hospital 650 babies less than five years old; 1,600 are out "in nursing" and 200 are in the country. To the children in the hospital chicken will be given. Turkey is a bit too strong for such young stomachs. Oranges and cakes will also be handed around. The big day for these babies is "Holy Innocents' Day."

The Charity Organization Society, with its thirteen district officers in Manhattan and The Bronx, sent out many automobile loads of groceries and candy. From families wherein death had taken parents or children came presents in memory of the lost ones. Scores of children were taken in automobiles and carriages to the homes of women who had set up trees for them.

Sailors Not Neglected.

Sailors in port without a ship, and there are many of them now, have Mrs. George A. Hearn to thank for the Christmas dinner 500 of them got away with last night at the Seaman's Christian Association. The prospect was dark for a time as many who had subscribed generously in former years replied to appeals for money, "This year is Red Cross year."

Mrs. Hearn, however, whose husband furnished Christmas dinner for sailors at the association for years before his death, on Dec. 1, 1913, saw to it that the sailors were well fed. After the dinner there was a concert, the music being furnished by a ship's orchestra.

There will be a Christmas tree, gifts and carols to-night at the American Seaman's Friend Society's home at 507 West St. Preparations have been made to entertain about 400. Dr. George Sidney Webster, secretary, said that while an unusual number of German and Austrian sailors were stranded in New York now, such ships as were still running were shorthanded because of the difficulty in shipping seamen in any of the European ports.

With peace as its keynote, the Chelsea Neighborhood Association will hold a Christmas celebration in Chelsea Park, Ninth Av. and 28th St., from Christmas Eve to New Year's Eve, inclusive. A 30-foot tree, colored lights galore, moving pictures and singing will be the features of the celebration. The neighborhood embraced by the association has 180,000 residents.

The peace hymn will be sung nightly by choirs from neighboring churches. The proper conduct of the tree requires $250, contributions toward which are being received by Mrs. Joseph W. Cushman, 209 West 23d St.

Christmas comes to-day in its usual form to prisoners in the Tombs, district prisons and penitentiary. The only variation from the usual programme of chicken dinners and music will be in the Tombs, where all prisoners must eat the same fare. In former years those who had money to spend on a Christmas dinner from "outside" could do so. This year they will take what the rest do.

Fifty-four families, whose breadwinners are in prison, received Christmas baskets from the Prison Association yesterday and 148 children in these families received Christmas stockings. Even the babies were not forgotten.

Among contributors of other than money for the Christmas baskets and stockings were B. Ogden Chisolm, Mrs. N. R. Lindheim, Mrs. Sidney New, Mrs. Frank Presbrey, the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Mrs. Paul Sachs, Mrs. William R. Sidenberg, Mrs. Frederick Steinway, Miss Dorothy Strauss and Mrs. S. K. Walker.

The churches, of course, will have special music at the services.

Riis Carol Singers Out.

With the death of Jacob A. Riis, his custom of having Christmas carols sung on Christmas Eve beneath the windows of Richmond Hill residents kept indoors by illness has not been stopped. The other members of the society he founded carried out the popular scheme last night.

The Christmas Eve celebrations in Brooklyn and in Queens were extensive. President Wilson, sitting in the White House, touched a button which lighted a great tree in McCarren Park, Brooklyn. A band of the Park Department played.

Several of the heads of city and county departments remembered their employes. Sheriff Max S. Grifenhagen gave cigars to his men and to the guards in the Tombs and the Ludlow st. jail. To the women employes he gave cut-glass glove boxes. Deputy Sheriff Frank K. Bowers gave 200 baskets of food to the poor families of his aldermanic district.

All of the hotels and restaurants are decked with Christmas wreaths and garlands and many of them have giant Christmas trees. That at the Hotel Endicott is forty-two feet high. Guests at the Martinique got individual Christmas trees, two feet high, as gifts from Walter Chandler, jr., manager. A. H. Meyer, of the Pabst Harlem restaurant, ransacked toy shops until he got diminutive soldiers representing each one of the belligerents in the European war. As an evidence of complete neutrality he hung them all on his Christmas trees.

John McE. Bowman, of the Biltmore, and James B. Regan, of the Knickerbocker, have invited their respective employes to Christmas dinner. There will be 1,000 at the Biltmore dinner.

Most of the hotels and restaurants have arranged special musical programmes for Christmas. In many of them there were dances and children's parties last evening, the hotel Santa Claus remembering the children with gifts.

The Children's Aid Society will be host to-day at two Christmas dinners, one at the Newsboys' Home, given by William M. Fliess, jr., and one at the Harlem Boys' Home, given by Miss Grace H. Dodge. There will be a Christmas tree for the newsboys, and in both places the boys have arranged and will present programmes consisting of music, recitations and sketches.

Greeks, Bulgarians, Montenegrins, Servians and Rumanians, all of whom belong to the Greek Church, will celebrate Christmas on January 5.

Raymond L. Ditmars, the snake man at the New York Zoological Park, and the management of Wallack's delighted one hundred orphans from the Protestant Episcopal Home yesterday afternoon with Mr. Ditmars's animal pictures.

Suffragists Revert to Type as Christmas Day Dawns

On Christmas Day the suffragists revert to type.

For 364 days in the year a suffragist may think votes for women and talk votes for women morning, noon and night, but when the 25th of December dawns she becomes a nice, old-fashioned, comfortable woman who wouldn't give a holly-sprig for all the polling-booths in the country. Turkey and toys are her only concern.

This, at least, is the conclusion drawn from a canvass of New York suffrage leaders. Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch, head of the Women's Political Union, is the only one who shows even the faintest indication of remembering the suffrage cause on Christmas Day. At the Christmas dinner, to which she has invited a few friends, Mrs. Blatch will use as favors tickets to the coming W. P. U. ball and chances on the $250 Victrola which the W. P. U. is raffling off for suffrage.

Except for this small concession to the cause of woman, Mrs. Blatch will give her day to trimming a tree for her small granddaughter in their home at 15 West 91st st. They will have a turkey dinner, and after dinner Mrs. Blatch will take her guests to the theatre. Everybody at the W. P. U. headquarters at 25 West 45th st. has two days off, and to each worker Mrs. Blatch has made a present of a book tied up in tissue paper and ribbons, with a bunch of holly.

Workers Got $5 Bills.

At the Woman Suffrage party headquarters, 48 East 34th st., Christmas began Wednesday. The 25c. luncheon that is served there every day consisted of turkey and cranberries and ice cream, all for the regular price. Miss Mary Hay, city chairman, spent part of the day doing up crisp, new $5 bills in envelopes for presents to the members of the headquarters staff.

"I'm not going to think of suffrage on Christmas," she said. "In the morning I'm going out to my brother's home in Summit, where I'll spend the day. Then I'll come back to 2 West 86th st., where I live with Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, and we'll have our Christmas dinner.

"Mrs. Catt always has six or seven young people to Christmas dinner, young people who are alone in New York. Mr. Catt began the practice in his lifetime, and she keeps it up. Miss Eva Ward, the English suffragist who is in charge of the press work at the Empire State Campaign Committee, will be one. A young school teacher Mrs. Catt knew in Ohio will be another. Of course we'll have presents, and the house is trimmed with holly."

Mrs. Catt says she intends to spend the day in bed, reading. Another suffragist to whom bed appeals as a refuge for a weary votes-for-women worker on Christmas Day is Miss Elizabeth Freeman, the English suffragette.

"I shall just lie flat all day long," she said yesterday with great satisfaction. "My mother and I will have a turkey dinner, but we won't give any presents. I spend the little Christmas money I can spare buying Christmas dinners for six of the unfortunate women of Chinatown. I know some of them through speaking in Chinatown, and I know they nearly starve. The missions have dinners for the men, but not for the women. So I send the six baskets, all I can afford, with 'From a Friend' on each."

Mrs. Whitehouse in Country.

Mrs. Norman DeR. Whitehouse, who has spent the last six weeks running the Fifth Avenue Suffrage Shop for the Women's Political Union, has locked the door and gone to her country home, where she will have a real old-time holiday with her mother and her husband and her little daughter Alice. Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, chairman of the Borough of Manhattan for the Woman Suffrage party, will have a tree for her small daughter Louise, and the boy-doll, John, who is Louise's inseparable companion. The Laidlaws spend the holidays at their Long Island home. "General" Rosalie Jones is in Long Island rejoicing that the suffrage resolution is not coming up in Congress till the holidays are over.

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw shook the dust of the National Suffrage Association headquarters at 505 Fifth av. from her feet Tuesday and took the train for Moylan, where she has a home in the hills. Dr. Shaw is English, and she has a real English Christmas, with some of the nephews and nieces whom she brought up, around her. Mrs. Medill McCormick has gone home to Chicago to trim a tree for her 18-months-old baby—the baby about whose welfare Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, national president of the antis, expressed much concern when Mrs. McCormick took the chairmanship of the National's Congressional Committee, which necessitates some travelling on her part.

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont always has her three small grandchildren, William K. Vanderbilt, 3d, Consuelo and Muriel, to spend the day at her home, 477 Madison av., where she plays all kinds of childish games with them. Evidently the Christmas Saint is the best ally of the antis. He is the only being who has power to make the suffragists forget The Cause.

Leary's Rescue of Carroll Christmas Note on Bowery

Thomas Carroll, Bowery rounder and citizen of the world at large, will sit down to a Christmas dinner to-day for the first time in twenty years. On the afternoon of December 24, 1895, Carroll practically walked out of life. He has been out of it ever since. But he is fighting his way back to-day.

Nineteen years ago Carroll lived in Boston. He had a good job and was engaged to be married. Late in the afternoon of the day before Christmas he started for the home of his fiancée, intending to spend Christmas Eve there. On the way he met a "friend"—a chance meeting that cost him practically his whole life.

The "friend" had half a dozen good fellows with him and Carroll drifted along with the crowd. To put it briefly, he woke up in Providence a day or two later, with not the slightest recollection of how he arrived there. The appropriate thing, in Carroll's mind, was to go out and repeat the performance.

He did, and afterwards was ashamed to return to Boston and his fiancée. In some manner he fought out the year, and when Christmas came again he used the only method at his command of throttling recollection. By that time he had drifted to this city and the Bowery, and had given up all hope of getting back.

After a time existence became nothing but periods between one Christmas and another, and Christmas was invariably celebrated by a repetition of the debauch that cost him his fiancée. In recent years some of the celebrations have been a month in length.

Two weeks ago Carroll was still on the Bowery, engaged in begging the necessary money for his annual celebration. A policeman, John F. Leary, saw him bending over an ash barrel, and for some reason he started to question him.

Carroll, after a time, responded with the whole story and Leary decided to make a contribution to the cause of uplift. He fitted Carroll out, gave him money and found him a job. Carroll collected $10 for his first week's work and declares that his "reform" is certain. He is living at the Royal Hotel, 329 Bowery.

To-day he will eat his Christmas dinner at the home of Patrolman Leary. Leary refuses to say where that home is, because, he declares, he doesn't want any newspaper men hanging around. He is satisfied to be giving Carroll his chance.

But where Christmas of 1914 is a possible turning point for Thomas Carroll, it is proving little more than another day for most of the Bowery habitués. Christmas Eve was celebrated on the Bowery last night in exactly the way that countless Christmas Eves have been handled in the past. The missions were crowded and men sat in small knots around the fires in the cheap lodging houses.

The street itself was deserted. The spirit of the season is usually sufficient to drive the men inside the night before Christmas, and what the spirit left undone last night the weather accomplished. The streets furnished scant cheer to the homeless.

All of the missions reported capacity attendances. Especially large numbers were in evidence at the Chinatown Mission, the Bowery Mission and the mission of the American Rescue Workers.

In all the gathering places along the street the "down-and-outers" flocked congenially with one another, but, Christmas or no Christmas, the approach of an outsider was always the signal for silence. The true Poweryite rarely tells the "story of his life." He fears, usually, that it is a plot of the questioner to have him sent to the "island."

At St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Vesey st., the annual Christmas services for night workers were held at 3 o'clock this morning, and the homeless were invited to be present. Following services by the Rev. William Montague Geer the men were taken to a restaurant for the great "feed."

Actors Find Christmas Fun Only Snacks Between Acts

Theatregoers, including the girls who read the Sunday Drama pages for beauty hints and the young men who spend $10 for ringside seats at musical shows, generally imagine that actors and actresses, especially those drawing high salaries, have the gayest sort of a time at Christmas. They do have a gay time, it is quite true, but their celebration is hardly of the White-Light-wine-supper sort.

Players are the most generous people in the world, and their preparation for the holiday time is, almost without exception, a series of cheerful sacrifices. These actors who spend their year in giving us pleasure on the stage begin long before Christmas to offer their services for various benefit performances.

Have Hard Time This Year.

This season, of course, due to the many war charities, the demands upon the time of the stagefolk have been greater than ever, and the entire profession has risen splendidly to the occasion. The stage children, too, are not forgotten, and a special festival and entertainment is arranged and given for their particular benefit.

To the players themselves Christmas means, not a day of dinners and fun, but rather one of hard work. Extra matinees and strenuous evening performances hardly leave time for fat dinners. Besides, eating fat dinners is not at all the best way to train for work that demands keenness and agility.

Some of the theatres have a Christmas tree and a feast after the night performance on the stage, but no one stays late, because of the ogre of the next day's work that haunts them.

Imagine Forest Winant getting time for a Christmas dinner! He plays in two productions at the same time, "Kick In" and "The Song of Songs," and, though they are on opposite sides of the street and his "run across" is deftly managed, he has to content himself with a snack in his dressing-room between jumps.

Harder for Those "On the Road."

Of course, the actor playing in his home city has the advantage of friends or family to help him celebrate the holiday, but think what Christmas means to the poor player "on the road." The stars and better paid players generally manage right enough at a hotel, but there are thousands and thousands of poorly paid stock players and members of the choruses in big musical shows who find Christmas a very sad affair indeed.

One girl, now the star of a Broadway production, told of a Christmas spent in a little Western city some years ago, when she was in the chorus of a second rate musical show that made her cry to think of. She was engaged at $18 a week, and after the production reached the West the salary was reduced to $14. She had Christmas dinner in a little hotel for 35 cents, and said that her case was by no means singular.

Most of our theatrical managers here in the city make every effort to give their players a happy Christmas. One company, which does not expect it at this writing, is going to find a little stocking with a large gold piece in every dressing room. And others, too, will find gifts and appreciations waiting for them at whatever little celebration there is time for between plays.

On the whole, however, it is the public that comes first in the actor's Christmas, just as it is during the rest of the year, notwithstanding all the illusions and lures of Broadway and the white lights.

Real Yule Cheer Smiles on Inmates of Sing Sing

The coming of Christmas seems to mean something this year to the men in Sing Sing. As McKenny, a guard and still a philosopher after twenty-one years inside the prison said, "Never forget that prisoners are just as much human beings as any of us. There's no use to try to make a devil out of a man just because he's in here."

He pointed to a long double rank of men silhouetted in sharp relief against the frozen river. "See those men?" he asked. "Lots of them have been here for many other Christmases. Don't you suppose they are already thinking that this is a different Christmas from any other they ever spent here? You bet they are."

Prisoners Show Joy.

What the white-haired and young-hearted McKenny meant, and he said so later, was that the men look forward to a Christmas day under the Osborne regime, and it did seem that they were in unusually happy spirits.

In the mess hall last night they crowded together, shoulder to shoulder, at the long benches, conversing and laughing. Warden McCormick, the advocate of joy rides, permitted the men to talk in low tones, but Warden Osborne lets them have free rein in conversation.

Visitors came all day yesterday to see prisoners and to bring them presents. Some of these visitors came in automobiles, but the most of them picked their way carefully over the crowded snow and ice of the bleak, rockbound avenue that leads to the towering prison. One of those who walked was a little old Italian woman, who carried a big bundle done up in newspapers. As she reached the big stone posts that mark the entrance to the prison grounds she stopped and looked at the grim buildings. Suddenly she let the bundle fall, put her hands to her eyes and began to cry.

One of those who rode was a relative of Lee Dock, one of the Chinese gunmen now in the death house. This visitor was dressed in a fur coat with an American hat and shoes, in fact thoroughly Americanized except for his Oriental face.

Free Dying Convict.

Still another visitor was the mother of a prisoner who left the great jail yesterday a free man so far as the law goes, but practically dying. Dressed in a suit of clothes furnished by the state and with $16.40 in his pocket he was carried out on a litter and lifted into an automobile. Governor Glynn's own physician had said that the prisoner had but a little time to live, and so a trifle more than two years was struck from his four year sentence.

One more prisoner who "went out" yesterday was Newton Tomlins, who after a year in the death house was transferred to Rockland County jail, the Court of Appeals having given him another chance.

Mr. Osborne was away yesterday in Boston at a family reunion and until his return to-day Assistant Deputy Warden Johnson is in charge.

The preparations for the "Osborne Christmas" are all made. The religious services are expected to be through by 9:30 a. m. to-day and then carpenters will prepare the stage for William A. Brady's new play "Sinners" because the chapel cannot hold all of the 1,500 men in the prison. There will be two performances, one following the other almost immediately. A chorus from the Golden Rule Brotherhood will sing for the men in the death house.

POVERTY SPECTRES EVICTED BY SANTA

Actor, Who Plays Tunes on Washboard, and Unemployed Pugilist Helped.

There will be a Christmas tree at 26 West 13th st. to-day. To understand how remarkable this is one should have visited 26 West 13th st. say two days ago. At that time it presented a picture of eight families in dire poverty, with the spectres of non-employment, starvation and threatened eviction stalking through the rooms. The spectres have now been evicted themselves, and by the National Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild.

Mrs. George E. Paul, secretary of the guild, discovered the house, which is a rear tenement reached by a queer little gate and passage. She found the janitor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Furt, an ex-vaudeville artist and dancer, in great want because their "turns"—Mr. Burt plays tunes on a washboard—are out of date with managers, and what they get for looking after 26 West 13th st. isn't worth mentioning. The ex-prize fighter who occupies the first floor front is also out of a job, his wife is in the hospital with a bruised face and other injuries, and his daughter, May, aged seven, was discovered by Mrs. Paul trying to feed Jimmie and Billy—five and two and a half, respectively—on nothing a day.

The family in the rear of the second floor was being evicted. A respectable-looking engineer out of a job and his wife were in two rooms almost bare of furniture because they had parted with every stick to buy food.

Mrs. Paul halted the eviction with the payment of rent for over Christmas, and went out and appealed by telephone to several officers and members of the guild, among them Mrs. James Roosevelt, Mrs. E. H. Harriman, Mrs. Edward S. Harkness and Mrs. John Sherman Hoyt. They responded generously, and to-day's tree is the result.

Not only will it be loaded with toys and clothes for the eight children in the house, but there will be clothes for the elders, and food as well. The guild is trying to find work for the engineer and the other men. If anybody wants a vaudeville artist who plays tunes on a washboard, will they please communicate with the guild, 70 Fifth av.?

GOLD FOR TRAFFIC MEN

Robert Goelet Distributes Coins to Avenue Police.

Traffic policemen whose work is the regulation of the vehicles that traverse Fifth av. had at least one pleasant experience yesterday. From the Plaza to Washington Square all hands carried home last night a shining gold piece, the gift of the gentleman in "New York, 55220."

The gentleman who usually rides in "New York, 55220," is Robert Goelet, and it is said that he has a habit of remembering the traffic men in Fifth av. at Christmas.

Benefit for Swedish Poor.

The United Swedish Societies of New York and Brooklyn will give a concert in Carnegie Hall to-morrow evening for the benefit of needy familes of "Landstormen" throughout Sweden. The usual economic results of the calling out of the Landstormen to protect Sweden's neutrality have caused distress which the Queen of Sweden, who is receiving all funds contributed, is trying to alleviate. Many of the Swedish musical and singing societies of New York have volunteered their services for the benefit.

Boy Scouts Deny Aiding Santa

An article appearing in The Tribune on Monday, December 21, referred to the enlistment of 1,500 Boy Scouts in the service of the Santa Claus Association. At the request of James E. Weed, chief scout secretary of the Boy Scouts of America, it is announced that this organization has been in no way connected with the Santa Claus Association movement. There are two boy scout organizations, the Boy Scouts of America and the United States Boy Scouts.

HOME FETES FOR SOCIETY TO-DAY

Family Dinners in City and Country to Celebrate Christmas Hours.

Comparatively few formal entertainments are on the social programme for to-day, and society will confine itself almost entirely to family dinners, followed in some cases by theatre parties in the evening for the young people home from school and college for the holidays. Many of those who have country estates on Long Island, along the Hudson, in Westchester County and places further away have kept their homes open until after the holidays and are entertaining house parties over the day. Some have gone up to Tuxedo, where skating and other winter sports are now in full swing.

Dr. and Mrs. W. Seward Webb have guests with them at their country place at Shelburne, Vt.; Mrs. E. H. Harriman has a family party at her country place at Arden, N. Y.; Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt and her two children have gone to their camp in the Adirondacks; Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge and Miss Elizabeth Wainwright Dodge are spending Christmas at their country place, Riverdale, N. Y.; the Harry Payne Whitneys, the Payne Whitneys, the Courtlandt Dixon Barneses, Mrs. H. Van Rensselaer Kennedy and her daughters, Miss Marian and Miss Maud Kennedy, are all at their estates on Long Island.

Dr. and Mrs. Preston P. Satterwhite will give a small dance to-night at their place at Great Neck, Long Island. A party of young people will go from the city to-day to attend it and will remain until Monday. Among the guests will be Miss Cornelia Biddle and Miss Pauline Disston, of Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke Jones and their son, Pembroke Jones, jr., have gone to their plantation at Wilmington, N. C., to spend Christmas.

Among the affairs scheduled for this evening in town is a dinner by Mrs. E. N. Breitung at the St. Regis. There will be fourteen guests, for whom gifts will be placed on a miniature Christmas tree in the centre of the table. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lewis Morris will have a dinner at their home, 12 West 53d st.; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews one at their house, in West 51st st., and Mrs. Walter Oakley a dinner at 18 West 48th st.

MAYOR LIGHTS TREE

Starts Programme at Hearst Concert in City Hall Park.

Shortly after 6 o'clock last night Mayor Mitchel pressed the button at the foot of the big Christmas tree in City Hall Park and transformed it into a veritable "Tree of Light." The Mayor was accompanied by John A. Kingsbury, Commissioner of Charities, and R. A. C. Smith, Commissioner of Docks and Ferries.

As soon as the lights were on five hundred members of the German Singing Society started "The Star Spangled Banner," which was taken up by the thousands gathered in the park, accompanied by the Police Band of fifty pieces. At the conclusion of the national anthem Adel Kruger, an opera singer, sang a solo, which was followed by selections by the singing society and the Police Band.

Six wagons of "The New York American" furnished hot coffee and sandwiches to hundreds of hungry men.

Money Mrs. Shepard's Gifts.

Mrs. Finley J. Shepard played the part of Santa Claus yesterday by giving Christmas presents of money to the employes at the railroad station, the telegraph operator and the telephone girls at both Irvington and Tarrytown. Mrs. Shepard usually gives $10 gold pieces. This year she gave instead crisp new $10 bills.