

# CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.  
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**M**OST of the 5,000,000 people living within the twenty-mile radius of the American metropolis "sit up and take notice" on the approach of Christmas. They do more. They rally forth in great droves, buying things to give away, to eat, and what not. They make life a burden to the expressmen, the postmen and the department store clerks. The feminine New Yorker is especially in evidence. Sometimes she goes it alone, sailing into the bargain counter scimmages like a regiment going into battle. At other times she drags along her bored looking husband or some other male member of the family, who execrates all shopping and who swears under his breath or looks as if he wanted to. In companies, battalions and divisions goes forth the shopping army, marching through the streets, deploying up and down the aisles, making attacks and counterattacks upon the candy department, the millinery department, the toy department and everything else in sight. Salesmen grow haggard and wan under the onslaught, and great wagon trains haul away the spoils of battle.

Christmas in New York is pretty much as it is in all other cities, except that there is more of it. There is so much of it, in fact, that the figures which make up the holiday statistics stagger and wobble under the load. Big figures never did have to bear up under such burdens as they do in American statistics, anyway. They carry millions on their broad shoulders, millions of population, production, wealth and, by no means least of all, in Christmas outlay.

But figures are not the only things that stagger at Christmas. The post-office department staggers, the express companies stagger, the dray horses stagger, the store managers stagger, and even the old man's pocketbook staggers. The only reason the shoppers do not stagger is because they are wedged in so tight they can't. Altogether it is a staggering holiday, and the ancient, ruby and athletic S. Claus staggers most of all. The only ones who do not stagger are the small folks. They have all the best of it, and the older people forget their weariness in the joy of the little ones.

The winter solstice is hardly the time that one would look for blossoms, yet at about that season the streets of New York bloom with holly and evergreen. There are festoons of ivy and wreaths of mistletoe. The green is in the windows and over the awnings. The street vendors are along the curbs with all the latest novelties to gladden the heart of the small boy. Last year's dolls are trotted out into show places, and the toy stores do a land office business. Even the east side, where congregate all the nationalities of the earth, is not without splashes of color. The Chinese quarter, it is true, does not show much more than the usual animation. About the only time the Celestials break out into holiday attire is at the time of the Chinese New Year, but then they so riot in color and sound that they make up for the rest of the year.

A trip through the east side a few days before Christmas furnishes an interesting side light on the universality of the holiday. Here peoples of all lands will be found preparing for the celebration of a common festival. Russians at home, because of the difference in the calendar, do not hold their Christmas until some time after ours, but Russians in New York are coming more and more into American customs and are adopting our time in place of their own. The same is true of those from other Slavic countries. As for the Germanic and Latin nations of northern and southern Europe, Dec. 25 is their day for celebrating the Nativity, so that no change is necessary with immigrants from those lands. The vast numbers of these peoples in our chief city may be realized when it is reflected that last year over a million foreigners came to our shores and a vast portion of these stopped on the east side in New York. Because of poverty Christmas with the tenement dwellers is not what it is with the middle classes and those better situated, yet the day passes in few even of the poorest quarters without some token of remembrance.

The omnipresent street vender is present in the east side as elsewhere. For the most part he has laces, rugs and wondrous fabrics for sale, but on Christmas week toys are also in evidence. Mechanical dancing bears, fighting cocks and prize sparrers are made to do their evolutions on the pavements and are offered for a nickel to whomsoever will buy. Dolls of the poorer quality are placed in tempting array. Christmas tree ornaments are arranged in glittering profusion. These dazzle the eyes of the bareheaded and dirty urchins that are as thick as flies on the streets. Here a son of southern Europe, master of a soft and sibilant broken English, squeezes anon a rubber ball from which a figure springs out, ejaculating with each squeeze, "Santa Claus—fer Chrissmass trees."

Two organizations in evidence at all times, but more so than ever at the Christmas season, are the Salvation Army and the Volunteers of America. These are rivals, in good works and otherwise, so wherever one has out an alma pot the other is generally found but a few feet away. The representatives of the Salvation Army have on the regulation caps and

stand beside a bottle, invitingly open for small contributions, under which is the invariable legend, "Keep the Pot Boiling." The Volunteer representatives each have a chimney with a small hole in the top for receiving the coins of the passerby. Christmas week these Volunteers are dressed to represent Santa Claus. The omnipresent small boy, dirty and bareheaded, as usual, pauses beside one of these. "I know a better Santa Claus as you," he says. "My pop's got you skinned fer a Santa Claus."



**VOLUNTEERS REPRESENT SANTA CLAUS.**  
The Salvation Army and the Volunteers feed thousands each year at substantial Christmas dinners. Other charitable organizations innumerable also spread elaborate feeds for the poor and homeless, thus making the day one of good cheer "even to the least of these." The newboys have a veritable feast on Christmas day.



**THE OMNIPRESENT STREET VENDER.**  
The holiday gives most everybody in New York the chance for at least one square meal, even if he does not have another during the entire year. Emerging from the swarming tenement district by the cross-town route, the festooning increases as one approaches the shopping area until at Sixth avenue it grows a perfect riot of green and red. Here are the great department stores, lining both sides of the thoroughfare from Fourteenth street to above Twenty-third. If one would see Christmas activity at its best—or its worst—he can see it here. Fashionable dames in their turnouts from uptown, women carrying babies from the lower downtown sections, wives of commuters from up the Hudson, from Connecticut, from Long Island, from Staten Island and from Jersey, here charge and countercharge, swarm through the aisles, crowd the elevators, scramble to get to the counters, overflow into the street and sweep in eddies and currents, here, there and everywhere, a never ending human stream.

## Early Shoppers Get Their Pick



This doll is waiting for some one to buy her, but she will not wait long. Some early shopper will get her, and the late ones will get left.  
By shopping early YOU GET YOUR PICK not only of dolls, but of all other Christmas goods.

## The Christmas Tree

By EDWIN L. SABIN

**T**HE apple and cherry and peach and plum  
Have all to the goal of their labors come;  
The chestnut has yielded its toothsome store;  
The haw has crimsoned the hillside o'er.  
At word "Well done" they have sought their rest  
To sleep till the April's soft behest,  
But after the close of the seasons three  
Today to the day of the Christmas tree.  
Through spring and summer and festival fall  
Sloth has it seemed 'mongst the workers all.  
Somerly wearing its changeless green,  
Proffering little by branch or mien,  
Haughty and straight 'neath sun and cloud,  
An Indian dreamer, rapt and proud,  
But saving its treasures for you and me,  
Biding its time, was the Christmas tree.



When white the world and the sky off dark,  
When orchard and upland are bare and stark,  
When gone the flowers and the autumn's glow,  
The laggard now blazons 'midst ice and snow,  
Gayly it lights a impoverished land,  
Scatters its fruits with a generous hand,  
Welcomed by psalm of cheer and glee,  
Into its own comes the Christmas tree.  
Sweeter by far than from woodland throats  
Rises the melody of childhood notes,  
Carol and love word and prattling tongue,  
Rolling laughter of old and young,  
Cull every needle and every cone  
Wide its message of joy has strown,  
Sturdy prince with a heart so free,  
Dip, hurrah for the Christmas tree!

**Who Santa Claus is.**  
Jimmy—D'you know who Santa Claus is?  
Tommy—Sure I do! He's President Taft.  
"How d'you make that out?"  
"Cause Santa travels everywhere, an' so does the pres'dent."

**Envy.**  
Little Willie—Percy Plot ate so much Christmas candy that he liked to die.  
Little Bob—Gee, some kids is lucky!  
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STATEMENT OF CONDITION  
**Flanagan & Bennett Bank**  
—of—  
MARSHFIELD, OREGON  
At the close of business, December 5, 1911.

Resources.	
Loans and Discounts .....	\$422,312.68
Banking House .....	50,000.00
Cash and Exchanges .....	184,486.42
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$656,799.10</b>
Liabilities.	
Capital Stock paid in .....	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profits .....	58,531.57
Deposits .....	548,267.53
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$656,799.10</b>

**Condensed Statement**  
of the condition of **THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
OF COOS BAY  
at the Close of Business, Dec. 5, 1911.

Resources.	
Loans and Discounts .....	\$229,329.87
Bonds, Warrants and Securities .....	73,161.50
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation .....	25,000.00
Real Estate, Furniture and Fixtures .....	81,472.94
Cash and Sight Exchange .....	141,131.98
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$550,096.29</b>
Liabilities.	
Capital stock paid in .....	\$100,000.00
Surplus and undivided profits .....	10,797.39
Circulation, outstanding .....	25,000.00
Deposits .....	414,298.90
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$550,096.29</b>

INTEREST PAID ON TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS.  
MARSHFIELD OREGON

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