

TOWN TOPICS

Items of Local Interest for Busy Journal Readers.

\$750 in realty will be given away the 12th day of January, at Estacada. Every person present that day will have a chance to secure a residence or business lot free—without investing a single penny.

It is pure and clean— If in it there are no notes— 'Twill be known throughout the universe As Albert's Violet Oats.

There are no notes in this most appetizing food. It has not lain in anybody's warehouse where worms abide and dampness creeps must. Violet Oats are made in Portland, of selected oats; are sterilized; are the greatest health food of this continent.

Soomi Ram of India went East last night to continue his work of raising funds to bring Hinduism to this country to be educated. This is in pursuance of his plan to have these Americanized Hindus go back to India and spread the doctrine of progress among their people.

Don't fail to see our stock of Christmas umbrellas. Greatest variety on the coast. We always undersell the dry goods stores. Meredith's, Washington and Sixth and Morrison and Fifth.

Don't spoil a new shoe by putting a nailed half sole on. We sew them on "while you wait." Goodyear Shoe Repair company, near Gas company's office, Yamhill street.

Time trains will leave First and Alder street for Estacada the day set for the auction sale of lots of the new city. First train, 7:40 a. m. and second train at 9 a. m.

Dr. R. C. Coffey has abandoned his downtown office. Will be found at the North Pacific Sanatorium, Twentieth and Gilman streets, all hours.

Bronzed, says, fancy marbled clocks, some American, some from Paris, prices from \$1 to \$100. See Lamotte, 449 Gilman street.

Lone Fir Monument association will elect officers for the ensuing year, at a meeting in Sumner Post hall tomorrow afternoon.

If you want a watch or chain, something different, something better than ordinary, see Lamotte, 449 Gilman street.

Steamers for The Dalles will leave Alder-street wharf 7 a. m. daily (except Sunday). Phone Main 914.

Free dispensary for worthy poor, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 1 p. m. St. Vincent's hospital.

Mahillon band instruments from Brussels, finest on earth, for sale only by Lamotte, 449 Gilman.

Portland Club, 130 Fifth street. A palatable lunch served every evening from 8 until 11 p. m.

Have your fur garments remodeled into latest style at half price. 306 Burnside.

Who has catarrh? Try B. & S. Carrh Powders. 303 Washington street.

The Savoy suggests good eating. Patronize it and be happy. Opp. old P. O.

If you care for good eating go to Max Smith's Savoy, opp. old postoffice.

E. H. Moorehouse & Co., at Seventh and Alder. Telephone Main 1343.

The four-story brick building on Front near Couch is for rent.

Ansley, printer. Centennial envelopes. Printing—Mann & Beach, 92 2d street.

Eat Olympic Pancakes, they're fine. Dr. A. F. Petzel, dentist, 401 Dekum.

Dr. Amos, surgeon, Dekum building.

"But how do you keep a cook when you live in the suburbs?" "I threaten to discharge her every day and my wife discharges her every week."

Drs. ADIX & NORTHRUP OSTEOPATHS Suite 416 Dekum Building Phone Main 349

No Money in it Washing your clothes at home when we do it with great care—do not tear and rub to pieces your clothes. We mend all rents or holes in your linen. A telephone brings us in a hurry.

OREGON LAUNDRY and TOILET SUPPLY CO. C. T. Evans, Manager. Telephone East 13.

HARPER'S DANCING ACADEMY 310 FIRST STREET. We will make you a perfect dancer for \$10.00 or TWELVE LESSONS \$5.00. Private lessons at any time. Regular classes Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Beginners' class Monday evening. Dancing taught winter and summer. MR. AND MRS. J. W. HARPER INSTRUCTORS.

KRINGLE SEEN AT MANY CHURCHES

GOOD TIMES ENJOYED BY THOUSANDS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED GIFT-SPLENDID CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Santa Claus appeared in real life to hundreds of children in Portland churches last night, and distributed Christmas gifts to little boys and girls. How he managed to appear in so many different places at about one and the same time is marvelous, but he did it. The how of it is known only to Santa himself, and he won't tell. Old Santa has gone away to other countries now and will not come to Portland again for a whole year.

Taylor street Methodist church had no Christmas tree last night, but there was a fine entertainment of songs and recitations and Santa Claus in a great robe and with his white hair flowing down on his shoulders distributed oranges, candy and nuts to the children. The parlors of the First Congregational church were the scene of the brightest festivities last night. The children enjoyed themselves hugely. There was a fine program of entertainment and a beautiful Christmas tree loaded with fruit and candy.

Tonight there will be a brilliant Christmas tree at the First Christian church. Last night several of the Sunday school classes of the church called at the home of Rev. Dr. Ghormley, the pastor, and enjoyed a pleasant Christmas party with the outgoing pastor. "A Visit From Kris Kringle and His Friends, and the 'Toys' Rebellion" was the title of a Christmas cantata which entertained the children last night at Centenary Methodist Episcopal church. There were other numbers on an enjoyable program. The decorations were very pretty and the Christmas treats which followed greatly pleased the children.

The 41 boys and girls in the receiving home of the Boys and Girls Aid society, on East Twenty-ninth street, enjoyed a Christmas treat last night. Quite a number of children, who have found good homes in the city, were also present. The room in the basement was decorated for the occasion. John E. Webb directed a program of songs and recitations. Rev. T. L. Elliot made an interesting talk to the young folk, and addresses were made by Earl Debut and Mabel Booth. Santa Claus finally came into the room through a window and distributed gifts from a beautiful Christmas tree and a barrel which he said he had sent on ahead. Superintendent Gardner and the matron, Mrs. Graham, helped him. Among the most conspicuous presents was a jumping open arms on their visits. Seats are now selling.

"RICHARD CARVEL." The advance sale of seats will open tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock for Andrew Robson, who comes to the Marquam Grand theater next Tuesday and Wednesday nights, December 29-30, in the romantic drama, "Richard Carvel."

"Toxy Grandpa." Joseph Hart and Carrie DeMar, with a company of 50 people, in the musical production, "Toxy Grandpa," will be the attraction of the Marquam Grand theater beginning Thursday night, December 21, and continuing Friday and Saturday matinee and night, January 1-2, 1904.

"HELLO BILL." "If you have not seen 'Hello Bill' at Cordray's this week you are not in the swim. You will laugh whether you go this afternoon or tonight.

"IN CONVICT STRIPES." There will be a strong company and a new play at Cordray's theatre next week, starting with a Sunday matinee. "In Convict Stripes" is a melo-drama, and a good one, by author of "Human Comedy" and "The Night Before Christmas."

"DOWN IN MAINE." Hardscrabble farm is real, and Zeph Cummings as the farmer is a typical down-easter and makes all comers feel right at home. To see him is to feel that you are one of a happy and contented group at the old homestead at Christmas time, away down in the forests of the old Pine Tree state. Inside the old home is aglow with warmth and life, while outside the snow falls thick and fast. It is all true to life at the Empire theatre this Christmas night, where "Down in Maine," Townsend's popular comedy-drama, will be given by the Haywood club for the benefit of the baby home.

Characters. "Hardscrabble Farm," way down in Maine..... Henry Denlinger, Ralph, his brother, a New York millionaire..... W. J. Brown, Nell, Wentworth, a young entertainer..... L. E. Athey, Bingle, the old fisherman..... D. B. Morgan, Toms, the hired man..... E. E. Hughton, Mr. Holden, a lawyer..... C. Stanley, Jimsey, a fresh-air kid..... N. Frederick, Mose Gossin, a stuttering lover..... J. R. Mrs. Cummings, Zeph's wife..... Nona Covert, Susie Cummings, Ralph's daughter..... Miss Myrtle Brown, Leah, "Porty-three and desperate"..... Mrs. O. W. Athey, Betsy Toms..... Mrs. D. B. Morgan, Under direction of D. B. Morgan. Musical specialties and the Haywood quartet are meritorious features of the evening's attraction.

"A TRIP TO CHINATOWN." Starting Sunday night next Hoyt's funniest comedy, "A Trip to Chinatown," will be the bill for New Year's week. The company is a large one, headed by the comedian Jack Campbell and Sylvia Starr. The production is under the management of Saylor and Miller. Seats are now selling.

"KOTT'S BEST COMEDY." "A Midnight Bell," which is the holiday attraction at the Baker this week, is generally conceded to be Hoyt's best and most successful comedy. It had its origin in the city of Seattle, the Portland players, and has proved to be one of the most popular of the Baker company's offerings this season. Matinee Saturday and the last performance Saturday night.

"SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL." The Baker company will produce Sheridan's brilliant society comedy all next week, beginning Sunday matinee. The "School for Scandal" was written long ago and has often been revived by first-class companies, never failing to receive a hearty welcome from all intelligent theatre-goers. Miss Esther Lyon begins her engagement with the company in "School for Scandal" with the captivating part of Lady Teazle.

Listen. From the Washington (Pa.) Democrat. How few Washington singers there are at a prayer meeting!

TODAY'S FORECAST. Fair and moderately cold weather prevailed this morning in the North Pacific states. It is foggy in Southwestern Oregon, sound country, Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, and frosty in California. It is cooler this morning in Southeastern Washington, Southeastern Idaho, Northwestern Montana, and in the Dakotas. The temperature in the Pacific Northwest is everywhere below normal. Indications are for fair weather, with moderate low temperatures in this district Saturday.

Preferred Stock Canned Goods. Allen & Lewis' Best Br'

NO TURKEY FOR COUNTY PRISONERS

REBENT STRIKE OF OFFENDERS IN SHERIFF STORET'S CARE RESULTS IN THE ABANDONMENT OF THE USUAL FEAST—PLAIN EVERY DAY FARE.

County prisoners did not give thanks for turkey and kindred dainties today. Because of their alleged unlovable disposition and lack of patience under confinement Sheriff Storey decided that plain beans and bread was good enough and so ordered.

"No, there will be nothing unusual in the way of things to be here," said Jailer D. Jackson this morning. "I asked the sheriff about it and he said that because of the bad conduct of county prisoners they deserved no Christmas dinner and so they will get what they always get." Jailer Jackson explained that the jail was filled with prisoners; that every cell was in use and that most of the wards were hard characters. According to the jailer county charges had been unruly, noisy conduct and general untractableness had been their daily routine and Santa Claus would not come near such a bunch of reprobates.

"How about the trustees; will they get anything unusual?" was asked. "Oh, yes, they will have a chance to fare better," said Mr. Jackson.

The inmates of the various cells this morning were not aware of the departure from the usual custom of giving them a change in their bill of fare and one or two who heard the remark of Mr. Jackson concerning the lack of festive preparation gave vent to deep groans and applied sundry epithets to the brand of hospitality they were up against.

AT THE THEATRES

"THE BONNIE BRIER BUSH." Make your friends happy by taking them to the theatre and theatre night and entertain them by seeing "The Bonnie Briar Bush." The veteran actor, J. H. Stoddard, together with Reuben Fox and an excellent supporting company, are playing the piece. The last two performances will be given tomorrow afternoon and night.

GLEE CLUB COMING. The Stanford University Mandolin and Glee clubs will give their annual concert at the Marquam Grand theater Monday night, December 28. This will be one of the society events of the season and the college-boys are always received with open arms on their visits. Seats are now selling.

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NOBODY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY

It adds greatly to our own enjoyment of this day to know that owing to our efforts many homes have been made happy with the finest and most artistic instruments ever brought to the Coast. In preparing for the Christmas demands this season no pains were spared that our display should lack nothing in point of quality, as well as beauty. Exclusive art styles in our standard makes, as well as our regular catalogue styles in the very newest finish, have met with universal and enthusiastic approval.

Throughout our Christmas sales our standard one-price policy has been strictly adhered to. No reductions or inducements whatever have been held out to customers, and yet this has been by far the largest and best holiday season in the history of this house. The large number of instruments, numbers and the especially high grade of instruments sold. The immense sales are owing strictly to the superior excellence and beauty of the instruments, low prices and terms of easy payment which distinguishes Ellers Piano House at all times.

A few of the pianos in exclusive art styles remain and our store is full of our standard makes, 25 kinds, which include the Chickering of Boston, the Weber of New York and the Kimball of Chicago, in choicest styles.

The piano is the one New Year's purchase, who desire to secure one of the special designs, will need to call at our store immediately, as we do not anticipate plans of such rare and unusual merit will remain long unpurchased.

Ellers Piano House. The biggest, the best and the busiest piano establishment in the Northwest. No. 351 Washington street, corner Park. Large stores also Spokane and Seattle, Wash.; San Francisco and Sacramento, Cal.

HE HAD ORDERS TO SAIL TO HEAVEN

SO DECLARED A PASSENGER ON THE STEAMSHIP SIERRA TO THE SECOND OFFICER, WHOM HE COMMANDED TO CHANGE VESSEL'S COURSE.

The Oceanic Steamship company's liner Sierra, Captain Houdlette, which has arrived at San Francisco from Australia, came up from Honolulu in five days and seven hours, having brought 1,200 tons of freight and a large number of passengers. The cargo included 1,000 bales of wool, the first shipment that has come this way for a long time.

T. Smith, a passenger booked from Sydney to Auckland, developed insanity while en route, and was confined to his stateroom and to be restrained. Smith is a man of means and companionable under normal conditions. He appeared all right when he boarded the liner, but one night he mounted the bridge and told Second Officer Dawson to change the course, as he had orders from God to sail the Sierra to heaven. Dawson, thinking the man was joking, said he guessed he would wait until he got Captain Houdlette's orders. Without warning, Smith struck the navigator in the face, felling him to the deck.

The man was quickly seized and secured in his stateroom. He was left at Auckland to be returned to Sydney on the Sonoma.

WOOD TALKS ON THE BELLAIRS' SUBJECT

From the Philippines the Much Discussed Brigadier-General Sends a Letter Giving His Side to the Controversy.

New York, Dec. 25.—General Wood caused to be printed in the Commercial Advertiser yesterday the following letter, which was addressed to Dr. Horace Fletcher of Yale university. In the letter Wood tells of his acquaintance with Edgar B. Bellairs.

"In the spring of 1899 he was promoted to Havana, from Santiago, not at my request or suggestion, direct or indirect, as I remember it. He asked absolutely no favors of me, or so far as I know, from anyone. After my transfer to Havana as governor of the whole island, in December, 1899, Bellairs continued on duty. I should say about five months, and was then sent to China and the Philippines, not at my suggestion or request, direct or indirectly, as I remember it. He was all liked him and found him reliable. In the Philippines, Bellairs was a believer in military government instead of civil, and apparently wrote accordingly, and, of course, trouble with the civil government in the way of loss of friendly relations followed.

SORRY CHRISTMAS FOR MESSENGER

Joe Quinn, a messenger boy residing at 14 North Fourteenth street, did not have a very merry Christmas. He was sent to the Reception saloon, near Third and Washington streets, and after performing his errand he found that his bicycle had been stolen. He immediately reported the theft to the police, but the machine has not been found.

SHIP ELFRIEDA DAMAGED IN STORM

Santos, Dec. 24.—The German ship Elfrieda, from Rotterdam for Portland, with general cargo, put into port today with fender-ropes yard sprung. About 10 days will be required to repair damages.

SHIP DRESSED UP IN GALA ATTIRE

RED ROCK IN FULL SAIL AND FLAGS OF VARIOUS KINDS FLUTTER FROM HER MASTS AND YARDS—DECORATED WITH EVERGREENS.

Lying at Martin's dock is the British ship Red Rock, gaily bedecked in a Christmas garb. Her yards are squared and at a distance she looks as though she is waiting for a breeze to fan her out to sea. The yards and masts are profusely decorated with holly, mistletoe and other evergreens. The ensign, union jack, house flag and signal letters have all been unfurled to the breeze, while a liberal supply of bunting has been used to give the decorations a gay effect.

"Christmas comes but once a year," says Captain Porter, her commander, "and I believe in dressing up the good old ship in honor of the event, when the opportunity presents itself. It is seldom that I am in port on Christmas day. There have only been six of such occasions that I can recall during the past 30 years. Usually I am out on the rolling sea where evergreens are scarce, and there is not much time to indulge in Christmas doings.

"Last year at this time I was at Cape Town, where the day was very pleasantly spent by myself and crew. But the best time I ever had on board a ship during the Christmas holidays was several years ago at Mobile, Ala. Southern hospitality made itself manifest on every hand. Entertainments and big dinners came in rapid succession."

Several sea captains were spinning yarns last evening about the different places they have been on Christmas days.

"At that season of the year," said one, "I have usually been so unfortunate as to be many miles from land. I recall one occasion, however, that I particularly enjoyed myself. Our supplies had been running short for some time past, but on the evening of December 24 an Atlantic liner was sighted. Acquainting her with the situation she hove alongside and soon filled our empty larder with all the delicacies of the season. The next day we had one of the most elegant spreads ever seen on board a ship. I never enjoyed a meal so well before or since."

Another RICKMERS OVERDUE. The German ship Willy-Rickmers, 187 days out today from Rangoon for Bremen, and the British bark Lady Wolseley, 124 days out from Pinaqua for Barrow, were listed as overdue yesterday at 10 per cent. reinsurance. The rate on the overdue Olivebank was advanced to 35 per cent. The British ship Alice A. Leigh, quoted at 10 per cent, put into Honolulu.

ANOTHER WILSON CHECK APPEARS. It came to light yesterday that L. F. Wilson drew a third worthless check for \$10 in favor of the Standard Sewing Machine company. The check turned up yesterday at the East Side bank, from which the missing man had drawn all his funds, including \$400 belonging to the local organization of United Garment Workers of America, of which he was

Olds, Wortman & King. Extend to all a most cordial Christmas Greeting and trust that Santa Claus in his merry rounds has not forgotten a single person; but if in the fallibility of human memory some have been overlooked we will be ready on Saturday morning to fully supply their needs. Commencing Saturday morning we will hold a Great Closing Sale of the balance of our Books and Dolls. The great bargains we will offer will be most attractive to all who wish to add to their good books or to give pleasure to their little girl friends. Olds, Wortman & King.

MEN'S SHOES \$3.50 UP-TO-DATE AND NONE BETTER FOR THE MONEY. WE HAVE JUST WHAT YOU WANT IN Ladies', Children's and Boys' SHOES TRY A PAIR. Leo Selling 167 Third Street. AMUSEMENTS. CORDRAY'S THEATRE. "HELLO BILL." "IN CONVICT STRIPES." THE BAKER THEATRE. "SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL." ESTHER LYONS. EMPIRE THEATRE. "A TRIP TO CHINATOWN." MARQUAM GRAND THEATRE. "THE BONNIE BRIER BUSH." "SORRY CHRISTMAS FOR MESSENGER." "SHIP ELFRIEDA DAMAGED IN STORM." "SORRY CHRISTMAS FOR MESSENGER." "SHIP ELFRIEDA DAMAGED IN STORM." "SORRY CHRISTMAS FOR MESSENGER." "SHIP ELFRIEDA DAMAGED IN STORM."