

HOLIDAY TRADE BIGGEST IN HISTORY OF PORTLAND CHRISTMASSES

Merchants in Every Line Declare They Could Not Have Handled More.

TROUBLE NOT GETTING BUT DODGING CROWDS

Tour of the Business District Reveals a Degree of Prosperity Such as the City Has Never Known Before.

"Was the holiday trade this year good?" "Never was so good since we entered business here."

"Was it up to your expectations?" "Far beyond them."

"These questions and answers were features of interviews with a number of merchants today, and the consensus was that the volume of business during the holiday season was in the aggregate 25 to 30 per cent larger than it was a year ago, and this, too, with the recession by all that 1905 was the red letter trade season up to that time."

Furthermore, immediately after the immense rush of the past few weeks, today the stores were crowded with eager buyers. The work of interviewing the merchants was pleasant, excepting that it was often difficult to break through the throngs of customers to get a personal conversation with the managers and proprietors. Men who ordinarily never wait on the trade today were busy selling goods and reaping the harvest of profits.

After the Fair. A journey such as that which was taken by a Journal man today, through establishments of all sorts, was a revelation of Portland's magnificent commercial strength as reflected in the prosperity of the people. The pessimist of a few months ago, who lugubriously prophesied dire disaster after the exposition closed, was proven to have been not deserving of honor in his own or any other country. The optimist, at that time predicting conditions that conservative men thought impossible, comes now as the one who correctly foresaw the status that would obtain in the post-exposition period.

Swamped by the ante-Christmas trade, some stores were closed for the purpose of rearranging stocks and marking down for the annual clearance sales which are now setting the women of the city on the qui vive in anticipation of bargains. Other establishments were already endeavoring to handle the reduction sales multitude who had deferred purchases in order to take advantage of the inevitable cut in prices.

Especially in the jewelry trade, a quieter period was looked for by many well-informed men. It was thought that the \$75,000 to \$100,000 of goods bought at the exposition would materially reduce the sales of the local jewelry establishments during the holiday season.

Jewelers Busy. "We never had so good a trade," was the statement at the house of A. & C. Feldenheimer, jewelers. "We figured conservatively, we will admit. But the business of the past weeks has exceeded every expectation. The people appear to be prosperous, too, buying the best grades of goods."

"Holiday trade," said the firm of Jaeger Brothers. "Why, it was just as we predicted to The Journal several weeks ago. We cannot understand why the people bought such quantities of goods and of such a high quality excepting on the theory that every one is prosperous and money more plentiful than ever before. We would almost be afraid to say what was the ratio of increase over last year, it was so heavy."

Ben Selling, Steinbach & Co., M. Sichel, W. W. Robinson and other haberdashers and clothiers joined in the anthem of rejoicing that is being sung today by the Portland merchandisers.

"Holiday trade was splendid," said Mr. Selling. "Our business far exceeded expectations," said Mr. Steinbach. "Never approached it before," was the remark of Mr. Robinson.

"We had the best business in the history of the store," said Mr. Sichel. "Couldn't have handled more." In the drug and fancy goods line, Woodard, Clarke & Co., the Skidmore Drug company, Rowe & Martin and the Nau pharmacy, as well as several others, simply repeated what their competitors said.

"We could not have handled any larger

volume of trade," said G. M. Healy, manager for Woodard, Clarke & Co. "I believe, too, that other merchants had the same experience."

"We would like to have the trade of the past few weeks keep up for a short time longer," said Mr. Rowe, of Rowe & Martin. "We could almost retire from business."

Department stores had only one difficulty—they had to resort to unusual means to prevent being mobbed by the eager customers. The crush was something remarkable, according to the statements made by the several firms and the testimony of shoppers who tried at different times to force their way through the establishments. Nothing like this had been known hitherto in Portland.

"It was simply wonderful," said W. P. Olds, of Olds, Wortman & King. "The people seemed to have lots of money and good prospects, for they bought with remarkable liberality and, too, of the best grades."

Meyer & Frank company said: "We could scarcely have accommodated any more people than came to our store during the holiday season. The conditions were phenomenal. The city and surrounding country must be highly prosperous, judging from our business during the past weeks."

"Holiday trade was superb," said Lippman, Wolfe & Co. "The conditions were and are such as to inspire the hope that the most abounding prosperity will continue to bless the people here."

Fair's Father Talks. This in substance was what Dan McAllen of McAllen & McDonnell, father of the Lewis and Clark fair, said: "I am glad, not alone for the immense trade that came to us, but for the fact that the people here were able so magnificently to patronize the business houses."

Roberts Brothers: "Holiday trade, in fact ever since the fair closed, has been unprecedented, an immense increase over previous years."

L. Shanahan: "I don't see how any one could complain about the conditions in Portland just now. From the volume of trade, I judge that every one is prosperous."

The boot and shoe trade, too, enjoyed the general prosperity. "Never was better," said Mr. Knight of the Knight Shoe company.

"Fine trade," said Leo Selling. "Best business ever," said Vandyn & Walton.

Cigar stores nowadays carry many articles suitable for gifts. Tobacconists catered the statements of other merchants as to big holiday trade.

Cigars to Burn. "Never saw anything like it," said Sig Sichel of Sichel & Co.

"Our trade was phenomenal," was the remark of John O'Neill of Poeller & O'Neill.

"Fine trade," said Gunst & Co.

Florists, probably, reaped the richest harvest of all lines. The volume of purchases of flowers is accepted as an index of prosperity in any community.

"This is a new mark was set in that class of stores. Several new establishments have come into existence during the past year; nevertheless, every one of them, old and new, sold more flowers by 50 per cent than ever before since Portland was a steamboat landing."

"Our business was something marvelous," said Clarke Brothers.

"Immense demand," said Forbes & Martin.

"Couldn't supply the trade," said Bodley, the florist.

And so went the story of Portland's present prosperity, with numerous expressions by many business men tending to arouse high expectations for the coming year, which undoubtedly will be the best ever experienced.

BEST MEN GOT THE PLACES

(Continued from Page One.)

Willis were appointed the committee to make the changes.

At a meeting in August, Mayor Lane suggested the abolition of the rule requiring a residence of one year in Portland as a requisite to taking the examinations.

"He preceded the suggestion with the statement that he wanted to get the best men obtainable for the service," said the witness. "He said he did not care whom we selected so long as we got the best men. That was the extent of his participation in the revision of the law."

In speaking of the examination for police captain, Commissioner Brewster said: "The examination was a fair one. The two candidates, Captain Nevins and Postmaster Minto, were there to find out which of the two men were the best qualified for the position for which they were applying—to judge of their bearing, their capacity, from their appearance as well as from their answers to the questions. They were to pick out the men who impressed them the most favorably."

Interpreting the Charter. "What do you say to that section of the city charter which provides for promotions?" questioned Malarkey.

"That provision is not a command, but a request," was the answer. "The commission did not think it practicable to confine the examinations for captain of police to men in the department."

"Why did not you think it practicable?" was the query. "I do not desire to say anything which will reflect on the members of the police force. An examination admitting men outside of the department looked to be better. It turned out that only one man, Patrick Bruin, took the examination that was called. I want to leave it to the men here and to this committee, from what they have seen of these applicants for the office of captain, that they would not have selected the same men as did Captain Nevins and Mr. Minto, Quinlan, who is 27. They are both capable but from their answers to the questions propounded to them here it could be easily seen why it was that Bruin and Slover received a higher percentage. For my part I can easily see why Captain Nevins and Mr. Minto marked lower than as they did."

"You say it was thought to be impracticable to confine the examinations to members of the department. How did you judge it was impracticable?" was asked.

"For my part, I do not think there were men on the force who were competent to fill the position of captain of detectives," answered Brewster.

Malarkey tried to make it appear as if Brewster thought that there were no men good enough to serve as captain. But Brewster denied this and said that it was thought that more competent men might be secured by holding the examinations open.

"Did you know of Patrick Bruin then?" asked Malarkey.

"No sir," was the reply.

"What would the city have done had

269-271 Morrison St.

Gray's Second Great Sale

269-271 Morrison St.

Men's Fashionable Ready-for-Wear Clothes Begins Wednesday Morning, December 27

In accordance with our usual custom of making a grand clearing sale at the end of each season, we will, tomorrow morning, inaugurate the greatest Clothing and Men's Furnishing Sale ever held in Portland. The purpose of this sale is to entirely close out all stock of the present season, enabling us to enter upon the next season's business with an entire new stock. In order to accomplish this, we are going to make the price-cut so deep that the values offered will be irresistible. All of the famous CHESTERFIELD Suits and Overcoats, and other good makes to go on sale, Blacks and Blues only excepted, in suits at the following great price reductions:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Suits and Overcoats, Men's Trousers, and Men's Fine Underwear.

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All \$3.00 and \$3.50 Derbys and Soft Hats at Sale, \$2.50

The sale extends through the entire stock of Men's Fine Ready-Wear Apparel. Come Wednesday morning. EVERY ARTICLE SOLD AT SALE PRICE HAS OUR GUARANTEE THE SAME AS AT REGULAR PRICE. Terms of sale strictly CASH. A great opportunity. Avail yourself of it to buy the finest wear at great price reductions.

R. M. GRAY, 269-271 Morrison St.

ALBANY ELKS GIVE A FESTIVAL

Children Have a Glorious Time as the Guests of the Lodge.

CHRISTMAS DAY WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED

More Than Three Hundred Children Received Gifts and Those Unable to Attend in Person Were Not Forgotten.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Albany, Or., Dec. 26.—The most unique and pleasing Christmas entertainment of the season in this city was that given by the Elks, when Albany lodge, No. 359, gave a Christmas tree and entertainment for the benefit of the children of the city.

The lower floor of the opera-house was reserved for the little ones to the number of 300, while the balcony was filled with the Elks and their families.

Teachers and several ministers were in attendance and filled the boxes, when Exalted Ruler Charles H. Burggraf called for order and introduced Hon. J. K. Weatherford, a member of the lodge, who briefly addressed the audience, explaining the day, the significance of the event and welcomed the children.

This afternoon thousands of presents and residents of the city who have heretofore kept to the seclusion of their homes, taking no part in the uprising, have flocked to the camps of the revolutionaries, demanding that they be furnished arms and ammunition to assist in driving the soldiers from the city.

Bombs are playing a big part in the turning of the last two days and hundreds have been flung into the ranks of the soldiers.

THOUSAND LEADERS IN JAIL AT ST. PETERSBURG AND MANY RETURN TO WORK.

(Journal Special Service.)

St. Petersburg, Dec. 26.—The defeat of the strikers and the gaining of Witte's strength are the features of the situation in St. Petersburg today. The strike has practically ended in the defeat of the strikers and thousands are returning to work, while nearly 1,000 leaders have been arrested and lodged in jail.

Witte is gaining in strength and together with the council of ministers is optimistic of results within a short time that will soon place the country on a normal basis.

The Socialists, however, declare the check caused by the returning of the strikers to their places in many quarters is but temporary and that soon they will be able to duplicate the scenes lately enacted at Moscow.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SOME few weeks ago we placed before the people of Portland a plan for better Sunday hours for drug clerks and asked their approval of same, and called for suggestions as to the hours our store should be kept open Sundays.

The recognition of our efforts was immediate and aroused far greater interest than we anticipated. Indeed, replies and votes were so showered upon us that we were forced to take care of the correspondence and to separate the votes into their divisions.

Votes and letters of approval have come from all parts of the land. From Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Boise, besides the thousands from Portland and Oregon. We have had many excellent suggestions, for which we offer our sincere thanks, but the vote has been so overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the store open Sunday for four hours—from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m.—that all other plans were completely overshadowed, and since we agreed to abide by your decision, so be it.

Beginning January 1, 1906, this store will be open from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m.

On behalf of our employees who are made happy by this change we wish to thank the public for the interest they have shown in the matter, and with assurance of our deep appreciation, we are,

Yours truly,

Woodard, Clarke & Co.

FOURTH AND WASHINGTON STS.

FIRE MAKES HUNDREDS HOMELESS AT TIPTON

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Baker City, Or., Dec. 26.—The town of Tipton, 34 miles southwest of Baker City, and until recently the terminus of the Sumpter Valley railway, burned to the ground last night. The fire started about 6 o'clock last evening in a hotel, rapidly spreading to adjoining stores and houses, and soon all were in flames. A fierce blizzard raged during the time of the fire and all last night. Nearly all the people of Tipton are homeless. Only one building is left standing, a blacksmith shop.

The population of the town is 300. There is no fire department, very little water and no insurance was carried. A relief train leaves here today to assist the homeless.

Judge M. F. Tuley Dead.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Judge Murray F. Tuley of this city died at a sanatorium in Kenosha, Wisconsin, yesterday, aged 73 years.

INSURGENTS ACTIVE.

Joined by Local Militia They Capture Stations on Kazan Railroad.

(Journal Special Service.)

London, Dec. 26.—Christmas day the insurgents attacked the Kazan & Nicolai railroad stations, a lively fusillade followed. Three hundred revolutionary militiamen arrived on a special train and a crowd of 2,000, including hundreds of trained local militia, joined forces, seized the adjoining provision store and fired on the troops in the station. The fire was returned warmly, but finally the building was ignited and burned to the ground. The insurgents hold two other stations.

Advertisement for Arch Crown Setting, featuring a diamond ring and text describing the setting's benefits for color and security.

Advertisement for Jewelers, featuring a diamond ring and text for 'The School of Quality'.