

WILSONS' SUITE CHRISTMAS BOWER; AWAIT RELATIVES

Apartment Occupied by President and Bride Beautifully Decorated for Holiday
GUESTS PLAN AFFAIR

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Dec. 24.—A force of decorators today transformed the presidential suite, occupied by President Wilson and his bride, into a veritable Christmas bower. Wreaths of holly and mistletoe were festooned over the walls and electric light fixtures, while a beautiful spruce tree was in readiness to be set up should the President and Mrs. Wilson desire. Preparations have been made for the entertainment of any members of the families of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson who may come to stay here over the holiday. Meanwhile an effort was being made today to have the President consent to being the guest of honor at the Christmas Eve celebration here in the hotel.

The President sent a very heavy bag of mail back to Washington through a messenger who left here on the night train. It is understood that included in the list was a batch of instructions for Colonel E. M. House, who sails for Europe next week, and documents dealing with the Ancona case. It has been definitely decided that the President and his bride will not return to Washington until January 1. The rest and seclusion is greatly benefiting the Chief Executive, and he wants to stay away from Washington until the return of Congress makes his presence there necessary.

PRESIDENT LAVISHES GIFTS ON HIS YOUNG FRIENDS

White House Auto Filled With "Goodies" for Children

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—There was the shrill alarm of an automobile horn. Children at play early today in front of the White House along Washington road, near the Washington Country Club, in Virginia, paused in their games. Other children in the houses came running out. They knew that horn well.

And as 50 youngsters, ranging in age from 3 years to 15, ran delighted out to the curb a big White House limousine, "loaded to the guards" with toys of all kinds and candy and fruit of every description, wheeled up. Packages were handed to each, and I. H. Hoover, White House head usher, added "Merry Christmas" to all.

It was the President's Christmas remembrance to some of his little friends. The little scene is entirely new. The children are those who always run and greet the President when he is on his way to the Washington Country Club. They know him today, and the President always has it blown when he approaches the row of houses along a nation road near the White House.

Back in the White House today two other youngsters play; untroubled of the preparations which are going forward to make their Christmas a happy one. They are the President's mail, and Master Ellen McAdoo, aged 11 months, and Master Francis Sayre, who has passed the age of one year.

Tomorrow morning they will awaken to find a great Christmas tree awaiting them in the library on the second floor of the White House. It will sparkle with many brightly colored lights, and the boughs will droop with mysterious packages which Santa Claus, who will have come in the night, will have left. It will be the first Christmas these youngsters have spent together in their grandfather's big house.

Granddaddy himself will not be there. He is on his honeymoon in the mountains of Virginia with his bride, but there will be presents and good wishes from him hidden in the tree.

Miss Ellen and Master Francis will act as hosts to another young lady, Josephine Cotnam of Philadelphia, grandniece of the President, who is here with her mother, Mrs. Anne Cotnam. And the other guests of the youngsters at the Christmas dinner will be the President's respective mothers and fathers, Mr. and Mrs. William G. McAdoo, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sayre, Miss Margaret Wilson, Miss Helen Woodrow Bones and Professor Herbert Hoover, the President's former Mrs. Wilson, and the Misses Nona and Sallie McAdoo.

Christmas dinner at the White House will be in the state dining room in the evening. Today all of the employees in the White House and executive offices are bearing home a large turkey, the regular Christmas gift of the President to those about him.

XMAS AT GERMANTOWN HIGH

Original Sketches, Songs and Recitations Given by Pupils

Two original sketches, written and acted by the pupils of Germantown High School, were the featured Christmas exercises held in the auditorium of the school at Germantown avenue and High street today. Another feature on the program was a continuous attention was the Christmas tree dance, an original idea, with several of the girls of the institution.

The sketches were entitled "The School Christmas Tree" and "The Redemption of Santa Claus," which was a musical sketch in three acts. Dr. Harry Keller, principal of the institution, presided over the exercises of the boys and girls. Miss Mary Holmes, assistant superintendent of the school, directed the girls' exercises. The boys' celebration was held at 9 o'clock and the exercises by the girls at 10:30.

Singing of Christmas carols, school songs, selections by the boys' orchestra and the glee club, and several solos and recitations were the program. Among those who participated were Merritt Hubbard, J. Douglas Trower, Albert C. Bentley and Miss Dorothy Elcombe. Short addresses were made by Doctor Keller and Miss Holmes.

CITY EMPLOYEE REWARDED

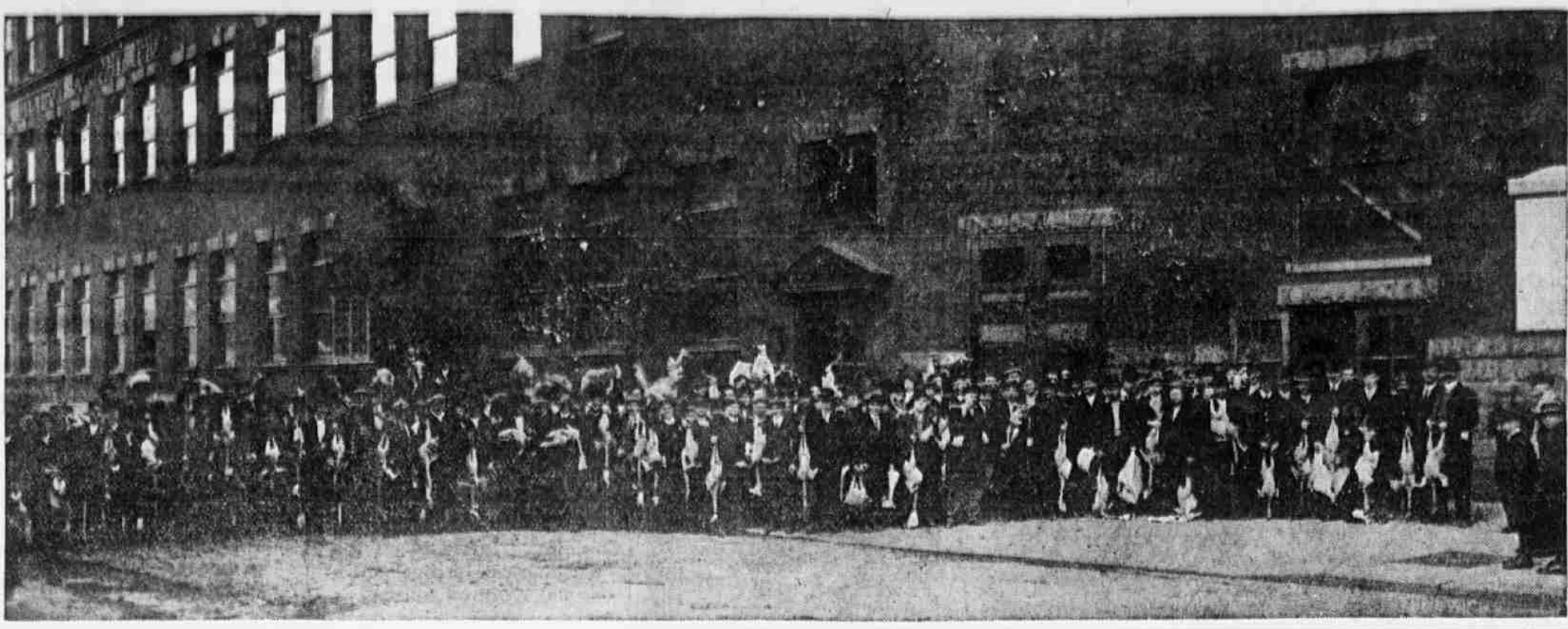
Turkey for Engineer Whose Work Was Commended

A big turkey for Christmas dinner was presented to H. M. Packer, an engineer in the Bureau of Highways, by Director Morris L. Cooke, of the Department of Public Works, today for work that brought the best letter of commendation for a city employee received in the year. The letter, which is from the Pennsylvania Company for Insurances on Lives and Granting Annuities, says:

"For several months during the current year we suffered much annoyance and inconvenience by reason of drain water flowing into our building. It was difficult to ascertain the cause, and the various bureaus in your department acted with great efficiency and cheerfulness in the matter, but it was not until late in the summer that the trouble was located. I want to particularly call to your attention the valuable services rendered by Assistant Engineer H. M. Packer, who was energetic, consistent and continuously on the job, and I feel that the satisfactory outcome of the matter is due in a great measure to his personal efforts."

Director Cooke announced that the turkey had been secured by a local merchant and will be served at the Packer home on Monday night.

42,000 POUNDS OF TURKEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG 3074 EMPLOYES OF STETSON HAT FACTORY



TAKE A TIP! THIS IS OPEN SEASON FOR "TIPPING"

Even the Artful Dodger Couldn't Elude Smiling Senegambians and Others Who Expect Trinkgeld, Pour-boire, Backsheesh or Just Plain "Tip"

Apartment-house dwellers and renters of hotel apartments sympathize with the soldiers in the trenches in Europe. While no news would be more welcome to them than that Henry Ford had accomplished his ambition, still they have a war of their own on their hands now, which occupies them almost to the exclusion of everything else. They are not the only ones in the conflict, although they claim they hold the first line of trenches. Restaurant patrons, barber shop frequenters and just plain housekeepers are also in the throes of battle.

The first-mentioned class is meeting with reverses at the hands of the Senegambian apartment house troops. As the timid tenant makes a desperate effort to slip into his trench without being noticed, the Senegambians spy him and cut off his escape. A shudder passes through him from his watch to his bank roll.

Well might he quail at the sight of a uniformed bellhop or the brass buttons of a waiter. He is in the hands of the Senegambians, and he knows it. The elevator man, Mr. J. M. A. Tightwad, slinks through the corridor on the way to his apartment, but he is discovered.

The enemy swoops down on him, picks him off his coat, brushes his trousers for the "tenth time" and gives him the correct telephone numbers of the persons who have called him up.

Retreat or the evacuation of his present position are alike impossible. While they shower favors on him he would gladly, with a song on his lips, tell them with a stone axe. Deep in the mark of the main trench the waiter crouches, awaiting his opportunity. The dumb-waiter attendant carols a light air as he sends the soup on its upward journey and offers in dulcet tones to put the kitchen stove and the wash tub on the dumbwaiter if the tenant so desires.

The while the covering tenant sticks an eye close to his trench as exigencies will permit. And in the very air courtesy floats like the poisonous gases of the trenches.

Restaurant patrons are evacuating their sentry boxes, which they have occupied for months to avoid a hand-to-hand engagement with waitresses and waiters. At this time to close changes his barber shop at this time to avoid being carried into steak next year. But housekeepers are obliged to stand by their guns—and come across.

Children from the Taber House and from the public schools will also sing.

CHRISTMAS EVE; WHOLE CITY REVEALS IN JOY

Continued from Page One

A limousine, followed by an older woman, bent and gray, also in furs. There were several packages, wrapped and sealed, in the car.

"O hurry, hurry," said the first woman. "We must get Jimmy's electric railway, and then see about the turkey." There was the same light in her eyes as was in the poor woman's. And in both cases it was said as plainly as if they had spoken that Christmas is coming.

Decorated with green. Christmas is coming there, just as it is in all other parts of the city.

The grimy region of the wharves has Down at League Island the warships are caught the fever of it. Stevedores haul at ropes and struggle with coils of oil and cases of clothing with a vim, for tomorrow will be a holiday.

A "wharf rat," small and ragged, was watching a crane and shovel unloading coal from a barge.

"What is Santa Claus going to bring you?" asked a skeptical loafer, ironically.

"Where'll you sell it? On the river?" pursued the loafer.

"Naw, at home," replied the gamin; "in a tub."

"A rat" with a home! Christmas is there, too.

Christmas, though, will be dreary for the sailors of the Rensselaer and the Pennsacola, the interned German vessels. They are standing today along the rail, looking down on the water as it moves between the wharves, and they are waiting for their second Christmas in exile from the Fatherland.



A reproduction of the medals awarded today to the men who have seen 50 years of service with Stetson's.

BIG-HEARTED JIM'S WIDOW GETS PRESENTS

Many Send Money and Groceries to Family of Slain Waiter

Gifts of money and groceries kept coming all day to Mrs. Fitzsimmons, widow of the slain waiter, who was killed by a bootblack who was being attacked by a man with a revolver. Since Jim's death his widow has been in great distress, and this is published to acknowledge receipt of the money. Mrs. McGonigle, a neighbor of Mrs. Fitzsimmons, aroused the compassion of the women who visited the latter and saw that she was having as hard a struggle to support her four children as Big-Hearted Jim's widow.

The holiday spirit is everywhere in the air. It is estimated that \$100,000,000 was spent in shopping. Thousands of dollars have been distributed among employees in the financial district.

WOMAN GIVES \$15

A woman who "wanted to give a little Christmas happiness where it was really needed," has contributed \$15 for Mrs. Fitzsimmons and for Mrs. McGonigle, of 1901 South Napa street.

The woman stipulated only that her name be not used, and this is published to acknowledge receipt of the money. Mrs. McGonigle, a neighbor of Mrs. Fitzsimmons, aroused the compassion of the women who visited the latter and saw that she was having as hard a struggle to support her four children as Big-Hearted Jim's widow.

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"SANTA CLAUS LADY" DISTRIBUTES GIFTS

More Than 1000 Children Await Her at Ninth St. and Washington Ave.

Hundreds of children assembled at Ninth and Washington avenue today for the annual visit of the "Santa Claus Lady." The youngsters, many of them scantily clad, but happy with expectation, waited patiently outside the residence of Mrs. Mary Kelhoffer, of 905 South Front street, where they were each given toys and candy—things necessary to a real Christmas, but not always included where salaries are meagre and families large.

Accompanied by her mother, her sister Dorothy and Miss Emma Bradbury, Miss Olive May Wilson, the "Santa Claus Lady," left her home at 5151 Morris street, Germantown, in a big automobile loaded with the toys and candy. The party proceeded to Front and Washington avenue, where the distribution began at 10:30 o'clock. More than 1000 children were the happy recipients of the gifts.

Miss Wilson received more than 2500 toys and gifts of various kinds to be distributed this year among the worthy poor children. It has been the largest number ever received by her for the work, and she kept a corps of eight young women charged with the distribution of the toys and shipping the presents. More than 3000 packages were sent outside of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania day before yesterday.

GET CHRISTMAS MONEY

Tardy Husbands and Fathers Yield \$5000 Under Legal Pressure

Hundreds of wives and children were the happy recipients today of special delivery letters from the District Attorney's office containing money for Christmas. Nearly \$5000 was thus distributed. The money was collected by the staff of the district attorney's office, which literally squeezed and prodded the money out of wayward husbands and fathers to whom a joyous Christmastide for those dependent on them meant absolutely nothing.

It was necessary to threaten the tardy husbands in many cases with a term on the county stone pile in order to get the money promptly. It is hoped to make another distribution of about \$5000 on New Year's Day.

Assistant District Attorney Fox takes the stand that there are fewer men on the list of employment this year than ever before, and he, therefore, using every effort to reach delinquent husbands. Nearly 400 letters containing money were sent to poverty-stricken families today.

Gives Scholarship to Worthy Boy

MERCERSBURG, Pa., Dec. 24.—H. B. Kelpner, of Lancaster, Pa., has given to the Mercersburg Academy the sum of \$2000, the interest of which is to be used each year to help educate a worthy boy of limited means. Mr. Kelpner gave this scholarship as a "thank offering" in honor of Mrs. Kelpner, who is recovering from a very severe illness.

GETS CHRISTMAS WISH—A CELL

"Here I'm Sure of a Bed and Dinner, Judge," Says Man Who Faces Magistrate

Jim McGrath, a chronic prisoner in the Northeast, elected to spend Christmas in jail today when all his fellow prisoners were given their liberty by Magistrate Glenn, who was sitting in the 4th and York streets police station.

Eight men and two women were brought before the Magistrate and he released them all so that they wouldn't have to spend Christmas behind the bars. Jim McGrath, though, was not pleased. He requested the Magistrate to let him stay in the station house.

"Here I'm sure of a bed and a dinner, Judge," he said, "and I wouldn't have either outside." So the Judge granted the Christmas wish, and Jim went back to his cell. He took with him a box of candy like that every one of his fellows got from Magistrate Glenn.

In giving the prisoners their liberty, the Magistrate remarked that among the other things they had to be happy for was that the last municipal election "had been won." It meant, he said, a brighter, better Philadelphia.

CHRISTMAS CHEER AWAITS KIDNAPPED BOY

Mother of Richard Meekins Has Toys and Tree Ready in Hope of His Return

The dancing bear which will not dance any more, because the little boy who got it last Christmas broke the main-spring, was brought out today with all the other toys of Richard Meekins. The 8-year-old boy, missing for one month, is believed to have been kidnapped. But his mother, Mrs. Luke Meekins, of 249 South 61st street, is bringing his old toys out of closets just for the one chance in a thousand that Richard might come home tomorrow.

The even bought him one present, a schoolbag that he wanted. The Teddy bear he got when he was one year old sits on the table beside the dancing bear and the schoolbag, and a tree is there and will be trimmed tonight.

James, the younger brother of Richard, who wrote a letter to Santa Claus, will have as good a Christmas as ever, although he is constantly asking for his brother, and runs to the door from time to time to see if he is coming.

"HIGH JINKS" IN WALL STREET; "PROSPERITY CHRISTMAS" FUN

Stream of Gold Flows to Thousands of Employees

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Santa Claus drew rein in the financial district today and Wall street broke into one of the wildest prosperity celebrations in its history.

"High jinks" on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on the curb and on the Consolidated Stock Exchange marked the advent of Christmas.

Employees of the stock exchanges, armed with noise-making devices, added to the bedlam when \$25,000 in gold was distributed to them from a pool collected by the members. Hundreds of other employees of financial institutions, nearly all of them rewarded by Christmas gratuities, thronged the streets, joining in the celebration.

The financial district was a gala spot. A Christmas tree on the Consolidated Exchange was the centre of a "prosperity frolic." More than 1000 brokers joined hands and danced about the tree, and the tunes of a regimental band were drowned by the din of shouting voices, horns and whistles.

"War millionaires," whose whose riches as yet are only a few months old, remembered the most lovely of Stock Exchange workers. Scrawny women, their faces wreathed in smiles, stood in line, mops in hand, and surveyed the antics of the crowd on the floor, while a committee gave them presents from the huge tree.

J. P. Morgan & Co. is reported to have given employees 20 per cent. of their annual salaries as a Christmas gift. Scores of houses gave as much as 10 per cent., and one concern, the Central Trust Company, distributed 50 per cent. of the annual payroll.

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY MEN TO HAVE CHRISTMAS FEAST

Celebrations Will Be Had on Every Ship and at Posts

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Every ship in the United States Navy and every Army post and camp where troops are located will have a Christmas feast today. Decorating ships and army stations began today.

Another and more important part of the Christmas program was that of preparing 150,000 pounds of turkey for the hundreds of ovens on man-of-war-men and at Army stations.

Sixty-five thousand pounds of the national bird were required for the Navy alone. Other items on the Army and Navy bills of fare were 9000 gallons of oyster soup, 30,000 pounds of celery, 6000 gallons of cranberries, scores of barrels of sweet and white potatoes, 4,000 or more pumpkin and mince pies and 8,000 pounds of plum pudding. The Navy men were to top off their Yuletide dinners with the best of cigars.

90 CHRISTMAS BABIES, EACH ONE YEAR OLD, TO OBSERVE CHRISTMAS

Parents Plan Birthday Anniversary Celebrations for the Infants Who Arrived Last Yuletide

Ninety babies, who made their entrance into the world on December 25, 1914, will celebrate their birthday anniversaries tomorrow. In these ninety homes Christmas will have a double significance.

It is expected that about 120 new babies will arrive in this city tomorrow. That is the figure estimated by the clerks in the Bureau of Vital Statistics, by determining the usual number of births in proportion to the total population. Last year 104 babies were born.

The 90 who will enjoy a new experience tomorrow—the celebrating of their birthday anniversary—are all who are living of the 1914 born last year. Sickness, either hereditary or contracted, made their stay on earth a short one.

It is safe to wager on the one name that will be in the majority among the girls born tomorrow. It has been found that parents find Mary a most desirable name for girls born Christmas day.

Christmas Day will have a triple or perhaps a quadruple significance for 1-year-old George Warren Kaufman, Jr., who lives at 232 North 31st street. It will not only be his birthday anniversary, but it will be the occasion for a reunion of four generations of the family, which will join in the celebration of the important event.

A Christmas baby is nothing new in the family of 1-year-old Myrtle Mary Nece, 327 Chelton avenue, Germantown. Her great-grandmother was a Christmas baby who lived to be 101 years old. Myrtle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Nece.

A really fine Christmas present awaits Mary Elizabeth Ruhnke, 147 North 34th street. Her parents decided when she was born that they would keep every coin that came to them bearing the date of her birth—1914—and put it away for her. Little Mary may not appreciate this present now, but when she gets older her parents believe she will be quite grateful.

Other happy year-old Christmas babies will be Harry Breitenbach, 4319 North 9th street; Frances Mary Redding, 256 North 15th street; and Anna Marie O'Donnell, 1337 Carpenter street; St. Clair Stinson, 523 Newmarket street, and Natalia Rancace, 1435 South Broad street.

Over at least one of the Christmas babies a heavy shadow falls. It is the last year of war and poverty. Harry Bluestein, 457 North 6th street, is the only source of joy in the home, where they are mourning the death of baby's two uncles, soldiers in the Austrian army. His father is a reservist in the Austrian army and there is danger that he may have to go, leaving his baby boy behind.

HEAVIEST MAIL ON RECORD

500,000,000 Pieces Handled in Local Postoffice During Last Ten Days of Christmas Rush

More than a half billion pieces of mail will have been handled through the local Postoffice Department by the time old Saint Nick gets ready to slip down chimneys tonight. This is counting only the number of pieces received in the last ten days since the Christmas rush began, said Postmaster John A. Thornton.

The total volume of business exceeds that of last year by at least 40 per cent., the heaviest on record. In the last few days there has been an increase of several million pieces a day over last year, according to the Postmaster.

In spite of this huge increase the local staff has been able to keep abreast of the flow, and it was stated that the force was in no sense of the word swamped.

This is partly due to the fact that more than 1000 extra clerks have been taken on for the holiday rush, and to the fact that two huge windows have been built in the mail corridor, where packages can be weighed and mail received in large trays, thus doing away with the old system, which required people to stand in line and make their letters out at a time in the slots.

The office will be open all night and there will be one delivery at 7 a. m. tomorrow.

MIDVALE STEEL GETS BIG WAR ORDER FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT

Contract Amounts to Between \$28,000,000 and \$30,000,000. Company's Volume of Business Large

FUTURE OUTLOOK GOOD

The Midvale Steel Ordnance Company has closed a contract with the French Government for 15-inch shells amounting to between \$28,000,000 and \$30,000,000. This statement is also made on very high authority that between now and Monday another contract with the same Government will be entered into, the amount of which will be considerably larger than the total just mentioned.

Aside from this large amount of war order business with foreign countries, the Midvale now has on its books big orders for domestic business. In fact, the company's volume of business booked is so large that orders are not now being taken except for delivery in an object lesson for the future.

The company manufactures a very high-grade steel which is used extensively in car axles and the demand for this particular class of its products has been unusually large for several months.

The fact that the directors of the Midvale Company have authorized the expenditure of several millions of dollars for additional plants is taken to indicate that its plans are for the future and that the outlook for the future is for a heavy increase in business.

Directors of the company do not regard the Midvale in any sense as a war order proposition. They are confident that it will enjoy a liberal and substantial volume of business in normal times.

STETSON WORKERS GET FORTUNE IN GIFTS

Continued from Page One

being absent," he said. He sent good wishes to all.

The Rev. Floyd W. Tomkins, rector of Holy Trinity Church, said it was a happy thought of the management to have the 80th anniversary at this time, "because it had not been for what Christmas stands for in the Station Building and Loss Association, each share having a value of \$200 at maturity; bonuses to every employee; to the more deserving, on the 25th of December, a \$1000 bonus. On the company's common stock the present market value of which is \$400 a share, and a life insurance policy for \$5000, known as the Wright plan, going to M. H. Wright, the company's advance agent."

The shares of common stock were divided among 25 employees. Sixty-one received building association stock. I. Howell Cummings, president of the company, said in his address that there was only one person connected with the company today who was associated with Mr. Stetson when he founded the business—William F. Frazer.

"While none of us can boast of 50 years of service, there are a number who have been here 25 years and longer. The names of these men are: 25 in number, will be thrown on the canvas every year up to the 50th anniversary of the company's organization intact during the period of extreme depression, so that we would be prepared to take advantage of the first signs of business awakening. I little realized then that by the end of the year we would be literally awamped with orders."

The orders for the last six weeks show an increase of 70 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and are 11 per cent. more than were received during the same period of the preceding year. Do not misunderstand me. I do not want you to get the impression that the business for the current year is going to show a decline in proportion to the increase in orders for the period just referred to.

"The orders for the six weeks have averaged nearly 30,000 dollars per week, and while the prospects for the future are bright there is sufficient haze in the atmosphere to make us feel that it would be unwise to make extensive improvements at this time with a view to increasing our facilities."

"A feature of these exercises is the payment of the bonus. By some it is referred to as a 'profit-sharing plan.' As I have explained several times, it is not profit sharing in the sense in which that term is generally used. We do not set aside a certain per cent. of our profits for distribution to the employees. The employee is paid at Christmas an amount based on what he or she has earned during the year, and this amount is included in the cost of operating the department. The amount paid the employee has no relation whatever to our profits. The same per cent. is not paid in all departments. It varies from a minimum of 5 per cent. to a maximum of 20 per cent."

"When the bonus plan was adopted 10 years ago, it applied to only one department. Since then other departments have been included in the plan. Last year I said that about 90 per cent. of the skilled labor participated in the distribution, or about 75 per cent. of the total number of employees. This year 100 per cent. of our employees, men, women and girls whose names were on the payroll list, as I have explained several times, when we closed our books on a certain October will today receive a certain sum in cash."

A luncheon was given after the celebration to Colonel Cummings and the other officers of the company and the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, the salesman associated with the Stetson Company.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1916

KREISLER

Tickets at Heppes, 75c to \$2. Boxes, \$12-18. Direction, C. A. Ellis, Symphony Hall, 121-18.

When ignorance is bliss, the crowd passeth thy door to buy elsewhere. Make known thy wares through the preachment of good advertising.