

THE ANNUAL HUSTLE.

THE TOWN IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE, AND A CHRISTMAS RUSH.

The Weather Unfavorable for Our Ideal Holiday Week, but the Post Office Clerks and Expressmen had to Hustle all the Same—Seeing the Sights.

What did Santa Claus bring? That's the question. It was asked yesterday in innumerable homes, and today it will be repeated in the work shops and the busy marts of men.

The P. O. customs department was one of the busiest places in town. It was crowded all day with a different lot of people than one usually sees there.

The clerks get a glimpse of everything, however, and during the day see a more varied assortment than any other persons in town.

But duty is often paid on parcels that are of no use whatever to the person to whom they are addressed.

Some people who go there in response to a post office card, after numerous enquiries have to be initiated into the mysteries of the department.

"A few more weeks like this and the asylums would be full," was the remark of one of the customs men.

In the express office it was about the same. A boy who was sent with a parcel to one of the companies, returned without a receipt for employer.

Up town there was every evidence of approaching Christmas, despite soft weather, muddy sidewalks, and all the inconvenience attendant on a soft spell.

A CALL FROM THE CHIEF.

AND HE WANTS TO KNOW, YOU KNOW.

Says That he has Done his Best—"Not that Kind of a Man"—Would like to have the Name of the Man but will Wait until Monday.

PROGRESS did hope to be printed this week of enjoyment and good will without any reference to the chief of police and his official troubles.

The chief came in full uniform with a body guard in attendance. He is not looking as well as usual, but the weather is trying and the doctors report much sickness throughout the city.

He came after information about the violation of the liquor law, and remarked that as PROGRESS seemed to know a good deal about it, the editor might come as a witness.

The chief suggested that all the staff should be summoned. They might know something about it.

"But as a citizen," said the chief, "you ought to render what assistance you can to inquire into this matter.

"Yes, we want to see the law enforced, but we do not think a newspaper's duty lies beyond pointing out the fact that the law is being broken.

The chief went on to say that his officers were all known and could not discover anything wrong with the bar rooms. He had tried hard to discover illegal sales, but could not do so.

Before he left Mr. Clark intimated that the name of the person who gave PROGRESS the information would be acceptable.

He omitted to wish the office "A Merry Christmas," and took his leave.

A Race for the Registry Office.

Two men with two leases, one older than the other, but both unrecorded, came to town a few days ago and interviewed the same lawyer by chance.

The gallant officer, whose blood was now up to boiling heat, proceeded to duly telegraph the sheriff of the county of the malicious and murderous assault made upon him by the notorious Taylor.

Five or six hundred children were made happy at St. Peter's church yesterday. It was the annual Christmas distribution of candy, apples, nuts and raisins.

Are You Studying Volapuk?

Mr. H. C. Creed, of Fredericton, calls PROGRESS' attention to the advance of Volapuk, and the interest taken in it by many people.

According to the worthy Telegraph, there is another side—a third one—to the McNeill-Clarke telegram.

Since the St. John letter carriers were organized and became a branch of the Canadian Letter Carriers Association.

The music at the Mission Church for the Sunday after Christmas will be as follows:— 11 a. m. Choral Celebration; Processional hymn 99; Introit, "Bethlehem," (Gounod); Offertory Sentences, Cuntance; Service, Mook in C; Hymn 92 and 99; 7.30 p. m., Evening; Processional Hymn 99; Service, Cuntance in A; Anthem, "O Zion that bringest good tidings; Stainer. After the service the choir will sing a selection of carols.

TUMULT AND DISCORD.

An Official of the Westmorland Shrivley Insulted at Petticoad.

While peace and good will are supposed to permeate all hearts during this good Christmas-tide, the even tenor of the way of some citizens was ruffled recently in secluded Petticoad.

An officer of the law, who can be called Rolande, visited Petticoad, his home being some distance away, and tied his noble sled near the mansard hostelry, wrapping him snugly over with his robes as a kind-hearted man would do.

Likewise it happened that a well known character named Neil Taylor came from the woods to make some purchases and also to test the qualities of the mineral water of which he had heard much lately.

Rolande also tested the mineral water at frequent intervals, mingled with some Scott Act syrups, and pronounced the same good. It happened that Taylor had par-taken too freely of the mineral water libations and became drowsy.

Rolande having discovered the fact proceeded to rudely disturb Neil's slumbers, and angry words followed. Within the precincts of the Mansard the row waxed warmer and blows resounded.

Francantly and dramatically he called upon the lookers on to assist him in his laudable design, but no man responded.

But an adjournment to a neighboring establishment caused a renewal of hostilities, and despite the efforts of the landlady the war broke forth again.

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Dinner at Doaktown. A slight injustice was done Senator Snowball last week, when it was stated that, under his management, no opportunity was allowed for passengers over the Canada Eastern to get anything to eat.

There Was Not Room. A very good story is going the rounds of the efforts of a much talked about official to locate himself for the winter in a comfortable boarding house.

Capturing the West. Mr. C. H. Eaton's wonderful horse "Linus" is attracting much attention in the West.

Advice for Policemen. "At this time," said the chief of police to his force at roll call one evening last week, "you cannot be too careful of the newspapers.

A Portrait of Mr. Irvine. The genial features of John E. Irvine look out from the first page of the December Young Men's Herald, published by the Y. M. C. Association.

THE SEASON FOR GOOD.

HOW LITTLE GIRLS HELPED THE BLIND MAN.

Over \$100 Presented to Him on Christmas Eve—Two Permanent Monuments: The Victoria Hospital and The Home Erected by the Suggestion and Help of a Woman.

For the second time in the two years Mr. Campbell, the blind man, has been in the city, kind-hearted people have made his Christmas eve a joyous one.

Last year a number of ladies and children representing different denominations met together and devised a plan to raise money and other assistance for Mr. Campbell. They were so successful that they raised over \$90 in cash and enough goods to bring the amount about \$100.

Much credit is due the children for the part they took in raising the funds. A number of them would meet at the different houses every Saturday afternoon and work on their fancy articles for the bazaar.

Others sold tickets for the concert, which was held in the Y. M. C. rooms, donated for the occasion. In this way the money was raised.

Among those who interested themselves in the work were: Mrs. S. C. Black, Mrs. Quinton, Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Thomas Youngclaus and Mrs. H. Kirkpatrick.

Others who were present were: Dora Kirkpatrick, Bessie Strayhorn, Edith Youngclaus, Ella Pearts, Ceneth Robinson, George Foster, Maud Golding, Lillian Strange, Margaret Black, Maud Sinclair, Pauline Baird, Blossom Baird, Nellie Mac-michael, Alice Smalley, Grace Calhoun, Minnie Kirkpatrick and Edith Foster.

Having to pay \$1.50 for one dollar, strikes most people as ridiculous; but they would see nothing wrong in paying \$1.50 for goods that could be bought for \$1 a few months ago.

Is it For Campaign Use? The speech delivered by Minister of Finance Foster in this city is to be published by the conservative papers in the provinces.

Conductor Rannie Remembered. One man well known to the public, Conductor R. A. Rannie of the I. C. R., was remembered by his fellows Thursday with an address and presentation.

This Is Christmas Week. Christmas coming on Friday this year made it awkward for PROGRESS' employes, and quite impossible to handle the usual amount of correspondence, some of which, city and country, arrived even later than usual.

A Gallery of Lithographic Art. Calendars from the four points of the compass are included in PROGRESS' calendar gallery up to date, and still they come.

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