

GLIMPSES OF CHRISTMAS IN POLAND, OLD CUSTOMS OBTAIN

WARSAW, Poland, March 10—Roast pork served by white cotton gloved hands for Christmas dinner on a table at whose head sat a stately countess in a palace more than 150 years old.

This is the indelible impression of Christmas 1934, in Poland carried off by this correspondent from a trip of 100 miles to see the traditional but overglorified Polish yule feast on a 4,500-acre estate of a family tracing its ancestry to one of this country's greatest revolutionary heroines.

Christmas eve here, perhaps, is more important than Christmas Day and begins when the first star appears in the sky. All work then halts for the next two days. In Warsaw, even restaurants close and street cars stop running.

Dinner on Christmas eve at the palace began at 7 o'clock when the countess entered the dining room to start the ancient Polish custom of sharing with her guests the "oplatek", or Christmas wafer, wishing "them all the best during the coming year". In turn the guests broke wafers among themselves.

The dining room, except for dozens of priceless royal plates hanging on the walls, lacked any of the furnishings that one would expect to find in an aristocratic home. Four sheaves of wheat, oat, rye and barley stalks stood in the corners, according to tradition, to bring a bumper crop next season. The table, illuminated by two kerosene lamps, was set simply and the chairs were ordinary hard-seaters painted white. A thin spread of straw lay beneath the table cloth to recall the birth in the manger.

A drink of Polish czysta, or clear vodka, which does not give way to better liquors, even at Christmas, opened the dinner. It was followed by clear mushroom soup with heavy noodles. Then came huge delicious carp, baked whole.

Ten bashful peasants, the women in shawls and the men mackintoshes gathered around the Christmas tree to hear the countess wish her "dear ones" well and receive from her such home-made products as woolen scarfs and gloves. A pair of boots was the gift for one maid and a flannel nightgown for another—deaf and dumb from childhood and in the household for two generations.

All bowed humbly before the countess and kissed her hand. As a collective thank you, one of the men blurted out the hope that the new year would be even more bountiful for the family than the old one.

Midnight Mass Held

Returning to the guest room, the

countess resumed her writing of notes into picture albums of thirty and forty years ago. Her daughters brought out a basket full of wool and changed the skeins into balls of yarn. One of them confided that she knitted seventeen pairs of socks in the last two months and that her sister specialized in sport gloves. Her guests amused themselves as best they could, speaking Polish or English or French—chiefly about snow which does not seem willing to fall this year in Poland. By ten o'clock the company dispersed to their rooms.

Just before midnight three of the guests with the youngest count strolled across the wooded estate to the village church for the paserka or midnight mass. Entering through the side door, the group took seats in the family pew, one of the few in the wooden church, which was jammed with men in long fur coats and women shivering in thick shawls.

The singing of Christmas carols by peasants, so beautifully pictured on postcards and so effectively written about in books, turned out to be one grand discord. Perhaps it was too cold for singing, but the village cornetists were flat and the organist was always chasing his cues. It was learned later that the band was a forced number on the program, and the organist had not recovered from his holiday celebrating in time of the services.

A Christmas Day Walk

Christmas day we took a walk to the village, passing hundreds of peasants returning to their homes from the noon mass. The men tipped their hats and the women bowed as they greeted us strangers with "Prasied by the Lord" and stared at our city clothes.

We saw a flock of geese, each weighing at least twenty pounds, warm themselves in an air chase over Pilsudski square and watched turkeys, ducks and chickens picking water out of a frozen pond and we hoped that one of their kind would be awaiting us hot on the dinner table.

But dinner consisted only of barszcz, a clear soup of beets, with small stuffed dumplings, roast pork with cabbage and mashed potatoes, boiled leek and a heavy cream dessert. Nuts, cookies and candy again. The only amusement was the novel way of cracking nuts by one of the guests, an elderly blue-blood. He sat on them. This was considered great fun.

After dinner four guests played bridge, the others looked through the same picture albums. The young countess wound wool from skeins to balls even on Christmas day.

HOUSE AND LOBBY

(By H. M. Morden, Star Staff Correspondent).

OTTAWA, Ont., March 10—Though the illness of the Prime Minister has not been conducive to real progress in what is looked on as the main business of the session, it has had a good effect on another part of the sessional program. Never before, perhaps, have the estimates been so largely dealt with at such an early date.

Until Friday, no attempt was made to proceed with the reform legislation in the absence of Mr. Bennett. Naturally, the House had to find other things with which to occupy its time, and it proceeded to legislation standing in the names of other Ministers. None of this, however, was of a contentious nature, and it was quickly cleared away. The order paper began to have an attenuated appearance.

Estimates provided about the only material for keeping the Parliamentarians busy, and the result was that the House spent an almost unprecedented amount of time in Committee of Supply during the past week or so.

Added to the fact that there are virtually no other business to go on with was the evident desire of the Liberals to slide the estimates through rapidly. There has not thus far been one first class fight on any item. At times the votes have passed as fast as they could be called.

There has been a purpose behind this acquiescent attitude on the part

SERVICES OF CITY CHURCHES ON SABBATH

Mild Weather Meant Large Congregations at Various Churches— Sermons Interesting.

"Renewal, through the vision of God," was the title of the sermon delivered by Rev. Dr. G. E. Ross at the morning worship at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church on Sunday. At the evening service the minister delivered the sixth of a series of addresses on "Practical Christianity," "The True Place of the Church." Large congregations attended.

At Brunswick Street Baptist Church the sermon subjects were "Renewal," in the morning, and "Conversion" in the evening. Rev. G. W. Guio, the pastor, preached both sermons.

At St. Paul's United Church, Rev. George Telford, the pastor, spoke on "Renewal—Through the vision of God," in the morning, and the title of his evening subject was "How shall we Distinguish Right from Wrong." Sunday school and bible class were at 2.30 o'clock.

"As a Tree Falls," was the title of the address delivered at Wilnot United Church on Sunday morning by Rev. J. W. Bartlett, the service being broadcast over station CFNB. At 2.30 o'clock the Men's Brotherhood of the church was held in the Pythian hall. "Standing in Other People's Shoes," was the subject of the evening sermon, Rev. Mr. Bartlett again being the speaker. The pastor dealt with the supreme example in taking another's place. What would you do if you were in someone else's place?

At the Devon Baptist church, David L. Kennedy, B.Th., was the speaker. "Allegiance to the Almighty" was the theme of the morning service and "A Great Religious Truth Affirmed and Confirmed" the subject of the evening address by the pastor. Many attended.

The Gibson Memorial United church in Devon held its regular Sunday services at Nashwaaksis, Kingsley and Devon. Rev. W. A. Burge officiated at all services. The special hymnary service was an excellent one.

FIRST INDIAN LAWYER PLEADS FIRST CASE

MONTREAL, March 9—The first Indian citizen to become a full-fledged lawyer in Canada is today pleading his first case, in the Superior Court. The lawyer is Norman Saylor, who lives in the village of Caughnawaga and the litigants also are Indians, living on the reservation, Joseph Cross, plaintiff, and John O. Delorimier, defendant.

The dispute in which is involved the ownership of a lot near the village of Caughnawaga, was decided in 1915 in favor of Delorimier, by the Department of Indian Affairs at Ottawa after investigation was made of the rival claims, it is stated. In the present action Cross claims he was arrested for cutting wood on his own lot and adds that the Department had no authority to decide the case. The defendant contends that the land was willed to him by his father.

"A lion," says the always reassuring Clyde Beatty, "is harmless as long as it is occupied." Our thoughts, as ever, are with the occupant.

P. F. Casgrain, Chief Liberal Whip, that the Government evidently did not see "i to i" on the matter.

Some more humor was injected by Major C. G. Power, the jovial Liberal member for Quebec South, just before the House adjourned. Sir George Perley had just announced that he would proceed with the eight-hour day legislation. Major Power immediately asked whether there was a chance of getting on to the weekly day of rest plan.

When Sir George Perley said that there was doubt of such progress, the Quebec member, with the utmost gravity, said he would like to see this dealt with before Sunday, so that it would be quite legal for him to rest on that day.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Whenever the headline writers want a short word for a particularly learned or wise man they always speak of him as a "Solon." Solon was one of the seven wise men of Greece. And it is not certain whether he got his reputation from writing amatory poems or codifying the laws.

Solon apparently was either the "Gerry" McGeer or the Franklin Roosevelt of his time. Historians differ. Some of them have it that he wiped out all debts, both public and private, and started the country off on a new boom. But other historians deny this specifically and say that all he did was to reduce the rate of interest and to debase the coinage so as to effect a rise in prices.

For either of these reforms he should have merited the gratitude of workers, farmers and others who were the supposed victims of aristocratic and capitalist predominance.

But Solon suffered the usual fate of those who think that all the injustice of man's relation with man can be corrected by passing laws. After a few years, he was forced to flee Athens and business to make its case a good one and to make it known.

Business really is a very simple thing. It is merely the job of supplying the wants of the community, and of organizing capital and labor to work together for that purpose. Business is not something apart from the community. It is not something apart from the labor employed in partnership with capital and management. But simple as business is, it is not always understood by the public who get an idea on industry, commerce, and finance that derives from the prejudice and ignorance of impractical people.

It is a splendid thing for men like Mr. Purvis to take time out from their manifold executive duties to let the public know what they conceive their functions in society to be.—Financial Post.

STAGE CRITICS PICK OUTSTANDING ACTRESSES

NEW YORK, N. Y., March 10—Judging the ten best performances of the past season on Broadway, New York dramatic critics are unanimous in selecting Katherine Cornell and Elizabeth Bergner as the theatre's two outstanding actresses. Not a male actor won the approval of all the reviewers.

Participating in the annual poll conducted by the Associated Press, envoy first string critic cast a vote for Miss Cornell's Juliet in her lavish \$95,000 production of "Romeo and Juliet", and for Miss Bergner's interpretation of the unmoral waif in "Escape Me Never".

It was the American debut of this Austrian stage and screen star who was banned from Germany by the Nazis.

In the poll of two seasons ago two male actors, George M. Cohan and Henry Hull, were unanimously selected along with Helen Hayes.

The only man this season who approached a clean sweep was Pierre Fresnay, French star, playing in "Noah". He missed the top niche by a single vote.

Phil Merivale's acting of George Washington in "Valley Forge" missed out by only two votes.

Most of the critics emphasized the difficulty of limiting their lists to 10, due to the fact that the past season was so overflowing with impressive acting. As one writer pointed out: "Good performances are far more numerous than good plays during the course of any single season".

Other performances which ranked high in the poll include Leslie Howard

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Skunk's Last Stand Cost Mere \$5,000

BAKERSFIELD, California, March 9—A skunk chose a wardrobe tent for its last stand against a pack of dogs, with a net cost estimated by the Fox Film Company at \$5,000.

Company representatives computed that they lost that much through the necessity of duplicating an entire set of costumes and delaying work for a day while replacements were made.

It was reported that Lila Galian, French actress, and Warner Baxter were among those whose stage clothing was permeated.

"Is Murder Justified" asks an advertiser. No, but just by way of curiosity, whom did you have in mind?

In "The Petrified Forest", Florence McGee in "The Children's Hour", Lynn Fontanne in "Point Valaine", Barry Fitzgerald in the Irish Players' repertory, Tallulah Bankhead in "Rain", and Lillian Gish in "Within the Gates".

The critics who participated in the poll are Brooks Atkinson of the Times, John Anderson of the Journal, Percy Hammond of the Herald-Tribune, Walter Winchell of the Mirror, John Mason Brown of the Post, Burns Mantle of the Daily News, Bernard Sobel of the Sunday Mirror and Gilbert Gabriel of the American.

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