

New Year's Day Is Sadly Changed Or Otherwise, According to the Way You Feel About it—Anyway it's Much Drier and Less Hilarious

New York, Dec. 31.—New Year's Day isn't what it used to be. This is in a small way attributable to the addition to the Constitution of some dry reading matter. In still greater degree it is because the international obsession for celebrating whenever Father Time takes a fresh start in piloting the earth around the sun is thousands of years old. The manner of observing the day has changed greatly through the centuries.

The urge to give presents at least once a year was felt even before Christmas and Santa Claus came into the scheme of things. The ancient Greeks, Chinese, Egyptians and Romans tendered their gifts to one another on the first day of the year. Kings got into the habit of receiving extra gifts from their subjects on these days and liked it so well they began extorting larger and larger sums. This practice got so bad in Rome under the Caesars that Claudius called a halt.

It spread to other countries, however, and the English had their New Year's celebration, spoiled annually by the rapacious sovereigns until Queen Elizabeth's modest demands of her subjects cut gifts down to a minimum. In those days the celebration of New Year's Day became worldwide. With variations to suit all nationalities, it consisted everywhere of eating, drinking and merriment.

Christopher Columbus, so far as is known, was the first white man to jubilate on New Year's Day in the Western Hemisphere. While his ships were undergoing repairs on January 1, 1493, he enjoyed a sumptuous dinner with two savage monarchs on the island of Haiti. After this meal, history says, the discoverer of America had his first smoke of tobacco. Whether he enjoyed it is not recorded, but he left it to a later generation.—Sfr Walter Raleigh is generally credited with the function,—to introduce tobacco in Europe.

The Pilgrim Fathers and the first families of the older states of the Union enjoyed a quiet holiday as each year came around. They feasted, but not until they had attended religious services. In the 19th century people with big houses and flowing sideboards held open house on New Year's Day and from all about friends came afoot, on bicycles and in surreys and stanhopes to pay visits and to sample the contents of wine cellars. Then they went off to call on other friends. Popular maidens in those days witnessed traffic jams in front of their homes, so prevalent was the penchant for short calls on young women during the afternoon of the year's first day. This custom began to pass out quietly in the dawn of the 20th century and with the coming of automobiles and cabarets. It was succeeded by the "Nothing but wine" habits amid the thousands who frequented cafes and grill rooms in the cities on New Year Eve.

For 25 years up to the dawn of 1920 and the era of war-time prohibition, the celebration in New York became noisier and more expensive each year. Thousands used to crowd into places of merriment, while Broadway was packed with a surging throng of merry-makers with squawkers, clappers, bells, ticklers and confetti.

Every hotel and most of the restaurants were jammed with gay diners. In 1908 it was estimated that one million dollars was spent in the white-light district on New Year's Eve. After that statisticians gave up trying to figure out the sum.

The din and probably the cost of the celebration was greatly diminished under war-time prohibition in the New Year's demonstration of 1920. Old timers said all the "ginger" had departed with John Barleycorn.

The cupid of 1921 will be the first to make his bow under Constitutional prohibition. In New York he will find that times have changed.

LYNCHINGS WERE LESS NUMEROUS

Number Was Sixty-one For
1920 as Compared With
Eighty-three For 1919 Says
Tuskegee Report

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31.—Lynchings were less numerous in 1920 than last year, the Tuskegee Institute records show.

Sixty-one persons, including eight white men and one negro woman, were lynched in 1920 as compared with 83 last year and 64 in 1918.

Authorities prevented lynching in 56 instances this year, of which 46 were in the South. Armed forces were used to repel mobs on 14 occasions. In four instances mobs were fired upon. Seven attackers were killed and a number wounded.

Lynchings by states are: Texas, 10; Georgia, 9; Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, 7 each; Minnesota and North Carolina and Oklahoma, 3 each; Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, one each.

Splendid Program At First Baptist

A splendid Christmas program was given in the First Baptist annex Thursday night under the supervision of Miss Mahala Meekins.

Following was the program:
Prayer
Welcome by the pastor
Recitations by William Cooper and Doris Cartwright
Christmas Carol
Recitation by Pauline Dean
Solo by Shelton Twiddy
Recitations by Ruth Williams and Miriam Williams
Story by Miss Inez Reid
As the audience passed out the door each person handed the sexton, as he stood at the door, a coin as a Christmas and New Year's greeting.
Every member of the Sunday school was presented a box of chocolates.

PROMINENT ODD FELLOW HERE JANUARY FIFTH

Superintendent Charles Baird, of the I. O. O. F. Home at Goldsboro, will be here on January fifth to instruct the two I. O. O. F. lodges in the ritualistic work of the order.

ROYAL ARCANUM ELECTS ITS OFFICERS

At a meeting of the Royal Arcanum Thursday night the following officers were elected for the year 1921:
Noah Burfoot, regent; W. H. Zoetler, secretary; F. M. Cook, collector; James G. Fearing, treasurer.

SCOUTS OFFER SERVICES

At the last meeting of Troop Five, Boy Scouts, the boys planned to help cut wood and do other needed work in town. "Just call on us," they say, "and you will find willing workers."

There will be a special hike Saturday New Year's Day, at 8:30 a. m., returning by dark. Scouts are asked to take axes.

On Sunday afternoon the troop will leave the Y at two o'clock for a walk, returning by dark.

CHARGE IS CONSPIRACY

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The charge under which it is hoped to extradite the White Sox baseball players indicted on the charge of throwing games in the 1919 World Series is conspiracy, State's attorney announced today.

Conspiracy, says the State's attorney, is a felony, and felony is an extraditable offense.

DE VALERA BACK HOME

Eammon De Valera, President of the Irish Republic, has arrived safely in Ireland, according to an announcement given Associated Press representatives by his secretary in New York today.

ATTEND FUNERAL MRS. ELLEN F. PARKER

J. E. Moran, Miss Hilda Moran and J. W. Wilcox went to Chowan County Friday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Ellen F. Parker, which took place from the home of her son, C. W. Parker. The funeral was conducted at eleven o'clock Friday morning and interment was made in the Parker family burying ground in Chowan County.

Mrs. Parker died Thursday after an illness of several months. She was 71 years old and the widow of the late Luther W. Parker, who for many years held the office of sheriff in Chowan County and was prominent in the public life of the county and section. She is survived by four daughters, one son, at whose home she died; and one sister, Mrs. P. A. Parker, of this city. Other relatives in this city are three nieces, Mrs. J. W. Wilcox, Mrs. James E. Moran and Mrs. George Wright.

BESTCITY BOY FORGING AHEAD

Fleetwood Dunstan Is Now
With One of America's
Largest Financial Concerns

An Elizabeth City boy who is fast rising in the world is Fleetwood Dunstan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dunstan, of this city. Bearing a first lieutenant's commission at the close of the world war he returned to college, finished his education and struck out for himself. He landed a job with the Mercantile Trust & Deposit Company, of Baltimore, Md., and after holding that position for 18 months, he has now accepted a place with the Bankers Trust Company, of New York City. This is one of the largest financial concerns in that city, and is located on Wall Street, in the very heart of the big financial district.

Such positions are not picked up every day, or by youths of only ordinary attainments, and young Mr. Dunstan's friends here will learn with pleasure of his rapid advancement in the business world.

CLOSE AT SIX O'CLOCK SATURDAY EVENING

Although all over the country the Western Union offices are observing regular holiday hours on New Year's Day, Mr. Sykes, of the local office, will keep the work going just as usual all day, but the office will close at six o'clock in the evening. Those who wish to send telegrams are asked to show their appreciation of Mr. Sykes' courtesy by getting messages in as early as possible.

Japan Has Scheme For Aerial Defense

Tokio, Dec. 31. (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—The Navy Department has prepared a scheme for aerial defense according to which by March next the Yokosuka naval port will have 52 seaplanes, 11 balloons, 11 airplanes and 22 training airplanes. Forty seaplanes will be based at Kure, 52 at Sasebo and 100 at Malzuru. Arrangements are also being made to carry one or two aeroplanes on each warship attached to the battle fleet. National aeroplane workshops are being established near Hiroshima and large training aerodrome will be located at Lake Kasumigaura, a large inland lagoon about 30 miles from Tokio. Training will commence here when the English naval instructors from England arrive next spring.

BURNED TO DEATH IN HOTEL FIRE

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 31.—One man was burned to death in the fire which destroyed the Mansion Hotel and damaged nearby buildings here today. The loss is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars.

EAST CHICAGO IN QUARANTINE

Seventy-four Cases Small Pox
Reported Yesterday—12,000
Persons In the Quarantine
Area

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Half the city of East Chicago, Indiana, is under quarantine as the result of an outbreak of an epidemic of small pox. Yesterday 74 cases were reported.

About 12,000 persons are confined in the quarantine area, which is inhabited mostly by foreigners.

CANTATA WAS OF HIGH ORDER

Beautiful Stage, Lovely Costumes, Exquisite Music, and Parts Well Taken

The Christmas cantata, "King Winter," was presented before a most appreciative audience Thursday evening in the annex of Blackwell Memorial Baptist church, under the direction of Mrs. L. E. Skinner, with Mrs. P. G. Sawyer as pianist, whose untiring efforts had produced an elaborate and beautiful entertainment well worth going far to see.

A large number of the grown-up and younger members of the Sunday school took part. The stage decorations were artistic and beautiful, with holly, cedar, electric lights, icicles, snow, tinsel and all that goes to make a beautiful Christmas stage setting. The costumes were beautiful, elaborate and varied.

The curtain rose on the first scene showing the king seated on his snow throne, with his court and his first and second kinder-chorus on either side. This first scene depicted The Proposal of King Winter; the second scene showed Santa Claus and the Court of Slumberland; the third Santa Claus Plans a Surprise.

Among the leading characters were King Winter, Santa Claus, Queen of Slumberland, Dream Fairy, Little Dream Fairy, Mirth, Love, Hope, Joy, the King's page, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Flora. Besides these, there were lively little Brownies and a chorus of beautiful little Fairies.

The Court of Slumberland with fairies on either side of the Queen's throne, mounted tier fashion, with the entrance of the exquisite Dream Fairy and her attendant, Little Dream Fairy, was especially lovely. The music in itself was exquisite and was beautifully rendered.

The last scene showed the entire cast of characters beautifully grouped. P. G. Sawyer, as King Winter, requested his subjects to close their evening of gladness with a song to the Gracious Giver of all these cheerful pleasures of the Christmastide and altogether they sang:

"Kind Father who hath blessed us
And filled with love our days,
To Thee in glad thanksgiving
Our grateful hearts we raise."

Killed Attempting Big Bank Robbery

Springfield, Tenn., Dec. 31.—An unidentified man entered the People's Bank here today and got \$50,000 in bonds. He stood off the bank officials, and then dashed out, shooting one officer in the leg as he ran. The man then took refuge in the company storeroom, where the police killed him.

ERROR IN BRIGHT'S AD

Through a typographical error in the quarter page advertisement of the H. C. Bright Co., Elizabeth City jewelers, the word "jewelry" appeared in the first line in place of the proper word "inventory." The advertisement appears in corrected form in today's paper.

WILL VETO RESOLUTION

Washington, Dec. 31.—President Wilson, in the opinion of those high in official circles, will veto the resolution reviving the War Finance Corporation as a means of aiding the farmers.

FORMER EMPEROR IS SCARED O' STRANGERS

Doorn, Holland, Dec. 31.—The former German Emperor William has personally engaged a private detective to keep an eye on strangers in the village of Doorn. This is in addition to the state police who guard the House of Doorn.

Hunter Sawyer has returned to New York after a visit here.

HOLD-UP ON NIGHT EXPRESS

New Bern, Dec. 31.—Two negroes held up the Norfolk-Southern passenger train on the Neuse river bridge shortly after midnight last night, climbing over the tender and covering the engine crew with revolvers. The robbers were captured by an army officer aboard the train.

AMERICA WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

In International Tennis Contest and Cup Will Remain Under Stars and Stripes During Next Year

Auckland, New Zealand, Dec. 31.—Australia lost her tennis laurels here today to America and the Davis cup, emblematic of the world's team tennis championship, will repose under the stars and stripes for the next year at least.

This is the fourth time that America has won the cup.

Australia has won it six times; Great Britain, five.

William T. Tolded, of Philadelphia, and William Johnston, of San Francisco, composed the American team.

Pearson Plans Quick Flight

Douglas, Ariz., Dec. 31.—Lieutenant Alexander Pearson, winner of last year's air race across the continent, today received official authority to attempt a flight from Jacksonville, Fla., to San Diego, Cal., in 24 hours, more or less.

He will leave Jacksonville February 22 and plans to make the trip in three laps with only forty-five minutes used in making stops.

An aviator will also start from San Diego for Jacksonville the same day. The flyers will stop only at Houston and El Paso, Texas.

The distance from Jacksonville to Houston is 804 miles; that from Houston to El Paso, 660 miles; and from El Paso to San Diego is 615.

Ministers Urge No Sunday Funerals

Say Sunday Funerals Compel
Folks to Work Who Otherwise
Would Not

McKeesport, Pa., Dec. 31.—The local Ministerial Association today launched a movement against funerals on Sundays, claiming that Sunday funerals compel persons to work who otherwise would not.

Irish Emigration Is Falling Off

Dublin, Dec. 31.—The emigration from Ireland during the first ten months of this year is about half what it was for the average of the five years preceding the war. There were altogether 12,752 emigrants of whom 7,808 were women. There were 4,368 emigrants from Ulster. Seventy-eight per cent of the emigrants went to the United States.

PLOT ATTACK ITALIAN ARMY

Rome, Dec. 31.—A plot of the Extreme Nationalist party and anarchists to jointly attack the Italian army operating against Fiume has been discovered at Milan, according to newspapers here. Seventeen arrests are said to have been made.

National Council To Govern Fiume

Trieste, Dec. 31.—Establishment of the old national council of Fiume as a provisional government over the city was announced here today.

CAROLINA COTILLION CLUB DANCE JANUARY FIFTH

The dance which was to be given tonight by the Carolina Cotillion Club will be given on Wednesday night, January fifth, instead, in the Robinson Hall, at 8:30. Music will be furnished by the Meyer-Davis orchestra of Washington, D. C.

TWIDDY CASE TO HIGHER COURT

Probable Cause Found and Officer Who Killed Spencer Must Answer Murder Charge In March

Policeman George Twiddy was placed under a bond of \$1,000 for his appearance at the March term of Superior Court by decision of Judge Spence in recorder's court here this morning, upon a charge of murder in the second degree, probable cause having been found for investigation and action by the higher court. Twiddy shot Henry Spencer, colored, while assisting in a raid upon the latter's home on North Harney street by Federal officers for illicit liquor.

The only two witnesses called upon the stand this morning were Policeman John Webb and Edward Lewis, a negro who was present at Spencer's home shortly after the shooting, and who testified that he had helped to put the mortally wounded man to bed.

Webb stated upon the stand that upon the night in question he accompanied Federal officers John R. Williams and J. B. Ferebee, Policeman Twiddy and Captain W. J. Simmons to the Spencer home for the purpose of making a search for liquor. He testified that he, himself, walked past the house while Twiddy went around to the back, and the other members of the raiding party went in the front way.

Webb said that he then circled back around the house, and that he heard Twiddy order Spencer several times to stop, and hold up his hands. Spencer, he stated, asked Twiddy with an oath what he was doing there. Then, Webb declared, he heard two shots fired, a second or two apart, and as he turned the corner of the house, he saw Twiddy in the act of stepping from the porch. Spencer was standing nearby, and he said that he heard the negro declare that he was shot. Webb also asserted that Twiddy told him that he (Twiddy) had shot Spencer. Evidence presented by Webb which tended to show that Spencer bore a bad reputation was finally admitted by Judge Spence, who refused to sustain an objection to it on the part of the State's attorneys.

Webb testified that on the night of the shooting he did not see the still which is alleged to have been found on the kitchen stove in the Spencer house, and that he had not seen it since. He told the court that the shooting took place some eight or ten minutes after Twiddy went around to the back of the house. No evidence was introduced to show that Twiddy served the search warrant upon Spencer, which he is understood to have carried, before the shooting took place. Edward Lewis, the negro who was the second and last witness called upon the stand, testified that he saw Spencer's wounds, one in the chest, on the left side, and the other a few inches below it in the abdomen. He also testified that he saw Spencer's subsequent death. Lottie Spencer, the dead man's widow, was also present, and was sworn in at the beginning of the hearing, but she was not called upon the stand.

WILL REFUTE CHARGES MADE

Florida Congressmen Deny Alleged Discrimination Against Negro Voters There

Washington, Dec. 31.—Members of the Florida congressional delegation announced today that they expected to go before the House census committee next week and refute charges of discrimination against negro voters of that State made before that committee by representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Officials Killed By Bold Bandits

Cleveland, O., Dec. 31.—W. W. Sly, president, and George F. Fanner, vice president of the Sly Foundry Company of this city were killed by bandits who escaped today with the payroll after holding up the men at the company's plant.