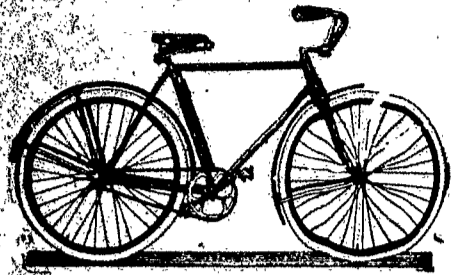


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Friday, December 19, 1919.

Christmas

Within a few days the season of Advent, in preparation for the great feast of Christmas, will end. The Star of Bethlehem will have run its course and stopped over the hills sheltering the stable where the Son of God, the spiritual leader of the Christian hosts, the Saviour of Mankind, is to be born. The Wise Men soon will end their journey and their quest will be gained. The Shepherds on the hills will soon break into song and hail their Master, the first of the people of earth to acknowledge His supremacy.

Every year since Christ's advent upon earth the Church repeats the observance of the anniversary of His birth that her children may be reminded of the debt they owe the Saviour, that but for His sacrifice, we would never be able to see the face of God, never experience the joys of Heaven, taste the fruits of eternal life. But Jesus Christ left His home in Heaven and became a sinful man, for a period, that we might live, provided we followed in His footsteps and obeyed the precepts of the Church. His Church which He founded as His representative on earth.

Hence it is that at the Christmas tide we should stop a moment and see if we are following in Christ's footsteps. Especially should we ascertain whether we follow in His footsteps in doing to others as we would they should do to us. Are we, have we brought the Christmas cheer, the spirit of the Christ Child into some home where material comforts that have been so lavishly bestowed upon us are lacking? Have we sought to infuse the Christmas spirit into those around us, our employees for instance, by a chery word, by an encouraging smile instead of the usual stormy growl because you have a grouch, over the weather or the morning cup of coffee did not set just right?

These are the Christmas lessons we should learn if we have not already learned them, and then, with our hearts at peace with God, with our minds attuned to the Christmas carol, we can join in singing the angel's hymn "Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth to men of good will."

The Catholic Journal wishes to all its readers the fullest appreciation of Christmas and what it really means as no one but a Catholic really enjoys the feast of Christmas, provided our hearts are in the true Christmas spirit.

Good News

While neither side may have secured all it desired, it was good news that came to the people of the United States that the great and unfortunate strike of the soft coal miners was at an end and the terrible calamity impending of a country minus fuel, heat and lighting facilities with the thermometer at zero or below and

blizzards all over a great portion thereof.

Undoubtedly, the miners have grievances but had they persisted in imposing starvation and paralysis of industries upon the people in order to enforce their demands, there would have risen such a storm of public indignation that the miners never could have stemmed.

Possibly, the mine operators felt they were entitled to an increase in the price of coal. Possibly, they may attempt to wring from the public any increase in wages they may have to pay the miners but if they do the public will be roused to demand that the Government take over and operate the coal mines.

This is a time when it behooves all those who have been profiteering at the expense of the public at large—and this includes both workers and their employers, both manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and the craftsmen who work with their hands—that there is a limit to public apathy. There must be an end to the high prices of today—higher than when the war was in full swing.

There is high need of an infusion of the true Christmas spirit into the hearts of the whole American people.

The Real Facts

Many persons read in the papers that a wayward girl—who has not yet embarked on the real criminal life—has been committed to the House of Good Shepherd in Albany and imagine that this is a state institution supported by public funds. Not so. It was started by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to care for wayward girls and these good Sisters have maintained it ever since. When Theodore Roosevelt was Governor a bill was passed under which when inmates are committed to the Home by the state the institution receives about \$7 per month for each committed. As a matter of fact this amount would scarcely pay for a week's care at the present price of supplies and labor. Hence the good Sisters are worse off under the law spoken of than if they did not receive any State aid and relied wholly upon the free will offerings of their friends.

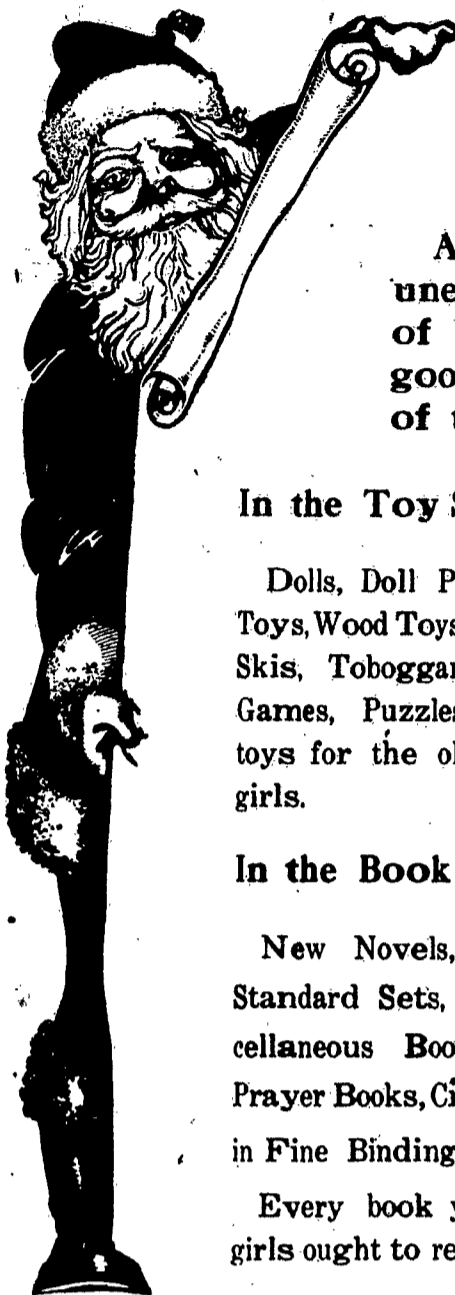
Non-Catholic inmates are not required to participate in the religious exercises but those who are Catholics are. However, many of the non-Catholics are found at mass and Vespers and Benediction. Many of them are so impressed by the peaceful surroundings that they ask to remain a while. Many of those sent to the House of the Good Shepherd are there because of lack of proper home environment, not because of innate viciousness.

The Albany Times Union gives these additional facts regarding the House of the Good Shepherd.

There are at present a total registration at the institution of about 75 people. The home can accommodate a great many more than that number, and the Reverend Sisters are always anxious to bring new souls to God. Their real names are placed on the register which one sister alone has access to. A house name is then given the person entering and by that name and no other is she known until she leaves the institution. The greatest respect and consideration is shown for relatives of these unfortunate girls, and the girls themselves are not allowed to discuss the reason for their commitment, nor their family pedigree with other inmates. This system has the effect of doing away with all the so-called "disgrace" for commitment to such an institution, for none but the registrar know of family connections. Relatives and friends are allowed to visit the girls on the third Thursday and Sunday of each month. Other visits may be made by appointment.

John J. McInerney is again the General Counsel for the New York State Motor Federation.

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