

LONG SERMONS, AND LONG FACES

Early Thanksgivings Were Not Festive, But Solemn, Occasions—Modernized by Circumstances.

TEMPER FOR THE WITT O LORD



PROCLAMATION BY GOV. ANDROS



"... So strong was the spirit of our ancestors that when the detested Gov. Andros issued his Thanksgiving proclamation they refused to eat turkey just to spite him."

Notwithstanding a quite prevalent opinion to the contrary, there is certain historical writers are largely responsible, Thanksgiving is a day for family reunions, feasting and social enjoyment, is practically a modern institution, owing to its present importance in the minds to the conveniences of travel that came



No Labor on Thanksgiving in the Old Days.

with the introduction of the steam railway. The holiday observance in the autumn of 1821 by the people of Plymouth, so often referred to as our earliest New England Thanksgiving cannot be justly so characterized, because our early Thanksgiving in

Massachusetts, for generations, were solely religious observances, while that famous Plymouth celebration of 1621 was a harvest festival, never designated as Thanksgiving by its promoters and having no religious significance whatever, so far as known. Moreover, it comprised not merely a single day of feasting and merrymaking, but a whole week of it, and was designed solely for relaxation after many months of privation and arduous toil.

There is no record of a similar joyous celebration in our annals for generations afterward, the Thanksgivings referred to in subsequent years until after the revolution having been nearly as strictly religious affairs as Sunday itself, and so far as we have any existing evidence not greatly given to astronomy. No mention of Thanksgiving is found in a contemporary list of holidays for merrymaking as late as 1700.

Until as late as the year of 1815, or later, Thanksgiving was not a regular annual affair, either, its appointment being in recognition of special blessings, either spiritual or material, and usually deferred until such an excuse for its appointment offered as though it might be for two or three years, as was frequently the case. It usually came in the autumn, however, and generally a bountiful harvest was mentioned as an incidental cause. For more than 50 years after the arrival of the Pilgrims Thanksgiving was appointed by the legislature, and its respectful, religious observance was quite as obligatory as was obedience to any law of the commonwealth that carries with it a legal penalty.

Harvest Festivals of Old.

Man is so constituted that he is forever straining for blessings from afar while overlooking those at his feet. With our inordinate desire for material possessions, we are prone to forget the ethical and spiritual import of Thanksgiving. To call forth our gratitude we must have more and more things. We must be able to display an array of brilliant tangible objects. Moreover, we must have sumptuous repasts, rich wines and heavy silks to be in a position to offer up prayers of thanks to the Almighty Source "whence all blessings flow."

It seems we cannot be thankful for a little good despite the dictum that "man wants but little here below." We cannot show our gratitude unless it be for an "abundance"—hence man's petitioning the Higher Powers with prayers and sacrifices from the time of the patriarchs to our own day—for more and ever more goods of the earth.

The harvest coming after the care and toil of tilling the soil, the sowing of seed and anxious watching of the fields, has therefore been almost universally set apart as a time for special thanks, or Thanksgiving. However, so far as we know, no other nation carries out this custom regularly every year on a specially appointed day; hence Thanksgiving Day has come to be regarded as a distinctively American festival.

It is interesting to observe that while Thanksgiving Day as we know it, is a peculiarly American festival, harvest festivals were celebrated more than 5,000 years ago. For instance, the Jewish Sukkot (Festival of Booths) or Feast of the Tabernacles, was a harvest or "gathering" festival held from the 15th to the 23rd of the tenth month, the first and eighth day reserved for holy convocation.

Thanks and praise for the bounties of the previous year were offered in ritualistic formula and by the chanting of hymns; whilst merry games were played in which fruits and nuts, emblematic of the season, were always somewhat in evidence. Among the Greeks we also find a harvest festival, the "Feast of Demeter," named after the Goddess of Corn or Grain, and of the harvest. Here there were also probably games and merry-making as well as religious ceremony. The Romans likewise commemorated a harvest called "Cerealia" after the Goddess of the Harvest. "Cerealia" represented in a familiar picture by a beautiful woman bearing a bundle of sheaves in her arms.

Thus we see that the same sentiment that impels us to feel thankful is expressed in gratitude for benefits received, also moves a nation to manifest in some reverent form its grateful recognition of special privilege or general welfare.

The old and old all have something to be thankful for. Indeed, Jeremy Taylor held that "the private blessings—the blessings of immunity, safeguard, liberty and integrity—which we enjoy, depend on the thanksgiving of a whole life." Each family knows what it should be thankful for at the present moment, and the spirit of the day will lead them to remember it, not by remembering it, they are made better morally and spiritually.

All Can Be Thankful. In spite of the sorrows of life the young and old all have something to be thankful for. Indeed, Jeremy Taylor held that "the private blessings—the blessings of immunity, safeguard, liberty and integrity—which we enjoy, depend on the thanksgiving of a whole life." Each family knows what it should be thankful for at the present moment, and the spirit of the day will lead them to remember it, not by remembering it, they are made better morally and spiritually.

Illinois State News

Recent Happenings of Interest in the Various Cities and Towns.

SUES ESTATE FOR MURDER.

Widow of Slain Man Alleges That Suicide Killed Her Husband.

Savanna.—One of the most important cases on the docket for the November term of the Carroll county circuit court is the suit in which Mrs. M. L. Berry of this city asks damages of \$10,000 from the administrators of the estate of Bothwell Palford. Mrs. Berry is the widow of Daniel S. Berry, who was murdered at his office door in 1905. She has filed a declaration alleging that Bothwell Palford, who committed suicide a few days after the death of Berry, was the slayer of her husband. The case probably will be hard fought.

TRANSFER AURORA RAILWAY.

New Company Takes Over City Franchise and Will Build Bridge.

Aurora.—Papers for incorporation of the Aurora Railway company were filed with Secretary of State Rose at Springfield. The capital stock is \$200,000. The new company has been formed by the same financiers as the Aurora, Dekalb and Rockford railway and the plan is to take over the franchise for city lines granted that line, which recently was granted a franchise to enter the city. The company

INQUIRE ABOUT PRESS PASSES.

Committee of Newspaper Men Seeks Information from Railroads.

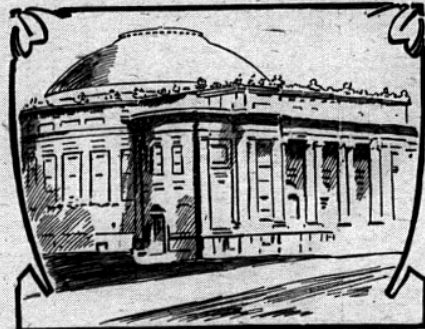
Chicago.—A committee of the Illinois State Press association, composed of Edgar E. Bartlett, publisher Rockford Register-Gazette; Harry F. Dorwin, business manager Illinois State Journal, Springfield; and Harry M. Fiddell, proprietor of the Peoria Daily Journal, called on railway passenger officials in Chicago to find out for the association what the roads are going to do in regard to exchanging transportation for advertising after January 1. They probably will recommend to the association the adoption of resolutions urging Illinois congressmen to favor legislation amending the rate law so as to permit the issuance of transportation to newspapers. The New York Press association and the Massachusetts Press association already have adopted resolutions of this tenor.

DRAINAGE BOARD GETS PLAINT.

Hears Protest of Joliet on Canal Construction and Refers It.

Chicago.—Complaints that the walls of the drainage canal were not high enough to be a safeguard against "unprecedented floods," that there was some disintegration in the cement due

BUILDING FOR UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.



Urbana.—A handsome addition to the buildings on the university campus is now in process of construction. It will be known as the Auditorium, and will have a seating capacity of 2,700, of whom 1,600 will be accommodated on the ground floor. The structure is circular, and the general style is classic. Granite, stone and brick are the materials used outwardly, the first floor being entirely of granite. In the interior a hemispherical form is adhered to, the seats being arranged in a half-circle about the stage. The single gallery is supported by steel cast-iron columns, and the view of the stage is unobstructed from all parts of the hall. Ample entrances and exits are provided. The main floor is built of concrete and the dome of steel. The building will be as nearly fireproof as it can be.

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has agreed, in consideration of the franchise, to construct a cement bridge across the Fox river at the foot of Galena and Main streets.

Peoria Has Big Fire.

Peoria.—Fire of unknown origin, which broke out in the plant of the Wahlfield Manufacturing company, corner Persimmon and Washington streets, gutted the entire building, destroyed valuable machinery and did damage estimated by members of the firm to exceed \$70,000. The loss is almost half covered by insurance, the entire three-story brick building is almost completely destroyed, and all of the expensive woodworking machinery is in ruins.

Resigns Lake Forest Presidency.

Chicago.—The resignation of President Richard D. Harlan, of Lake Forest college, was announced by John V. Farrell, Jr., of the board of trustees.

Dynamite Safe to Get Cash.

Deville.—Burglars entered the Witherspoon bank at Jamaica, twelve miles southwest of here. They forced the door with tools stolen from a nearby blacksmith shop, dynamited the safe and secured several hundred dollars.

They made their escape before citizens aroused by the explosion could reach the scene.

Small Explosion at Petersburg.

Petersburg.—The large gasoline tank at steam laundry used to supply three small engines, exploded. Fortunately no one was injured and no serious damage was done to the building except to ruin the tank and wrench the pipes out of shape.

Pioneer Settler Dead.

Sycamore.—David Trow, a pioneer settler of DeKalb county, died at his home in Mayfield, aged 88 years. He had lived there 68 years, coming from Wilmington, Vt., in 1818.

BONI'S HAPPY THANKSGIVING.



WESTERN FLOOD RECEDING

RAILROADS HEAVIEST BUFFERERS IN WASHINGTON.

Damage is Being Repaired—Two Thousand Northern Pacific Passengers Stalled in Portland.

Portland, Ore.—The water is receding in all the flooded districts of western Washington, and the damage is being repaired. The railroads were the heaviest sufferers, and owing to the loss of bridges Seattle and Tacoma can interchange traffic only by the Sound steamer, while the Northern Pacific is endeavoring to send passengers from Portland to Puget Sound by a steamer transfer on the Coville river, but has not yet succeeded.

The Northern Pacific's worst mishap is the washing out of 1,500 feet of trestle at Olegua, Wash., on the Coville river. Large crews of men are rebuilding the trestle and bridges. The Oregon Railway and Navigation company is experiencing difficulty along the Columbia river, but is keeping its line open. Bridges at Lester and Wall, on the main line of the Northern Pacific through the Cascades, were washed out, but it is hoped to get trains through Monday or Tuesday.

Two thousand Northern Pacific passengers for the east and Puget Sound are stalled in Portland. They will probably resume their travels in a day or two.

BOMB EXPLODES IN ST. PETER'S.

Outrage at Rome Causes Panic in Famous Church.

Rome.—A bomb was exploded in St. Peter's Sunday after the celebration of mass. The edifice was crowded and an indescribable scene of confusion followed. There were no fatalities.

As soon as the echoes of the tremendous roar had ceased a canon brought by reassuring words to quiet the people, but in vain. They fled in all directions and a number of women fainted. Women and children screamed and men tried to protect their families in the rush. The church is so large, however, that there was ample room for the crowd to scatter and no one was injured. No trace of the perpetrator of the deed has been found.

An examination of the spot where the explosion occurred showed that the building was not damaged. The pope on being informed of the outrage fell to his knees, saying he must pray for the misguided perpetrator of the deed.

Pieces of the bomb were gathered by the police. It is a crude affair, made of tin, bound with wire and evidently had contained about two pounds of gunpowder and three pounds of nails. Some of the nails were thrown only a few feet.

Deep Waterway President.

St. Louis.—The lakes-to-the-gulf deep waterway convention has adjourned after being informed of the outrage fell to his knees, saying he must pray for the misguided perpetrator of the deed.

Beer Raiders Are Caught.

Cape Town.—Fischer, the leader of the beer raid from German Southwest Africa into the northern part of Cape Colony, and all his followers, were captured by military patrols.

Lipton Leaves for England.

New York.—Sir Thomas Lipton called for home on the steamer Carmania. Just before the Carmania sailed Sir Thomas said he probably will challenge again for the America's cup, this time in 1908.

Town Fired by Robbers.

Walker, Mo.—Robbers have started a fire that destroyed six of the best business buildings in Walker to cover up the robbery of between \$2,000 and \$3,000 belonging to the Bank of Walker.

RACE COST HEARST \$258,370.

Editor Files Campaign Expense Account at Albany.

New York.—William R. Hearst's statement of his campaign expenses, which he has submitted to the secretary of state, is believed to set forth only a fraction of what his fight for the gubernatorial office really cost him.

In his statement he declares he spent \$258,370.22, or more than 30 cents for every vote he received. This is believed to be only his personal expenditures. The total cost, including contributions by his managers and papers and the advertising through those papers, is believed to reach \$1,000,000.

Gov. Elect Hughes pleaded guilty to spending on his election \$618.56, or something like eight cents for every 100 votes he received.

Not since the law requiring candidates for public office to file a list of their expenses went into effect a number of years ago has anyone seeking the favor of voters admitted spending one-tenth of the sum for election purposes avowed by Mr. Hearst. The sum in magnitude is far and away greater than any other recorded on the books of the state for that particular purpose.

Of the amount expended by Mr. Hearst he gave the independence league \$198,870.22 and the Democratic state committee \$57,000. The remainder, \$500, he spent for traveling expenses.

COAL OUTPUT OF ILLINOIS.

Product for 1905 Was 38,434,328 Short Tons.

Washington.—The total production of coal during 1905 in Illinois was 38,434,328 short tons, with a spot value of \$40,577,592, according to a report made to the geological survey by E. W. Parker of the United States geological survey. Illinois still ranks next to Pennsylvania in the production of coal. The production in West Virginia in 1905 was 37,791,850 short tons. The report says the expectation is that the returns for 1906 will show West Virginia to be the second coal producing state in the union from the fact that the Illinois mines suffered from a shutdown last spring, while those of West Virginia for the most part were kept going continuously.

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Oklahoma Bank Hobbled.

Guthrie, Okla.—Robbers early Friday dynamited the safe in the Bank of Lahoma, at Lahoma, in Garfield county, Okla., occupied with \$2,700 in cash. The bank had just received \$10,000 to pay farmers for their cotton, but the robbers overlooked it.

Indicts 'Frisco Mayor.

San Francisco.—The grand jury brought five indictments against Eugene Schmitz and Abraham Ruef of the charge of extortion. On each charge the bail was fixed at \$10,000 and bond at \$5,000.

Receiver for Insurance Company.

Freeport, Ill.—The German Insurance company, which reinsured in the Royal of Liverpool last week, placed in the hands of a receiver Monday, the Chicago Trust and Title company being named.

Question Run on a Bank.

Chillicothe, O.—A careless remark made by some citizen unknown to the police started a run on the savings bank of this city Monday. It began at noon and continued until late in the evening.