

THE CITY.

Shortest Day in the Year.

Yesterday was the shortest day in the year, but it is thought that few noticed any material difference.

Smith the Whole Board.

Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Flood of the board of public works are on the sick list, and President Smith is holding the fort alone.

Annual Police Ball Set.

The Police Relief association met yesterday afternoon and made arrangements for the annual benefit dance. The association will give the ball on Feb. 6.

On Charge of Wife Beating.

George Crowell was arraigned before Judge Gearhart yesterday morning, charged with beating his wife. He pleaded not guilty, and will be tried today.

Sick With Appendicitis.

Malcolm Macauley of the American Exchange bank is sick with appendicitis in St. Luke's hospital. It has not yet been decided whether he will be operated on.

Viaduct Case to Be Heard.

City Attorney Richards will go to St. Paul today to appear before the supreme court in the Garfield avenue viaduct case, which will come on for argument tomorrow.

Dr. Forbes Preaches Christmas.

Dr. Forbes will be in the city Christmas, and will preach in the Oneota Methodist Episcopal church on Christmas morning, and in the Grace Methodist church in the evening.

Street Car Men's Election.

The street railway employes' union will hold its annual election at Columbia hall on Saturday evening. This will be the annual meeting, and it is likely that reports of officers will be made.

Child Can't Recover.

R. J. Ryan's 2-year-old son, Leo, who swallowed carbolic acid on Tuesday afternoon, seemed to be sinking last night and death is expected soon. The child died at 12:35 this morning.

Pawned in Superior.

Detective Troyer found in a second hand store in Superior yesterday an overcoat, a razor and a watch chain stolen a few days ago from John Hendrickson of 129 South Twentieth avenue west.

Thigh Broken by Log.

John Arbor, whose home is at West Duluth, was brought in from Merrill & Ring's camp on the Duluth, Missabe & Northern road yesterday afternoon with a broken thigh. Arbor was taken to St. Mary's hospital. The injury was caused by a log rolling over Arbor.

He Likes New Zealand.

G. H. MacEwan, formerly a resident of Duluth, now of New Zealand, writes

Northern Elevator company of Winnipeg.

Consider Forfeited Tax Law.

The city council will meet at the city hall this afternoon to discuss the forfeited tax law. This will be a regular meeting of the council, but the Duluth delegation to the legislature, the county commissioners, the county auditor, the city comptroller and all persons interested in repealing this law are invited to attend the meeting.

Ex-Soldier Boy's Sad Plight.

Thomas Benakson, an ex-member of Company G, was found lying in front of Jay Anderson's saloon on West Superior street at an early hour this morning, and he was taken to the city jail. Benakson became quite violent after reaching the jail and insisted on taking off all his clothes. It is believed that the man is insane.

No Arrangement Made.

It was said last night at the Singer tug office that a report that Capt. Singer has arranged to go after the steamer Harlem, which is wrecked on Isle Royale, is untrue. No arrangements have been made between the underwriters and Capt. Singer, it was said, but it is not denied that some negotiations have been going on between them.

Very Rich Music.

Company G boys believe that they will have about the finest music for their annual ball tomorrow evening that has been provided for dancing in this city. The program will consist of 25 numbers, in which two-steps will play a prominent part. The most popular music has been selected, and no one composer is represented twice on the program.

Board of Trade Series On.

The rinks of A. H. Smith and C. A. Duncan curled a game in the board of trade buttons series at the Tait warehouse last night. The score and players were as follows:

Will Schupp,	Ralph Ash,
A. W. Frick,	David Stocking,
Frank McLaren,	Charles McMillan,
C. A. Duncan,	A. H. Smith,
skip—11.	skip—7.

Railroad Held Responsible.

In municipal court yesterday morning Patrick Desmond was given a judgment for \$197.70 against the Eastern Minnesota railway.

Desmond claimed that household goods that he shipped on the Eastern Minnesota road from West Superior for Ball Club siding, Minn., never reached the latter place and have not been recovered by the true owner.

West End Dwelling Burns.

The home of a family named Sopjar, at Twenty-ninth avenue west and Third street, was burned to the ground yesterday morning at 6:30. The fire was caused by a defective chimney.

The house was valued at \$300. The furniture was insured for \$200.

The fire was so far from any water connection that the firemen were unable to check the flames in time to save anything.

Still Loading Out All Rail.

Wheat is loading out on three or the elevators on the Superior side of the bay for shipment to the seaboard all rail. The Great Northern has probably loaded out more than the other houses, but the Glob and the Superior Terminal have loaded several cars to go forward to the Atlantic coast. This of course is a disappointment to the elevators for they were anxious to hold all the wheat possible for the storage earnings.

Can't Locate His Home.

An effort to confirm that the mother of Simon Lannigan, an insane man confined in the county jail, lives at the address in Buffalo given by him has proven unsuccessful. Consequently, W. A. Gates, agent of the state board of charities and corrections, who was in the city yesterday, will make an effort to locate his home through Buffalo authorities. If he is not successful, Lannigan will be sent to Fergus Falls.

Fought for the Principle.

City Attorney Richards returned yesterday from St. Paul. He argued the city's side of the case in the suit of Ann E. Morey against the city. The plaintiff asked to have the assessments for street improvements for 1896, levied against her property in 1896, set aside on the ground that mortgaged property is not liable to assessments. The suit involved only about \$1,000, but the principle involved was very important. The matter was submitted.

Reports of Sheriff's Sales.

The sheriff's report of the sale of lands in 21-51-16 to satisfy an execution in favor of Ole H. Torwoen, as assignee, and against William Zillmer, was filed in district court yesterday. Also the sheriff's report of the sale at

foreclosure of lot 91, block 18, Third division to the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance company for \$20,409.53.

Sheriff's report of the sale of lands in 29-69-18 to satisfy an execution for \$1,798, leased to Belle M. Paddock against Frank Hillig, was also filed yesterday.

Polinskys on Trial.

Joseph Polinskys and Charles Polinsky were arraigned yesterday afternoon in police court for allegedly assaulting Prosper Finnette at their store, at 265 West Superior street, on Tuesday. C. O. Baldwin appeared for the defendants and Assistant City Attorney Spencer prosecuted. A large amount of testimony was taken, but the arguments to the court will be made this morning. Finnette claims that the two Polinskys made an assault on him with absolutely no cause when he entered their store to price a fur coat.

One Unknown Big Heart.

A \$50 greenback folded in a copy of the circular issued by the Bethel in its call for funds was received by Mrs. Williamson yesterday. The address on the envelope was typewritten, and care was taken to leave no trace of the sender. The contribution was for the fund the Bethel is raising to provide a Christmas distribution of food and otherwise aid the many families that depend on the Bethel for assistance. About \$75 in all has been contributed to the fund. The distribution of food will be made from the Bethel Saturday morning.

John A. Stephenson that he is engaged in the creamery business with his brother. He likes his home and but is occasionally homesick. They are about to ship 1,200 tons of cheese to London.

Elevators as Dreams.

The elevators in the First National Bank building have been profusely decorated by the attendants that run the lifts, with curtains, draperies of almost every shade, and with paper flowers. The elevators are dreams. This custom is observed every year at Christmas.

Recommend Lowest Bidders.

Mr. Sears returned to the city yesterday, and recommended to the war department that the contract for the improvements at the Portage lake ship canal be awarded to Fitzgerald & Morris of Duluth, the lowest bidders on the work. This recommendation is equal to an award.

After Clothes Lines Again.

Mrs. Fred Schofield of 222 West Second street reported to the police last night that her clothes line was stripped some time during Tuesday night or yesterday morning. Mrs. Schofield said that she does not expect to recover her property, but wishes to let it be known that clothes line thieves are at large.

Skating Party Postponed.

The skating party that was to have been given at the Palace rink last by the Pilgrim Y. P. S. C. E. last night was postponed for three weeks. This was found necessary because of the bad weather for ice and because people are too busy buying Christmas goods to attend skating parties.

East Confident of Outlook.

George W. Elder, who returned a few days ago from a trip through the East, says that he found everybody busy and looking for the best times the country has had in years. In the manufacturing towns everybody seemed to be having plenty of work, while the factories have orders booked long ahead.

Christmas at the Bethels.

The Bethel will celebrate the Christmas holiday in the usual way at both the Lake avenue and Bowery buildings. Effort has been made, however, to provide better programs at both. The entertainment will be held at the Lake avenue Bethel Friday evening, and at the branch on Saturday evening.

Railroading Bonded Wheat.

The office force at the customs house is rushed half to death these days preparing the papers necessary for shipping bonded wheat. Already about 50,000 bushels have gone forward to Liverpool, via New York. Excepting about 3,500 bushels, all of this is shipped by the