

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL BARGAINS!

Having just received a special consignment of **MANDOLINS** and **GUITARS**, which are New Lines Direct from the Manufacturer, we now offer them at special prices to clear them out. If you are interested don't miss these Snaps they include

MANDOLINS

A Special Mandolin, No. W-509. SEVEN Ribs of Mahogany and Maple; beautifully INLAID and highly polished; price, including extra set of strings and Instruction Book **\$4.25**

A Rosewood Mandolin, No. W-711. Eleven Ribs; elegantly inlaid around edges and sound hole; highly polished; a beauty; price, including Instruction Book and extra set of strings **\$9.50**

Add **\$1.50** extra for handsome Canvas Case.

GUITARS

A Mahogany Guitar, No. W-110. Very highly finished, with beautiful inlaying around sound hole and front edges, with inlaid strip down the back; special price, with extra set of strings **\$6.50**

Add **\$1.50** extra for Canvas Case.

A Rosewood Guitar, No. W-162. Handsomely inlaid around front and back edges, around sound hole and strip down the back; finger board bound on both edges with celluloid. This Guitar could not be purchased in the regular way for less than **\$18.00**. We offer it to you, with extra set of strings, Instruction Book and handsome Canvas Case, for **\$12.00**

MUSIC BOOKS

Our stock of Xmas Gifts in Bound Volumes are the best, consisting of—

"Soprano Songs," "Baritone Songs," "Golden Treasury of Songs," these are Standard Songs of all the best English Composers. Paper **\$1.25**, or bound in leather, gilt edges, a handsome gift. **\$2.00**. Queen's University Song Book, Songs, Duets, Glees, in cloth, **\$1.25**. Comet Song folio of Popular Songs, 75c. National Song folio of Standard Songs 60c. Star Dance folios, Nos. 1, 2, 3, up-to-date Dance Music, **60c.** Von Tilzer's Dance folios, **60c.** Stern's Dance folios, **60c.**

We have a full line of all the Classics, bound in cloth, at lowest prices.

For everything known in Music write us, stating your requirements.

Numerous other samples in Guitars, Mandolins, Violins, etc., at prices from **\$5.00** to **\$50.00**.

We guarantee these Guitars and Mandolins to be perfect in every detail or money refunded.

Our stock of Music and Musical Instruments is the largest and most complete in Canada.

If you are interested in a VIOLIN, BANJO, FLUTE, CORNET, CLARINET, ACCORDION, HARMONICA, SHEET MUSIC or MUSIC BOOKS write us for catalogue and special prices, stating what you are interested in.

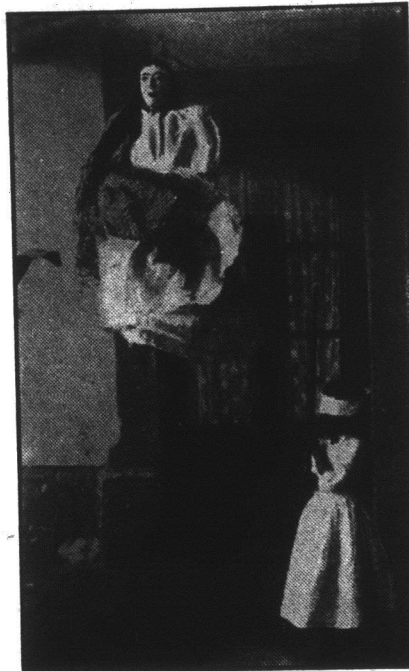
Whaley, Royce & Co.
LIMITED,
365 MAIN STREET,
Winnipeg.

ated with palms, great tree ferns from the "hot country" and huge clusters of the brilliant glowing "Noche Bueno" plant, called in less tropical countries the "poinsettia." In Northern lands this plant is expensive, but in Mexico where it grows wild in the forests, one can buy enormous armfuls of it for six, ten and twenty cents. If Mexico is the "land of cheap silver," she is also the "country of cheap flowers." About the patio are also placed small tables laden down with trays of pretty little posada presents; these are distributed after the breaking of the pinata. They are very dainty little things, in the shape of baskets, vases, tubs, and so on, and all filled with infinitesimal dulces or candies.

At an early hour,—on account of the clamoring children,—the signal is given for the pinata-breaking, and all the guests flock gaily about the bobbing clown, with the servants and small babies congregated in the background. When the assembly is complete, all join hands and circle about the big glittering toy, as it swings from its hook in the ceiling, one of the children is blindfolded and placed in the center of the ring, just under the pinata, a long light pole is handed to her, and she is told to strike carefully and "con mucha fuerza" (with much force) in the direction of the pinata. Then, if you are wise, you will be careful to keep out of reach of the pole, for very often strokes are made in entirely the wrong direction, whereupon cracked heads and loud and anguished howls are the natural result.

Good nature demands that all of the children first have an opportunity to break the pinata: as they naturally are never able to do so, the clown being a tough-fibred individual, the turn of the "grown-ups" next comes. One by one, we are blindfolded, turned about three times, and then admonished to "Strike out!" Amid applause from the elders and wild yells from the children, the pinata is finally located and struck at viciously, when—hey presto! the poor clown's gay bloomers and red and gold waistcoat are rent from top to bottom, his big sombrero is sent flying across the room, and down upon your devoted head comes a deafening rain of oranges, nuts, small candies, all sorts of small, unbreakable presents, and all conceivable kinds of dulces and good things to eat. Then of course you must scramble for what you may want, with the children shrieking and leaping in the midst of the melee. The "breaking of the pinata" is a lengthy and certainly sticky proceeding, and when it is at last over with, and you are duly ashamed of your tumbled hair and garments and sugary hands and face, the children are sent away and you repair your own damages in the dressing room. Afterwards, there is an adjournment to the dancing room, and, late at night, a delicious supper is served, when many toasts are drunk and numberless tiny posada presents distributed. It is four or five o'clock when a last danza (the typical Spanish dance which is known

the series of nine. This posada seems to be a very solemn affair, for people are all talking in low subdued tones; all faces are very solemn, and there is nothing of the usual clatter and gay laughter, while piled up on tables about the rooms are candles ready for lighting, with the prayer-books containing the special Mass



BREAKING THE PINATA.

which is to be sung and recited during the posada procession to-night. In a few moments we pass soberly into the room where the Mass is to be sung, and where the Christmas altar dedicated to the "Holy Travelers" has been built. It is decorated all in blue and white, with drapings of the gray Chapultepec moss: a small ebony box in its center holds two sacred relics (a bit of the True Cross (?) and a bit of Saint John's robe) while standing on this box are three or four small statuettes of Saints. Pictures of the Virgin hang over the altar, and flowers are placed about. Candles burn brightly overhead, and the room is choky with the smell of incense which has been burned in it beforehand. At the foot of this altar is a small wooden litter on which have been placed statuettes of the "Holy Family." These images are small, of ivory, and shew the Virgin with the Child Jesus in her arms, as well as Joseph, and the donkey on which the flight from Bethlehem was made.

After bowing to, and crossing themselves before, these images, the guests kneel about the room in couples, with prayer-books in one hand and lighted candles in the other. Then the Mass begins, the orchestra playing the music and the guests making responses, meanwhile the small candles burn steadily and we alternately wonder at the queerness of



FANCY POTTERY VENDERS.

from Spain to South America and Manila to Mexico) is played: it is quite time for the sun to rise when, tired and sleepy, you are driven home through the silent streets, having enjoyed from start to finish your first Mexican posada.

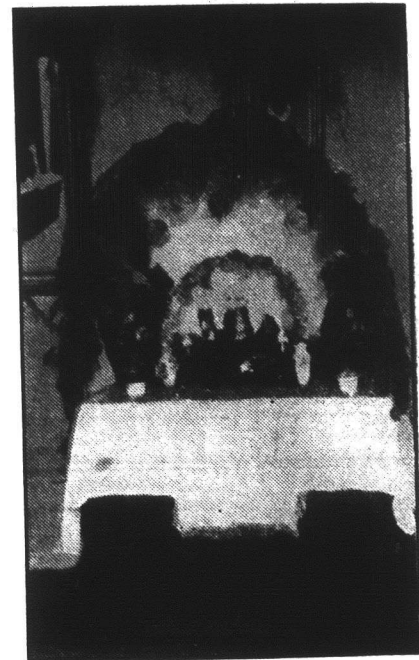
All of the posadas are like this one, and you haven't yet grown weary of them when the night for the last one comes around—the night before Christmas. This, of course, is the great posada—the most important one given during

customs that are not our own, and long for the final "Amen," after which our posada procession is to be made from basement to the attic of our host's great house.

In this solemn fashion we parade the entire house, from sitting rooms and sala even to the basement and servants' rooms, the procession chanting requests at the doors to be admitted, all of which requests are refused. Therefore we are obliged to move on until a "posada" or

abiding place can be found. But no one will have anything to do with us, and we are perforce obliged, after being refused everywhere else, to ascend to the flat roof. Here we may be able to find shelter and here (we have been privately informed) has already been placed a stable, where the images will at last find rest. So up the steep stairs we go, the images well to the front and the orchestra playing away behind them. Just as we emerge from the roof, singing, and carefully guarding our candles from the night breeze, the City clocks begin to chime the first stroke of twelve—our posada is now over with! The images are placed carefully in the rough little stable which has been prepared beforehand for them, and we all stand about it, listening to the chimes that peal out from a hundred bells all over the City. Overhead, the great stars shine out almost as brightly, one is sure, as they did on that night, in Bethlehem.

After a while we all troop gaily downstairs again, and there are refreshments and many Christmas wishes and congratulations exchanged, after which dancing is the order of the day (or rather night!) To the regular programme is added a quaint Indian "jarabe" (danced by two tilma'd and rebozo'd young Mexicans) and a Spanish "jota," and all trip gaily the light fantastic toe until, at five o'clock, we are led into such a Christmas supper as one rarely even hears of, with its savory "mole de guajalote," "chili con carne" "dulses" of all sorts, and even the wily "pulque compuesto!" The consuming of this supper lasts for quite two



ALTAR OF THE PERIGRINDS.

hours and it is fully seven o'clock when, utterly worn out and laden down with "recuerdos" of the occasion, we wend our way homeward! We have enjoyed the posada season, you may be sure, but just at this time we are not sorry that we have seen the very last posada of 1904, and to-night, at least, will be able to get some sleep.

The man with time to burn never gave the world any light.

Faith is not a fence about a man; it is a force within him.

We make mistakes; it is the other fellows who commit sins.

The city with the lid off needs the church with the coat off.

You can get the flavor of life's hickory without eating the shell.

Many big sins have a way of getting in with mighty small keys.

Our worst enemies are the friends who have failed to find us profitable.

Withholding affection is one of the most wasteful economies in life.

The Lord is not a refuge for the man who is looking for a soft place to rest.

The church is richer for a cent given with a smile than for a dollar with a frown.