

THE JEWISH NEW YEAR.—The Jews throughout the world commenced last evening at sundown the celebration of "Rosh Hashana," or the incoming of the 5,625th year of their era, dating from the creation of the world. This festival is the second in importance among the Hebrews—the Day of Atonement being the first, and which is celebrated the second day after the commencement of the "Rosh Hashana." The ceremonies of this festival are of the most impressive character, as, independent of the religious services, it is an occasion when congratulations are exchanged among friends, differences adjusted between enemies, and general good will prevails. The festival closes with a season of penitence and prayer. During the festival business is generally suspended among the Hebrews, and their stores are closed. It appears to be well observed in Washington judging from the number of stores closed.

5638.

The New Year of Our Hebrew Citizens—How it was Welcomed.

While our calendars show that this is the year of our Lord 1877, that of the Hebrew world figures up the year 5638, which made its bow last evening at 6 o'clock, and right glad was it hailed by the Israelites. This season among them is an event of great importance and strictly do they adhere to its celebration. Business is almost universally suspended, and one and all seem to vie with each other in their endeavors to give sufficient zest to their anniversary. Hebrew festivals as a general thing are of a historical, agricultural, astronomical, and political nature, but they mostly combine all these characteristics, and are always hallowed by one religious idea, and the same piety and devotion to one and the same holy name. Like those of the Christian faith, these festivals are many, but unlike most creeds; they are the most faithfully observed. Among the Hebrews the most exalted of the New Moon Festivals is that of the first day of the 7th month (O. S.) "The day of remembrance of the sounding" or "of trumpets;" ("Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, in the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation,") to which in later times when the Seleucidian era was introduced, (the Syrian year beginning with the Autumnal equinox,) the name of Rosh Hashana was given, notwithstanding that Nisan is spoken of as the first month of the year, as will be seen in Exodus xii—2, which says: "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you." In ancient times the Feast of the New Moon fell on the first of Tisri. It differed from the ordinary festivals of the New Moon in several important particulars. It was one of the seven days of Holy Convocation. Instead of the mere blowing of the trumpets of the Temple at the time of offering sacrifices, it was "a day of blowing of trumpets." In addition to the daily sacrifices and the eleven victims offered on the first of every month, there were offered a young bullock, a ram, and seven lambs of the first year, with the accustomed meat offerings, and a kid for a sin-offering. The regular monthly offering was thus repeated, with the exception of the young bullock. It has been conjectured that one of the songs of Asaph, was composed expressly for the Feast of Trumpets. The Psalm is used in the service for the day by the modern Hebrews. Various meanings have been assigned to the Feast of Trumpets. But there seems to be sufficient reason to call in question the common opinion of Hebrews and Christians, that it was the festival of the New Year day of the civil year, the first of Tisri, the month which commenced the Sabbatical year and the year of Jubilee.

Last night a circle of festivals began and will end in nine days with the festival of Yom Keppur, or the day of atonement. Great preparations were made for the New Year celebration by our Hebrew citizens, and in round numbers did they turn out last evening, braving the storm, to attend divine worship.

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AT THE SYNAGOGUE,

the new temple of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, services were conducted by Rabbi L. Stern and were of the most solemn and beautiful nature. The Sanctuary was brightly illuminated at an early hour, and the congregation, when services began, was large and brilliant. A great number of ladies were present and the delicious odor of exotics filled the air. The choir, directed by Mr. I. L. Blout, rendered some beautiful selections previous to the opening, and upon the entrance of the Rabbi the choristers burst into a glad song of New Year's welcome. Rabbi Stern, arrayed in a black satin gown with velvet cap, proceeded to the reading desk, which was covered with white satin with silver fringe, where he began to conduct the services. After reading a prayer, wherein he besought blessings upon the congregation, the President of the United States and the country at large, he repeated the regular New Year's services to which, at intervals, responses were made by the choir, the congregation standing. At the end of the services, which were brief, the 125th Psalm of the Hebrews was sung, being as follows:

"Ever running, ne'er delaying,
Days and years maintain the strife."
The choir having rendered that very beautifully, there was another prayer, during which the congregation arose and repeated it silently, while the organ sent out peal after peal of the most solemn, and one might say soul-inspiring music; for it was indeed sublime. The prayer lasted several minutes, after which the benediction was delivered and the services ended.

CONGRATULATIONS.

At the end of the services many members rushed up to the Rabbi with extended hands, wishing him a happy new year, to which Rabbi Stern responded in a genial manner. The hand-shaking became general then throughout the congregation, and anon the hearty smack of kisses among the male and female members was heard to such an extent that it caused the reporter of THE CRITIC to leave in a hurry.

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VARIED PROGRAM ON WCAP TONIGHT

Rosh Hashana Services,
Lyric Singers and Better
'Ole Orchestra Scheduled.

A pretentious musical program crowned by the Rosh Hashana services of the Washington Hebrew Congregation at the Eighth Street Temple has been scheduled tonight by WCAP.

The musical attractions are especially diversified. An all-American concert by the Lyric Singers and dance music by the Better 'Ole Club Orchestra are indicative of the ramifications of the musical offerings. Sandwiched between these features will be a concert by the Wardman Park Hotel Trio, under the direction of Moe Baer, and a timely talk by Dr. Grafton Tyler Brown on "Fall Hay Fever."

WCAP will open its program at 7 o'clock with a market summary given by J. C. Gilbert of the Department of Agriculture. The hay fever talk and base ball announcements will follow.

The concert by the Lyric Singers will be broadcast, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. The group is composed of Joanna Best Russel, soprano; Linda Berg, contralto; Harvey T. Townsend, tenor; Benjamin Y. Morrison, bass, and Mrs. John Milton Sylvester, director and accompanist.

The music for the Rosh Hashana services of the Washington Hebrew Congregation will be under the direction of Louis A. Atwater. Dr. Abram Simon will conduct the services.

"The Foolish Entertainers"—Ellsworth Tompkins, George F. Ross and Norman Brokenshire, all of WRC's staff—have persuaded Program Manager Edmunds to give them a half an hour to "cut up" before the station's microphone this afternoon. The serious attractions of WRC's afternoon program, however, include a recital by Elsie Jorss, soprano, and book reviews by Alice Hutchins Drake.

JEWISH NEW YEAR OBSERVANCE HERE CONTINUES TODAY

Notes of Bugler at Eighth
Street Temple Broadcast
Through Station WCAP.

RABBI SIMON REVIEWS
EVENTS OF LAST YEAR

Devotions to Continue Until
Sunset; No Special
Ceremonies.

Observance of Rosh Hashana, the feast of the Jewish New Year, was continued yesterday in all local synagogues with the performance of ancient Hebraic rites, special music and prayer. The New Year began officially at sundown Friday evening, marking the 5686th year of the Jewish calendar.

Ceremonies yesterday morning were opened with the blowing of the Shofar, or ram's horn, an ultra-modern touch being added to the services by the broadcasting of the notes of a bugler at the Eighth Street temple through radio station WCAP. Rabbi Abram Simon reviewed events of the year as they affected Jewry in all parts of the world in a sermon that followed the initial phases of the celebration. An appropriate instrumental and vocal program was rendered by the synagogue choir under the direction of Organist Lewis Atwater.

The Ohav Shalom congregation held special services at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Rabbi J. T. Loeb officiated, and the Shofar ceremonial was carried out in impressive fashion. Observance of the feast day continued yesterday afternoon and evening, with large crowds attending. Admission at several of the places of worship was by card only, except for members of the congregation.

Services were held at the Sixth Street synagogue, led by Rabbi Louis J. Schwefel. The musical program was in charge of the Rev. Louis Novick, cantor. More than 1,000 worshipers attended. Other Jewish congregations reported similar evidences of devotion, it being found impossible in some instances to seat all those desiring admittance. While no outstanding ceremonies are planned for today, devotions of Rosh Hashana will continue until sunset.

The next Jewish feast day to be celebrated will be Erev Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, which falls on Sunday, September 27, and will be observed by Jewish places of worship throughout the world.