

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 5. No. 49

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 22, 1905

Whole Number 257

## CONTENTS

UNFAITHFUL STEWARDS  
WASHINGTON CITY LETTER  
CHRISTMAS IN THE JUNGLE  
WHERE ARE THE PHRASE MAKERS?  
A TALENTED WOMAN  
ONCE WAS BORN A MAN  
ELECT THE POSTMASTERS  
ROCKEFELLER IN FLIGHT  
HOME DEPARTMENT  
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS  
THE PRIMARY PLEDGE  
NEWS OF THE WEEK

### TRANSPORTING THE MAILS

In his annual report Postmaster General Cortelyou makes some interesting suggestions as to the plan of cutting down the postal deficiency. In this report Mr. Cortelyou devotes considerable attention to the question whether "a substantial saving in the cost of railway mail transportation could be accomplished by forwarding bulky periodicals and mail merchandise by fast freight instead of what is known as fast mail, and by providing that such matter as would ordinarily go by fast freight under this plan should pay extra postage whenever transmitted by fast mail."

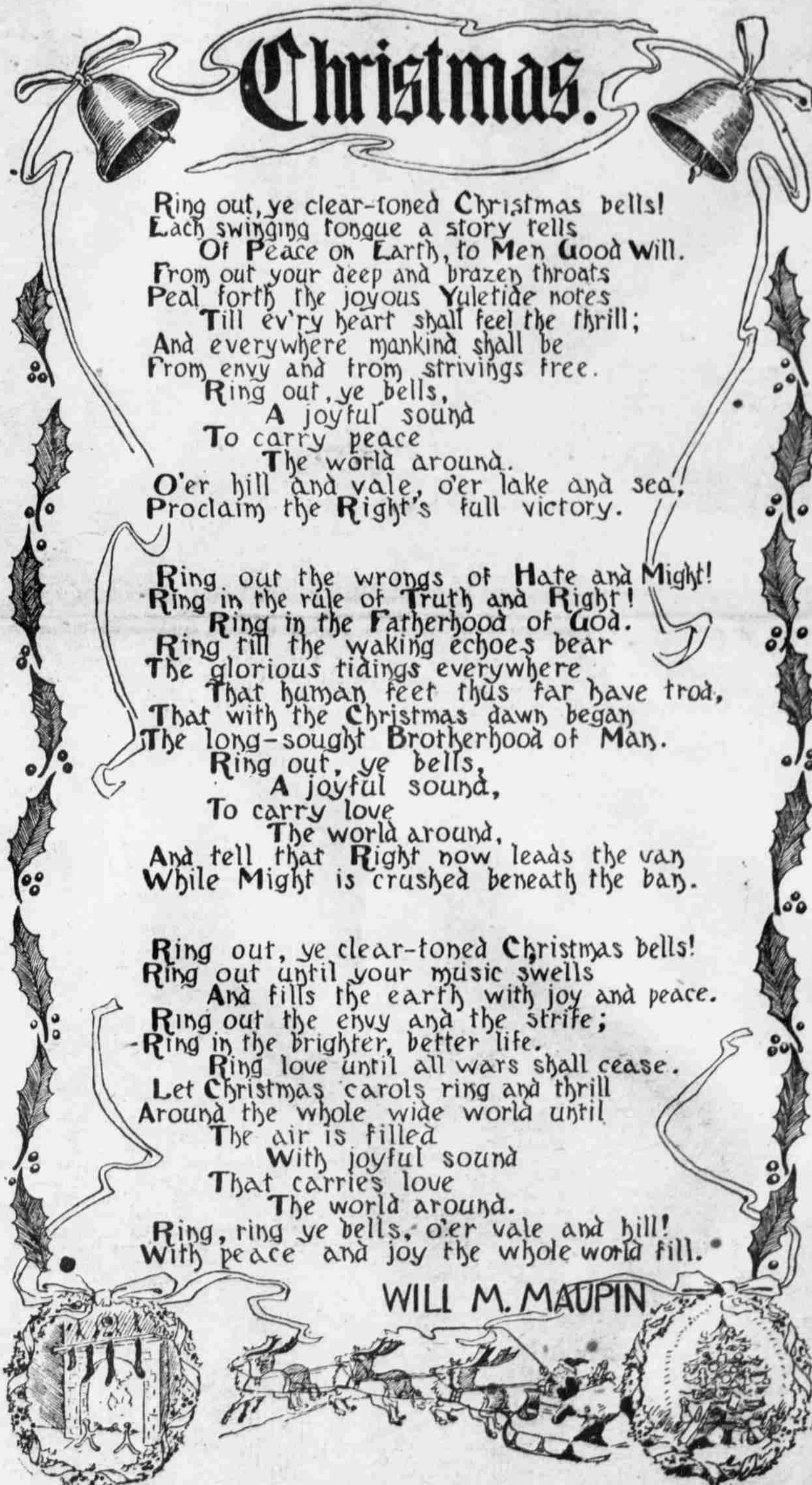
Is it not a bit strange that Mr. Cortelyou in his recommendations did not touch upon the expenditures made to railroad companies for mail transportation? According to Mr. Castle, former auditor of the postoffice department, the government paid during the year 1904 the sum of \$46,000,000 for the transportation of the mails. Mr. Castle says that at least five million dollars of this sum represented graft. He declares that under the item of "the rent of mail cars" more is paid annually for the bare use of the cars than the cars cost in the first place. It would seem that in his dignified annual report Mr. Cortelyou might have given some attention to the absorption of postal revenues by the railroads. In that report he makes many recommendations. He even goes so far out of his way as to indorse the ship subsidy scheme which he calls "a means of nationalizing the country's foreign mail service."

Although the attention of the authorities was long ago called to the extortion practiced upon the government by the railroads in the carrying of the mails, no one in authority has so far made any serious effort to protect the public interests in this respect. This subject is of such great importance that President Roosevelt might well be pardoned for sending to congress a special message relating to it.

### THE COMMONER AT WASHINGTON

This week The Commoner begins the publication of a weekly letter from the national capital. Mr. Alfred J. Stofer, The Commoner's correspondent, is a newspaper man of wide experience and high character. He may be depended upon to keep The Commoner's readers in touch with the movements of the nation's lawmakers. That he will discharge this task in an interesting way will not be doubted by any who carefully read the first of these letters printed in this week's issue.

## Christmas.



Ring out, ye clear-toned Christmas bells!  
Each swinging tongue a story tells  
Of Peace on Earth, to Men Good Will.  
From out your deep and brazen throats  
Peal forth the joyous Yuletide notes  
Till ev'ry heart shall feel the thrill;  
And everywhere mankind shall be  
From envy and from strivings free.  
Ring out, ye bells,  
A joyful sound  
To carry peace  
The world around.  
O'er hill and vale, o'er lake and sea,  
Proclaim the Right's full victory.

Ring out the wrongs of Hate and Might!  
Ring in the rule of Truth and Right!  
Ring in the Fatherhood of God.  
Ring till the waking echoes bear  
The glorious tidings everywhere  
That human feet thus far have trod,  
That with the Christmas dawn began  
The long-sought Brotherhood of Man.  
Ring out, ye bells,  
A joyful sound,  
To carry love  
The world around.  
And tell that Right now leads the van  
While Might is crushed beneath the ban.

Ring out, ye clear-toned Christmas bells!  
Ring out until your music swells  
And fills the earth with joy and peace.  
Ring out the envy and the strife;  
Ring in the brighter, better life.  
Ring love until all wars shall cease.  
Let Christmas carols ring and thrill  
Around the whole wide world until  
The air is filled  
With joyful sound  
That carries love  
The world around.  
Ring, ring ye bells, o'er vale and hill!  
With peace and joy the whole world fill.

WILL M. MAUPIN

