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CONTENTS

WHY NOT TEST THEM?
MINORITY LEADERS CHOSEN
THE PRESIDENT REITERATES DECLINATION
SECRETARY TAFT'S MOTHER
KENTUCKY
OPENING THE CAMPAIGN
RECRUITS FOR THE "MILLION ARMY"
SENATOR DAVIS' MAIDEN SPEECH
E. F. DUNNE ON "THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THE PANIC"
WASHINGTON LETTER
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS
HOME DEPARTMENT
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK

CHRISTMAS

Again we are approaching the Christmas season, and the hearts of the young and the old are made merry by the joys and festivities that throng the holidays. To the child it means toys, sweetmeats and the pleasures of vacation. To the older ones it brings that renewal of youth that comes from contact with the buoyancy of youth. The children, not yet acquainted with the joys of giving, are overflowing with happiness because of what they have received while their parents, measuring life by a higher standard, find a deep satisfaction in the joy that they impart.

Let not the circle of kinship bound the generosity that the season prompts, for it is not a small gift that gave to Christmas its significance, and to the Christian world this day so faithfully observed. He in whose honor the Christmas tree is reared gave the full measure of a life, and the spirit that ascended from Calvary has entered into the life of many millions, and that spirit has given to those lives a fullness that they would not otherwise have known. If the world's indebtedness to the precepts of the man of Galilee measures the bounty to be scattered on the coming Christmas morn, the world will be filled with gifts and gratitude.

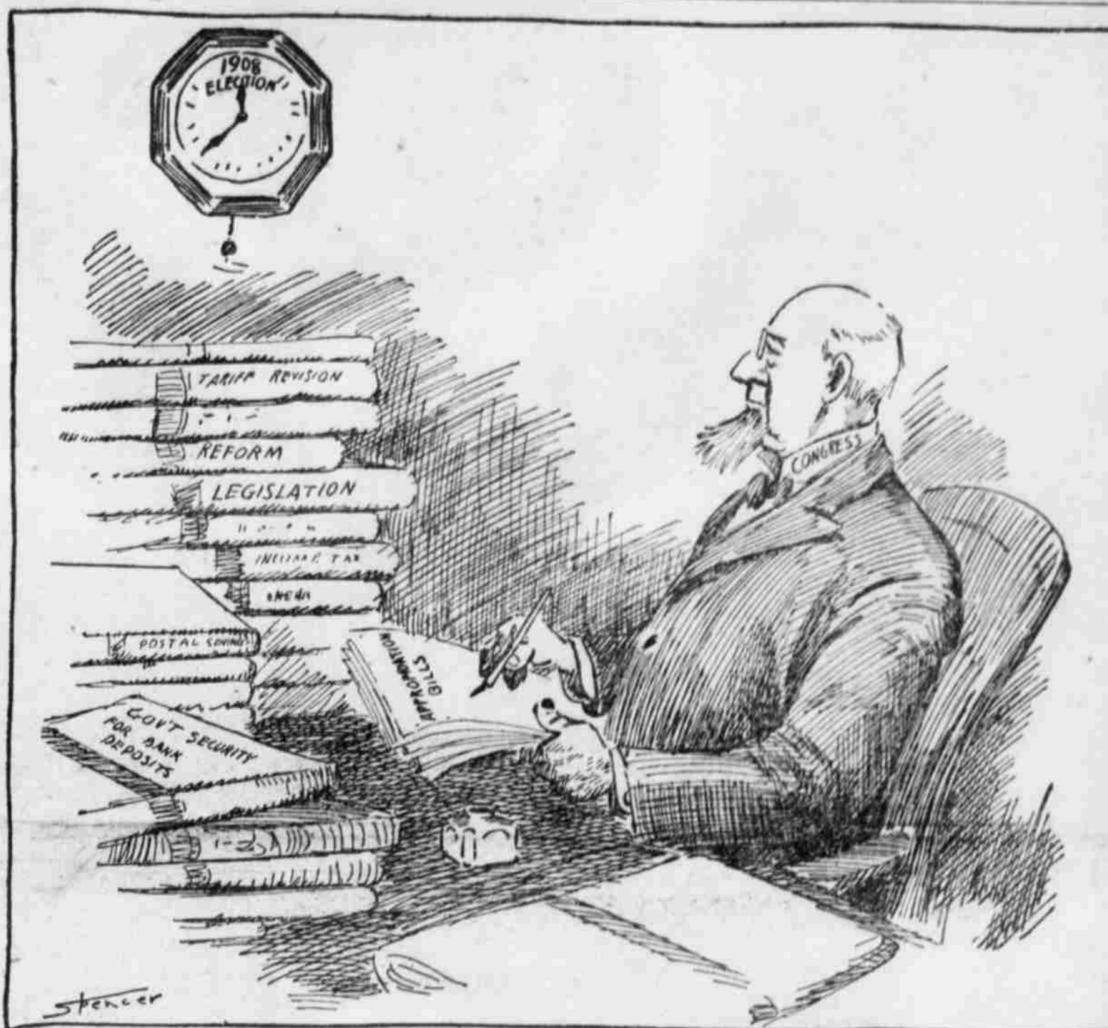
The Commoner bids its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SIGNIFICANT

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says that Senator Aldrich's influence in the United States senate is likely to be greater this session than it has heretofore, and the Chicago Record-Herald adds: "In that case it will hardly be possible for Aldrich to permit the rest of the senators to do any thinking at all." This admission by a republican paper is deeply significant when it is remembered that Mr. Aldrich is admittedly the representative of the Standard Oil interests.

PROMINENT MENTION

Any person desiring advertisement can secure it. Now is the time when anyone can secure the title of prominent democrat by sending in an interview to a republican paper saying that he has always voted the democratic ticket but does not believe that the democrats can win this year. Fortunately, however, such interviews are more than offset by the republicans who confess that neither side in the republican party can hope to win.



TOO BUSY WATCHING THE CLOCK TO WORK

Why Not Test Them?

The republican party is in power in the White House, in the senate and in the house, but the division in the party is rapidly growing. The standpatter wants nothing done; the reformer is anxious to make at least a showing of progress; the president has recommended several things that the democrats have been contending for for years. Why not test the republican party and find out how many Roosevelt men there are in the senate and house? If the democratic minority will take up the different propositions upon which our party has a record and to which the president has given approval and put the full strength of the party behind these propositions, it is possible that some of them may be forced through. At least it is possible to show that the republican party does not support the president when his recommendations are democratic. In the next campaign the republican party will attempt to carry water on both shoulders; it will endeavor to so write its platform as to hold the reform republicans without alienating the standpatters. Why not expose this attempt in advance by compelling the republican party to go on record in the present congress for or against the president's recommendations? For instance, the president recommends publicity as to campaign funds, and even suggests that the expense of the national campaign shall be paid out of the federal treasury. While the latter recommendation has never been endorsed by the democratic party, it is entirely democratic. The people as

a whole are interested in having the issues fairly and fully presented; for years the republican party has sold legislation to the highest bidder, and by putting itself under obligations to predatory wealth has rendered itself impotent to protect the people. The small amount which would be appropriated to cover the legitimate expenses of the campaign would be insignificant compared with the amount that the people have year after year been forced to pay to the favor-seeking corporations that have been supplying the republican party with the sinews of war. Why not hold a democratic caucus and prepare a bill appropriating a sum equal to ten, twenty or twenty-five cents for each voter, the amount to be divided between the national parties according to the vote last polled? Then let individual contributions be prohibited, or if permitted at all, not later than ten or fifteen days prior to the election, and then only on condition that all sums over a minimum of say twenty-five dollars be at once made public by the contributor. If the democratic party presents such a measure, the republican majority will have to accept it or go on record as opposing the president's recommendation.

The republican leaders ought to be compelled to consider the trust question also. The president has made recommendations on this subject which ought to be brought before congress but which will not be brought before congress by the republican leaders. For the first time the president has drawn the line at mon-