



The mayor and other city officials of Chicago have returned all Christmas gifts made to them by others than relatives.

Washington dispatches say that the federal authorities will ask indictment of the members of the beef trust.

Walter Wellman says that under the Taft administration there will be a new bureau of corporations which will handle all corporation matters.

Claus Spreckles, California's sugar king, is dead.

Governor Hughes' committee to probe Wall Street will begin on the produce and cotton exchanges.

Two revolutionists entrenched near Moscow twice repulsed a combined force of soldiers and police, killing the czar's chief of police, and are overcome only after a twenty-hour bombardment.

The Pennsylvania railroad and other big enterprises are said to be back of the Pittsburg graft expose, they finding it cheaper to oust the hoodlums than to pay their price.

H. W. Poor & Co., New York stock brokerage firm, and publishers of Poor's Manual of railroads have assigned with liabilities of more than \$5,000,000.

The new Cuban congress will meet early in January, 1909.

In the Ohio contest for United States senator to succeed Foraker, Charles P. Taft favors submitting the question to the republican caucus. Congressman Burton proposes that all senatorial candidates appear before the entire legislature and tell their attitude on public questions.

The Castro government in Venezuela has been overthrown and Gomez, long the leader of the revolutionists, has been made president. The United States has recognized the Gomez government and has sent W. I. Buchanan as a special commissioner to represent this government. Castro is in Berlin in the care of doctors.

The city of Pittsburg is filled with scandals relating to municipal government. It is claimed that three score councilmen are "easy to reach" and that in the passage of one ordinance alone sixty councilmen divided \$40,000. A grand jury will be empaneled January 4, and many arrests will be made.

A Jefferson City, Mo., dispatch carried by the Associated Press says:

START '09 RIGHT

If you have had bad bowels and liver last year—you don't have this. CASCARETS will make your bowels and liver act right, and keep them so. Many a sick, tired head and body comes from bad bowels.

CASCARETS—10c box—week's treatment, all druggists. Biggest seller in the world—Million boxes a month.

"Declaring that the Standard Oil company of Ohio and the Waters-Pierce Oil company of Missouri had conspired and combined to monopolize the oil business in this state, the supreme court of Missouri issued a decree ousting all three from the commonwealth, and fining them \$50,000 each. The decree against the Waters-Pierce company is tempered by the proviso that it may continue business if by January 15, 1909, it can show to the court that it has taken steps to operate as an independent concern and has satisfied the judgment against it. The other companies are given until March 1, 1909, to wind up their affairs in the state. The decision which was unanimous on the part of the seven judges is so sweeping that Attorney General Hadley and Governor Folk hail it as the end of the illegal oil combinations in Missouri and the former asserts that, in conjunction with the decision of the supreme court of the United States in the tobacco trust case, it will affect similar suits in other states."

In the prosecution against the night riders at Union City, Tenn., the state secured confession from several persons and the testimony discloses that a reign of terror has long been maintained by a well organized band.

The Rochester, N. Y. Democrat and Chronicle says: "Election figures compiled by the New York Times, which it states will approximate very closely the official canvass, show that the total vote cast this fall was 14,799,898, without including the vote of the independence party, the populist party and the smaller of the two socialist parties. Allowing 100,000 votes for these three minor parties, which is a liberal estimate, the total vote this year exceeded that of 1904 by about 1,380,000. The gain was almost wholly democratic, due very largely to Bryan's gain over Parker in the middle west. The socialist vote proves to have been slightly smaller than it was in 1904, being 401,506 as against 402,288 four years ago. The prohibitionists also met with reverses. Their candidates received 238,014 votes last fall, while four years ago they polled 258,536 votes. It was a bad year for the minor parties all around, and two of them at least are not likely to figure in the next presidential campaign."

WHO GETS THE MULE

New Marion, Ind.—C. J. Holman writes: "The highest majority in this county was 798. About 100 is the normal majority. Your plurality over the Parker vote is approximately 1,000. With this showing we have some claim on the mule."

Brown County, Neb.—R. E. Osborn of Ainsworth, Neb., writes: "I want to put in a claim for Brown county for the Bryan mule. Parker got 157 votes in this county four years ago. Bryan got 526 November 3, a net gain of 369 votes, or a percentage of 335 15-157."

Allegheny County, Md.—Frank A. Perdew of Cumberland reports that Allegheny's average vote for electors in the three former campaigns was 3,921 2-3. The democratic vote in 1908 was 4,791, making the increase in 1908 over the average vote 869. The percentage of increase was 22.15. College View, Neb.—F. O. Nelson writes: Grant precinct No. 2, Lancaster county, Neb., also claims

Major Minnamascot. In 1904 Lancaster county gave Roosevelt 8,163 votes and Parker 1,975, while in 1908 Bryan polled 8,532 votes and Taft 7,419. Bryan therefore made a gain of 332 per cent over Parker's vote of 1904. In 1904 Grant precinct No. 2 gave Roosevelt 129 votes and Parker 10, while in 1908 Bryan received 210 votes and Taft 115, giving Bryan a majority of 95 and a gain over Parker's vote of 2,000 per cent. This precinct joins Mr. Bryan's on the south. The "Major" has made us several visits (in charge of Mr. Lyons) but we are all anxious to know if he is not coming to make his home permanently with us."

Williams County, N. D.—Ernest Francis Williston of North Dakota writes: "The vote for democratic electors in Williams county in 1904 was 316, in 1908 it was 1,035. This shows an increase of 328 per cent. Does the mule belong to us?"

Winfield, Kan.—Joseph O'Hara writes: "The Fifth ward of Winfield claims the mule. Four years ago this ward gave Roosevelt 207 votes, Parker 48; Roosevelt's majority 159. This year the ward gave Taft 143, Bryan 105; Taft's majority 38."

Hardin County, Ohio.—William V. Neville of Round Head, Ohio, writes: "Please consider me an entree in the contest for the mule you are going to give away to the precinct making the largest democratic gain in the last campaign. Mine was as follows: Poll shows 69 republican majority and cut it down to 14 in the last campaign of 1908 69 minus 14 equals 55 gain in 1908. Township went 88 in last campaign in said township in fall of 1907."

New Concord, Ohio.—Harry E. Miller of New Concord writes: "This precinct showed a gain of 53 per cent. I would like very much if you would look this matter up and compare the same."

Bourbon County, Kan.—George W. Marble of Fort Scott, Kan., writes: "Please enter Bourbon county, Kansas, in that mule contest. In 1896 Bryan carried this county by 395; in 1900 he lost it by 215; in 1904 Roosevelt carried it by 1,378, and in 1908 Taft carried it by only eight."

Furnas County, Neb.—I. S. Meyers of Hendley, Neb., writes: "Wishing to compete for the mule, Major Minnamascot, Furnas county, Neb., ought to be represented as we made a great gain in the democratic ranks, and Lynden precinct in this county should be in line for this mule. In 1904 the republicans cast 1,568 votes for Roosevelt, and 393 for Parker in Furnas county, and cast in Lynden precinct 68 votes for Roosevelt and 26 votes for Parker. In 1908 Furnas county cast 1,400 votes for Taft, and cast 1,615 votes for Bryan, and Lynden precinct cast 38 votes for Taft and 103 votes for Bryan, making a gain in Furnas county of 400 1-9 per cent, and in Lynden precinct 396 1-6 per cent. I believe Furnas county ought to compete for this mule."

Bates County, Mo.—I. D. Smith of Butler, Mo., writes: "Bates county elected every officer on the democratic ticket by majorities of from 100 to 600. Mr. Bryan majority was 460, Mr. Cowherd's about the same. I have read all of the political platforms of the two parties from Washington down to the present and I think the democratic platform is the best that I ever read; there are three planks in it that are of more importance to the people that are bitterly opposed by Mr. Taft, namely, the guarantee of deposits, electing United States senators by direct vote and publicity of campaign funds before the election, the latter the most important because without it the election can be bought by the party having the most money. In view of the

(Continued on Page 14)

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