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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 20th day of November, A. D. 1903. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Santa Claus is rightfully the hero of the day.

Christmas comes but once a year—no make the best of it.

For this one day at least there should be no talk or thought of war.

It is Christmas that vindicates the time-honored custom of wearing stockings.

Senator Hanna has left New York! Well, of course, he could not expect to carry away Roosevelt's own state.

Luckily we have a few holidays on the calendar that do not require an official proclamation to warn us of their approach.

Way may be what General Sherman said it is, but it seems rather tame when compared with the modern railroad wreck.

The promoters of the Olney boom are just going ahead without waiting for the aid or consent of the man behind the name.

The biggest stationary steam engine on earth will be one of the moving exhibits at the Louisiana Purchase exhibition at St. Louis.

A band of musicians stopped the trading on the New York board yesterday—which was more than one John Alexander Dowle could do.

Minister Conger gives the pleasing assurance that China has begun to commence to get ready to do something or other about the treaty.

General Beyer plans to lay his communication upon Secretary Hay's front porch and then run home real fast before anyone gets to the door.

From his public interview it is to be inferred that Senator Millard has read the papers quite conscientiously, but indulged in no conclusions of his own.

Either Chicago or St. Louis will be quite willing to take the location of the democratic national convention as a postscript to the season's gift-giving.

Captain Dreyfus is climbing diligently though somewhat laboriously to his old place at the top of the column on the first page of the most conservative newspapers.

Can it be that that poisoned parakeet story from Tecumseh is only for the purpose of inducing such results as will adorn Sunny James with the smile that won't come off?

Recipe for a quick conflagration: Have long strings of dry popcorn just where they will come in contact with the expiring gasps of the Christmas tree candle.

The State department has had the War department send a warship to Cebu, Cores, to protect American interests there. Evidently it is time for some of the beathen to be sood.

The further the inquiry in the ship-building trust cases goes into all the details, the clearer it becomes that everyone connected with the scheme was enlisted in a patriotic effort to get rich by doing the other fellow.

Great preparations are being made in New York for the restoration of Tammany Hall to control the municipal government with the installation of the newly elected mayor and other city officers. Old Father Kalkreuth is not entirely sure whether it is to be an occasion for hilarity or for solemnity. We shall soon see what we shall see there after the exit of the reform administration.

CHRISTMAS. This is the most joyous holiday of the Christian year, appealing as none other to all that is best in our nature. It is a time of good will, charity and cheer. Under its benignant influence the barriers of selfishness give way and the spirit of affection and friendship asserts itself. Every gracious and kindly and gentle sentiment is awakened at this season and the heart is indeed cold and hard that is incapable of feeling the genial influence of this day.

There is no more beautiful story than that of the first Christmas. It has been said that if it had no religious significance, if it were not the beginning of a new era in human history, if it were merely an idyl conceived either by a poet or contrived by the accruing imagination of the race, it were unsurpassed in its touch upon all the poetic, imaginative and romantic instincts. But for hundreds of millions of mankind it has a religious significance that gives it the strongest claim to their consideration and which is steadily broadening. In its social feature, also, Christmas stands first among festive occasions, bringing together relatives and friends from whose reunion memories are created that give perennial pleasure. It would be difficult to find anyone who cannot recall some happy and cherished incident associated with Christmas. In its inspiration to charitable acts it is the most beneficent of seasons, not only giving happiness to millions of needy for the time, but exerting an influence in the cause of benevolence that reaches far beyond. It is not uncommon to hear deprecation of the custom of gift-making at this season, as being carried to excess, and perhaps there is some reason for such criticism, but it is really a very beautiful custom and who shall measure the far-reaching good done by Christmas gifts. At any rate it is a custom that has taken such firm root that it is certain to endure indefinitely. To all its patrons The Bee extends the season's greeting.

THE SOUTH FOR THE CANAL. Strong expressions favorable to the Panama treaty are coming from the south, all showing that that section desires the construction of the isthmian canal as soon as it is possible to do so. The Louisiana legislature, before adjourning the extra session a few days ago, adopted unanimously a resolution instructing the senators from that state to vote for the ratification of the Panama treaty. One of the senators, Mr. McEnery, said in a recent interview that he did not believe the democrats can muster sufficient votes in the senate to defeat ratification and declared that such defeat would not only prevent construction of a canal at Panama, but at Nicaragua or anywhere else.

Another noteworthy southern utterance favorable to the treaty is that of the Atlanta Constitution, the leading democratic paper of Georgia and one of the most influential in the south. It unqualifiedly endorses the course of the national administration in regard to Panama and condemns democratic opposition to the treaty.

In view of these expressions and others no less strong it seems entirely safe to say that Senator Gorman will not succeed in inducing the democrats of the senate to unite against the treaty, as he is understood to be scheming to do. Indeed, it is not improbable, in view of the sentiment in the south, that the Maryland senator will see the expediency of abandoning opposition to the treaty, so as to avoid giving offense to the south, the support of which he hopes to get in the next democratic national convention. It is said that there are at least eight democratic senators who are favorable to the treaty and it is quite probable that a larger number will be found on that side when the vote on ratification is taken. The sentiment in the south for the canal is a potent influence.

FISCAL REFORM VICTORIES. The supporters of the fiscal reform policy of Mr. Chamberlain have reason for encouragement in the result of recent elections. A few weeks ago two bye-elections were held, in both of which a triumph was scored for the policy advocated by the former colonial secretary. In these parliamentary districts the free-traders were confident of winning, but the fiscal reformers were elected by large majorities. Another victory for the Chamberlainites has just been won in the Ludlow division of Shropshire, where the contest was fought exclusively on the fiscal question, the supporter of the proposed reform being elected by a decisive majority. The liberal newspapers show a feeling of discouragement over the outcome of these elections, one of them pointing out that Chamberlain is a power in the country which it would be serious not to estimate highly. One of them urged that the personal factor is the most threatening one for the liberals in their contest for the maintenance of the existing fiscal system, implying that it is Chamberlain rather than his arguments which the free traders have most to fear. It is unquestionable that the leader of the fiscal reform movement is a very strong man—able, energetic and profoundly in earnest. But the obvious fact is that in the present contest his strength lies not in his personality, but in his ability to demonstrate that large numbers of Britons are in a condition which could not be made much worse by any change of fiscal policy, but might be greatly bettered. It is this that appeals to many British farmers, to a large body of workmen and to manufacturers. Most of these may care very little for the imperial idea of Chamberlain, but when he shows them in his plausible and persuasive way that the policy he advocates would bring improvement in their condition he draws them to him, with what effect the

recent elections, with the fiscal question as the issue, plainly tell. While Mr. Chamberlain is for the present resting, it being useless to carry on his campaign during the holiday season, he is not permitting the people to altogether lose sight of the question he has raised. He has constituted a commission composed of men prominent in the financial, commercial and political affairs of the country, which is to investigate conditions under the existing fiscal system and formulate a plan of reform. Although this quite extraordinary course on the part of Chamberlain has been sharply criticized, there is no doubt that the commission will stand and perform the work for which it has been created. In the meantime the fiscal reform leader will doubtless continue his campaign in such way as he shall deem best calculated to bring about the result he desires.

A MICHIGAN SAVAGE. Michigan is convulsed from center to circumference by the parole of a savings bank wrecker, who was sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary and liberated by the governor after sixteen months of involuntary servitude. While this is not exactly a counterpart of the Bartley parole and pardon, the people of Michigan look upon it very much in the same light, notwithstanding the pledge of the distinguished financier that he would see to it that the creditors of the bank would get every penny due them. Such pledges were made by Bank Wrecker Mosher and State Embazzer Bartley before they were incarcerated, and after they tried to break out of the pen, but these verbal securities have gone to prove.

Unlike Nebraska, Michigan has a board of pardons, and the strange part of the parole granted by the governor of Michigan is that he acted independently of the pardon board, which never took any action in the case. Like the late Governor Savage, Governor Bliss of Michigan seeks to excuse his extraordinary action by claiming that more than 200 prominent citizens of Detroit had written letters asking for the release and the names of a thousand depositors had been appended to the petition presented in his behalf. Such letters and petitions are always easy to get, especially when creditors are assured that by so doing they will be able to recover some part of their lost savings or deposits.

Unless all precedents amount to nothing it would be safe to make a forecast that the bunceid depositors of the Detroit City Savings bank have no better chance to secure a dividend than have the depositors of the Capital National bank of Lincoln. Whether Governor Bliss will be able to explain away his unpardonable exercise of executive clemency, or whether he will find it to advantage to emulate the example of the redoubtable Savage by transferring his activity to a lumber mill in Washington state, time alone will tell.

Our democratic friends in congress want it distinctly understood that they all want the isthmian canal to be constructed and ready for operation at the earliest possible moment, but they would rather go without any canal at all than to let a republican administration have the credit for its successful construction.

Joseph Chamberlain has gained another member of the House of Commons for his propaganda through an election to fill a vacancy caused by death. If only enough of the opposition die off conveniently, Mr. Chamberlain may some day find himself with a majority of Parliament back of him with their support.

Just About This Time. Saturday Evening Post. He is a wise man who knows what is in his own pockets.

Among Those Present. Chicago News. General Wood figures that when history comes to be written up to date he will be among those present, while some of the detractors may not get a footnote.

Progress Hurts Their Feelings. Chicago Inter Ocean. It is evident, judging from its attitude toward the Panama canal, that the Democratic party hopes to be able in the campaign of 1904 to point with pride to the fact that it is still striving to stem the tide of progress.

He is Built that Way. Boston Transcript. Of course the sultan apologizes. He has all the fine courtesy that characterized the participants in a western lynching, who, after hanging the wrong man, called on the widow and admitted that the laugh was "outo them."

Another Iowa Idea. Indianapolis News. In refusing to grant New Jersey's request for the extradition of a man wanted for wife desertion, because of the wording and punctuation of the New Jersey law, Governor Cummins of Iowa demonstrates that he has ideas on composition as well as on the tariff.

Fragrant Bad Faith. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Promising a fair treaty, Colombia induced this country to change its isthmian canal plans from Nicaragua to Panama. When a treaty was submitted giving Colombia \$10,000,000 down and \$25,000,000 a year for allowing this country to spend \$200,000,000 on the isthmian canal, Colombia marked up the figures immensely, and added that even the advance demanded might not be satisfactory. The protest of the United States against the fraudulent acts of Colombia had faith will be an effective one.

His Voice Improved. Philadelphia Record. The first use to which the Kaiser put his recovered voice was to make a remark that must be more infuriating to Englishmen than his message of congratulation to the Boers upon the capture of Johannesburg. He said that Blucher and the Prussians rescued Wellington from destruction at Waterloo. That Wellington needed Blucher very much was never denied, but it cuts the English very deep to be told that instead of being the conqueror of Napoleon, Wellington was just saved from destruction by the Prussians.

LEAVES FROM THE TREES. Merry Christmas! It comes but once a year. Thank! All is not gold that glitters on the tree. Now by these presents we know who's who. Is it really more enjoyable to give than receive? The old folks have earned a rest. Give it cheerfully. Some people are never satisfied. They need a hammer. Don't look like a Christmas tree when the sun goes down. This is not a good time to examine the price marks. But it is. If not too full for thought, think of the morning of the day after. Magnams of eggnog should be put out of sight quickly—if not too hot. Those who forget you should be forgiven. Perhaps they didn't have the price. In this gracious season college men should avoid giving too frequently the Greek fraternity sign. "Whaddie yave." "Let joy be unconfined," but don't draw the cork too frequently. There are other days and the supply is abundant. From the riotous days of plenty, we now pass to the pinch of economy. The strenuous pace of Christmas has a limit. The sweet spirit enveloping every gift loses much of its tender sentiment when you reach for an axe after opening the box.

The ardent young man who presents his gift with a bogus spark must not be offended when called down as a gem crow. If your "steady" has done the right thing show your appreciation by giving the other fellow the best dances on your program. From Christmas cigars comes that rare atmosphere called "holly smoke." If you don't like the brand pass it up to your dear friends. It is poor policy and bad form to boast your generosity by raising the price mark. People will catch on, and plant banana peelings on the front steps. If you have the honor of stripping the tree, don't let your left hand know what the right is doing in your pocket. Be sure you're right in it, then go ahead. Don't kick out loud if your favorite company did not come up to expectations. Consider how insignificant the November salary looks when placed beside a Christmas present.

It is possible to absorb too much of a good thing. Go slow. Wait until the shades of night obscure your curves. While he who lingers on the sofa and muses the hand embroidered pillow. The Christmas tree is an ornament for a day, an article of utility for tomorrow, and a joy for moons that follow. It supplies a stock of witticisms as eloquent and caressing as the parental slipper. One tries to convince.

Although the commercial and material atmosphere overshadows all else in the preparatory stages, there is a peculiar fitness in giving a thought or two to the true significance of the holiday. Such thoughts may diminish the temperature in "the sweet bye and bye." Be good and you will be happy, even if you didn't get all you thought was coming. If you have cause to grumble, forget it. If your temper is ruffled, cut it out. Throw wide open the windows of the soul and let in the sunshine. It might enlarge your heart.

SHOCKING VERACITY. Telling the Truth Diminishes the Temper of Railroad Rate Makers. Pittsburg Dispatch. It was interesting, though provocative of sarcasms, to learn that the railway traffic men present while Mr. Frank Waterhouse of Seattle was giving his testimony before the Interstate commission were "shocked" at his statements. The special statement which elicited this sentiment of surprise and horror was that his steamship company had a contract with the Northern Pacific by which the railroad is to carry freight landed at Seattle from its ships at one rate, while charging another and prohibitive rate to all others.

It is obvious that what shocked the railroad men was not the existence of such a contract, but the ill-timed truthfulness of Mr. Waterhouse in blurring out the fact before a body which was bound to institute prosecutions. Even the commercial public is not "shocked" to hear of such a contract. It has heard of just such things too often before. The traffic men have been knocking around this wicked world too long to be shocked to learn that it is still done. But it does jar them to have the recipient of such a favor travel across the continent in order to tell the truth where it will do most harm to the traffic men.

The railway men in their subsequent and subterranean dealings with Mr. Waterhouse should consider one plea in mitigation. He is not a railway traffic man, but a steamship man. He has had no professional knowledge of the necessity of proclaiming that combinations are for the sake of preserving impartial rates while making sub-rosa contracts to give the business all to one shipper. Nevertheless we fear that Mr. Waterhouse's special and profitable contract will prove short-lived. In the first place, the law will stop it now that it is disclosed. In the second place the railroads have little use for a man who gets a cinch of that sort and then gives the snap away.

THE POWER CANAL. Columbus Thinks There is Room for One More. Columbus (Neb.) Telegram. The Telegram had hoped to announce today that the Columbus power canal route had been selected by the money interests which contemplate the construction of a great electric plant in Nebraska. We have been disappointed. On the face of the returns it would appear that the capitalists have selected the Fremont proposition for first development. The people of Columbus must not play the part of dogs-in-the-manger. We must be strong enough and gentle enough to congratulate our Fremont friends, and wish them every success. That is the attitude we should have expected them to assume when the victory was ours. It is said the Fremont canal will be constructed immediately. We hope this is true. If it shall be constructed the discovery will at once be made that there is bona fide demand in Nebraska for three times as much power as can be developed at Fremont. In that event not a day would be lost in building a plant at Columbus along the lines of our plans and specifications. Columbus has lost nothing save a little time. If Mr. Kenyon shall be able to finance the Fremont proposition, others will have less difficulty in financing the Columbus deal. The hope of Columbus depends upon the quick building of the Fremont plant. All the power calculated to be developed at Fremont could not supply one-half the demands for power within easy reach. The Telegram congratulates Mr. Richards, that magnificent citizen of Fremont, who has given to the world a splendid exhibition of loyalty to his home city. At the same time we give every credit to Mr. Babcock, who so loyally represented Columbus in the long fight. He has lost the first round, but he intimated to superior force, and carried his integrity with him when he went down.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE. Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. The maligned and hitherto insignificant copper coin bearing the almighty fiat of Uncle Sam has at last conquered the Pacific coast and secured a permanent place in the circulating medium of the tide-washed states. Ever since California was born with a golden spoon in its mouth the copper piece has been an outcast in that locality. When exhibited as a curiosity it commanded some interest, but when sought to do business it was given a Sierra frost. The department store, however, wrought a change to make change and the despised copper comes rolling to the front. Treasury officials report heavy shipment of copper to San Francisco, Los Angeles and other points on the coast, and a bill has been introduced in congress authorizing the coinage of 1-cent pieces at the San Francisco mint.

The demand for cents from the Pacific coast has been so great during the last few months that the treasuries in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis have been called on to supply it. The bill referred to above is considered by treasury officials to be certain to pass and preparations are already being made to supply San Francisco with the necessary dies, stamps and other apparatus for the coinage of 1-cent pieces.

Representative Aiken, a new member from South Carolina, is establishing a record for himself in the line of statesmanship, and is also coming to be regarded as one of the best story tellers in the house. One of the interesting features of his stories is that they are nearly all drawn from the incidents of real life which have come under his observation. This is one of the contributions:

"In a little town down in South Carolina there lived a lawyer who, like many another man of brains, was addicted to the habit of drinking a 'brilliant fellow,' but when in his cups, in which condition he was to be found a greater portion of the time, he was always a nuisance about the court house.

"Not infrequently, when under the influence of liquor, he would create a scene in court and disturb the proceedings until finally the court, in remonstrating with him, threatened him with debarment unless he reformed. Even this threat failed to induce the bibulous barrister to abandon his drink.

"At last he was brought before the court to be expelled from the bar. He stood there, resting and reeking with the odor of whiskey.

"Your honor (hic), your honor," he pleaded, "I'd like to say just one word before I leave (hic) the sacred precincts (hic) of this temple of justice (hic). I am drunk, your honor, sah (hic), but, your honor, sah, I (hic) I'll get over my wine (hic), your honor, sah, you are a damn fool (hic), your honor, sah, but you'll never (hic) get over that, sah."

Senator Carmack of Tennessee has an individual and at the same time almost rhythmical method of pronouncing the word "reciprocity," which now resounds with so much congressional eloquence. It is almost as though it were recited—pro-let-tee when Mr. Carmack rolls the syllables from his tongue. But it is not the first time that the discussions of colonial and kindred questions in congress have brought out strange pronunciations. There is a distinct school of statesmen at the capital that still insists on saying "Cubaey" and likewise another distinct school that says "Philippines."

"There will be not more than three justices of the supreme court to favor reversal of the decision of the circuit court in the merger case," remarked a Washington lawyer to the Boston Transcript correspondent. "This assumes that the five justices who rendered the Transmissour decision will look the same way now, and that, of the two new men who have come to the court since that time, at least one, and possibly both, will take the same view. This was the consensus of corridor gossip as the famous argument of this week was nearing its close.

"The whole tendency of the times," he continued, "has been to regard the great transportation routes more and more as the instrumentalities of interstate and foreign commerce to such an extent that no power or authority except that of the general government is competent to deal with them. In other words, the courts see the danger that some of these great corporations will pass beyond the power of the state which created them and thus beyond all control unless they are to be subjected to the legislative and judicial powers of the United States. In a word, they realize the weird creation of the Frankenstein which passed beyond the control of its creator. This feeling seems to be in the air, and necessarily exercises a potent influence. You see, a natural person can do anything that he is not forbidden to do by law, while a corporation, as the creation of statutes, can do those things when the law authorizes, and the question of how far the laws of New Jersey can authorize a corporation to trench upon the authority of states a thousand miles away becomes very serious."

Charles G. Bennett, secretary of the United States senate, has sent to the body his annual report detailing the expenditures of last year. In some cases the items are more characteristic of a woman's boudoir than of supplies for staid and dignified senators. The stationary rooms, where articles are put on sale at cost to senators, in the year sold manure sets, wrist bags at prices up to \$20 and similar articles appreciated by women. Card cases, leather cases for railroad passes and such articles found a large sale. The medicines chest in the office of the sergeant-at-arms is dispensed \$3.00, gross of quinine pills, a dozen packages of court plaster, large quantities of peppermint and soda, mint tablets and horshoorn drops to a total of twenty pounds. Toilet articles were dispensed by the government to a large amount in such lines as bay rum, powder, cologne, dandruff cure, smelling salts and complexion restoratives. It also appears that the senate used four tons of hay in the fiscal year just ended.

General Young began his military career as a private in the Twelfth Pennsylvania Infantry in 1861. When he retired next January he will be succeeded by another former private soldier—General Chaffee. General Chaffee enlisted as a private in the Sixth cavalry in 1861, and will not retire until 1908. So the first two chiefs of the general staff will be soldiers who have been from the ranks. But six of the seventeen men who have been generals in chief of the United States army have been West Pointers. Those six ranged from Grant to Schofield. All six reached the command in consequence of the civil war.

"Old Figgers" Grosvenor of Ohio arose ponderously in the house one morning and held up a compelling hand. "Mr. Speaker," he said, "I notice by the Record that I am quoted as having referred to the United States senate as 'they.' I think that should be corrected. Mr. President, as I always refer to the United States senate as 'it.'"

"Tag," said Speaker Cannon. "The designation 'It' and will be changed."



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CHAS. W. SAVIDGE, "Have Faith in God" Pastor People's Church Residence, Leavenworth and 25 Ave. Author of "Shells From Pagan," "Masters of Christianity," "The Way Made Plain."

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 13, 1903. Mr. H. D. Neely, Manager, Equitable Life Assurance Society, Omaha, Nebraska.

My Dear Sir:— Twenty-one years ago my brother, Samuel L. Savidge, judge of the 10th District Court of Nebraska, took out a policy in the Equitable Life of New York for \$5,000. He made one payment on this policy and died before the expiration of the year, and his widow promptly received the \$5,000.00.

This fact so impressed me that on returning from his funeral, twenty years ago today, I took out a thousand dollar policy in the Equitable Life on the Ordinary Life plan, running twenty years.

That period is up today, and the Company has paid me \$257.79 dividend and permits me to continue the original policy through my life, paying what I have paid during the past—namely, \$24.78 per year, which will be reduced by annual dividends.

I am highly pleased with the treatment the Equitable Society have given me, and wherever it is possible I shall say a kind word for them. My only regret is that I did not take out \$5,000, in 1883, instead of the sum I did.

I have had an uncommon experience and a wide observation, having been a minister for nearly 27 years, most of that time in large cities, and I would advise all young men as soon as possible to take out an insurance policy in a good company like the Equitable, and stay with it.

I am, very sincerely yours, CHARLES W. SAVIDGE.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society. H. D. NEELY, Mgr., Merchants National Bank Building, "Strongest in the World"



A Merry Christmas To the crowds of happy people who have filled our departments and kept us busy these last days of a prosperous season, we make our compliments.

We are closed all day Friday, (Christmas day), but ready bright and early Saturday to serve you best.

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