

Ink Blings.

When I Believed in Santa Claus.

When I was just a little boy,
Not old enough to know,
That everything that people said
Was not exactly so.

When Mother Goose would pick her geese
The snow would surely fall
And pave the way for Santa's sleigh
To come and visit all.

The little ones who had been good,
And did not frown nor pout,
And slam the door and cut up high
When Pa and Ma were out.

I'm just a little boy tonight
And seem to me I hear
Those mystic sounds of Christmas eve
That made me feel so queer.

And creep so early off to bed
To dream, and dream, and dream
And wonder if I hadn't heard
The bells on Santa's team.

I believed there was a Santa Claus
And that's what made it sweet
To conjure up the things I'd like
In toys and meats to eat.

In truth I did not die in harm,
When I believed in Santa Claus
And was just a little boy.

—Any way the fellow with the thin girl
Doesn't have as large a stocking to fill.

—The boys man is out again. CHARLES
M. SCHWAB declares that the removal of
tariff on steel means lower wages for
American workmen.

—Whatever else may be said of it the
test vote in the House on Tuesday wasn't
calculated to prove very reassuring to
"Uncle Joe" CANNON.

—From the way things are going on in
Washington it is beginning to look as
though we should send for Count Von
BUELOW for a little while.

—The American farmer is producing
more wealth than all the other industries
in our land put together, yet he isn't moving
Heaven and earth to keep Congress from
taking the tariff off any of his products.

—The two boys who found it so easy to
get into the lockup on Tuesday afternoon
found it very much harder to get out and
probably that will be the lesson that will
keep them from getting into such a dilemma
again.

—That Cumberland, Maryland, chairman
who thinks he has won the famous
BRYAN mule wants it and has wired
WILLIAM to that effect. What he wants it for
is his own business, at least up until he
gets it. After that it will be the mule's.

—If Greater Pittsburg desires to pay
tribute to the unselfish and uplifting
service that Mayor GEORGE GUTRIER
has rendered the parent city during the past
three years, she will insist on his becoming
the official head of the new and greater
city.

—They say it more blessed to give than
receive. Perhaps it is, but we want to say
right here we think we have earned about
enough blessing by giving the WATCHMAN
away and we would like to receive a little
just now. Send in your dollars and make
our Christmas happy.

—Remember that the real friend will
appreciate far more something that he or
she knows you can afford to give than a
present that costs you more than your
circumstances warrant. After all the genuine
Christmas idea is in the spirit of the gift
and not in the value of it.

—The announcement of Secretary of the
Treasury CORTLANDT that the government
deficit for the fiscal year will exceed one
hundred and fourteen million dollars is
given about as much serious attention by
our thoughtless rushing people as if it were
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER'S debt and not
their own.

—The three hundred and sixty four old
majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels in
the regular service can understand why
ROOSEVELT cut out those strenuous rides
and marches for them. He wanted them to
get supple enough to duck opportunely
while he jumps another of his favorites
over their heads into the rank of major
generals.

—The President may say what he pleases
about it, but his say so doesn't make it
any more than the plaster and putty in our
own State capitol makes mahogany. The
new gold coins are not pleasing to the eye
and so far as the art in them is concerned
if ST. GUARDEN'S had not designed them the
President, himself, would probably have
called them abominable and everybody
who disagreed with his opinion liars.

—Congressman NICK LONGWORTH, the
President's son-in-law, was the only Member
who voted against the bill imposing a
license fee of one hundred dollars on all
dealers in cigarettes and cigarette papers in
the District of Columbia. Cigarette smoking
is common in NICK'S house, as he is an
inveterate himself, and looz ago the story
was out that ALICE was not averse to soiling
her dainty fingers with nicotine.

—The Reel-foot lake incident is one likely
to develop many new thoughts. While
every law abiding citizen will pray for the
prompt and proper punishment of "night
riders," the simple, primitive class of men
they are will be revealed in their trial and
with the revelation will come a consciousness
that, after all, they are right in the
crude philosophy that leads them to think
that God put the fish in the lakes for
humanity and not for a few sportsmen to buy
up and drive all others away. There will
be a world of sympathy for this thought
but not a particle for men who do murder
as a result of it.

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A Philadelphia Job for Philadelphia's Benefit.

Philadelphia has already served notice on the tax-payers of the State that its Representatives in the Legislature will make a most strenuous effort at the coming session to secure an appropriation of a half million of dollars to clean out and make navigable the Delaware river. This of course will be nothing new. That city has been clamoring for State aid for the same purpose for many years.

Just why the people of the country, and of the interior towns and cities of the State, should be expected to join in a scheme to tax themselves for the sole benefit of Philadelphia merchants, and the other business interests of that city, is not stated. In fact we have never heard any reasons given for such an appropriation, other than that it was needed to aid Philadelphia's shipping interests and enable its business men to compete with those of New York, Baltimore and other sea-board cities in the exportation or importation of heavy freights and merchandise. To us it would seem just as reasonable for the business people of Lancaster, Harrisburg, Scranton, Pittsburg, or any other interior city or town, to demand of the State an appropriation to build railroads or open up high-ways to bring business to them, as for Philadelphia to ask that the State pay for deepening the Delaware for its benefit.

Philadelphia people should remember that had their city government been half-wise, or half-way honest, the Delaware river would not be in the condition it now is, nor would it cost half the labor or expense to make it navigable that its present condition will require. Some years ago, when they were removing Smith's Island—a patch of land that obstructed the way of the ferries—boats between that city and Camden in place of dumping the dirt excavated into the channel of the river a few squares below, if they had put it where it would never have interfered with the passage of vessels there would at this time be that much less dredge out. A little later when the excavation for the new dry docks, down at the navy yard, was being done, had they prohibited these excavations from being dumped where they would be washed into the river there would be that much less obstruction to vessels now to bother about. But these precautions were not taken. Possibly because they would have prevented the future jobs that re-dredging would make. Now the tax payers of the State are asked to give, from the Treasury of the State, money sufficient to remove from the Delaware the obstructions that Philadelphia, deliberately and with its eyes open, allowed to be dumped into it.

Some people may be glib enough to think that such an appropriation would be right. The WATCHMAN can't see it in that light. While it would no doubt be a great thing for Philadelphia were the Delaware made navigable for vessels of all sizes, we cannot understand how a citizen in any other part of the State would be benefited in the least. It would not increase the value of anything the country ships to, or sells, in that city. It would not cheapen the price of a single article that is purchased there, nor would it add a farthing to the worth or price of any property outside of its limits.

If it is to benefit Philadelphia only, why should not Philadelphia as New York and other cities do, keep its own water-way open, with such assistance as it can get from the general government and such aid as its own citizens can well afford to furnish?

Where Some of the Deficit is Created. The postoffice officials, who have charge of the financial end of that department, are working overtime just now to discover some way by which the rapidly and constantly accumulating deficit in the postal service can be checked. Possibly if they would turn their eagle eyes to the abuses of the general franking privileges enjoyed by Senators and Members of Congress they might find a few leaks, that if stopped, would prevent a portion of the losses complained of.

When the government attempts to carry free the thousands of tons of documents and departmental reports, all the crazy speeches delivered by Senators or Congressmen, and in addition permit Republican committees to stuff franked envelopes with all kinds of political rot and nonsense as it did during the recent campaign, and then pay the railroads exorbitant prices for transporting this trash, it is not to be wondered at that the deficiency increases and that the shortage is becoming frightful.

It is upon the weight basis that railroads are paid for carrying the mails. A single department report with its heavy wrapper, will weigh as much as a thousand letters paying two cents each. The report costs just as much per pound to carry as does the letter. It pays nothing. It is of little use, and less interest to the public generally. The few libraries that treasure them enough to give them shelf room, and the fewer individuals who can interest

themselves in the dry and generally unreliable details that most of them contain, could easily afford to pay the thirty-five or forty cent charges that express companies would demand for delivering them.

It is all right that Senators and Congressmen should have the right to frank their letters and all the correspondence they are obliged to maintain with their constituents, but when it comes to having free use of the mails to send out any old thing they can lay hands on, or to distribute broadcast and without limit the pointless, useless, and often untruthful speeches they impose upon the public, there ought to be a halt called.

The sooner this is done the sooner the deficit now troubling the Department will disappear.

Where Our Prosperity Came From.

Surely Secretary of Agriculture WILSON has made an inexcusable blunder or an unaccountable mistake in his report of farm products for 1908. He gives them as aggregating in value \$7,778,000,000 or \$290,000,000 dollars worth more than was grown in 1907, one of the finest crop years this country was ever blessed with.

If Secretary WILSON'S report is correct and the plain old farmers by their hard work and economical habits added seven billion, seven hundred and seventy-eight millions of dollars to the wealth of the country in a single year what becomes of the Republican boast that to that party belongs the glory for all the prosperity we have or are enjoying? It didn't prepare the ground, it didn't sow the seed, it didn't furnish the sunshine, it didn't bring the rain nor did it harvest or market the crops that added this immense amount of money to that which our people had accumulated. It simply came to the front and audaciously and vociferously attempts to steal the credit for the work that the tariff-taxed, over-burdened and over-worked farmers had done.

How little of glory is due the Republican party for any prosperity there may be in the country, can be better understood when one remembers that while others produced, that party distributed.

It made and enforced the laws of the country. Under these opportunities were offered certain interests, and certain combinations, to so manipulate and manage the distribution of the wealth produced, that millions go into the pockets of the favored few, while the many eke out only a scanty living and whole armies of men are without either employment or bread. With barns crammed to the rafters; with cribs and granaries bursting with everything that man can eat or wear, or use or need, in plenty, what a commentary the condition of the hundreds of thousands of unemployed and unfed laboring men now among us is upon the policy and control of the Republican party.

A party that can bring such misery and want and distitution in the midst of the plenty that the good Lord and the labor of the farmer has blessed us with, should have little to say about any prosperity other than that which the few millions it has made enjoys.

Roosevelt Caught Again.

President ROOSEVELT has been adding to the membership of the Ananias club with a good deal of freedom and a vast amount of recklessness, recently. The editor of the New York World and the editor of the Indianapolis News are among his latest list of liars because they have asked for information as to what became of the money which the government paid for the Panama canal. The intimation that a brother-in-law of the President and a brother of the President-elect got chunks of the loot has made the President sensitive on the subject and when it is brought to his attention he loses his temper.

The matter of fact is that the report of the connection of the President's brother-in-law and the President-elect's brother with this most colossal of all grafting operations seemed pretty well established and there is a good deal of reason to believe that their connection with the operation was the principal reason why the Panama route was chosen instead of the Nicaragua route which had been recommended by the government engineers. ROOSEVELT may have received no share of the loot, but it was divided among his favorites and like PENNYPACKER in the capitol graft operations in this State, he was satisfied with that.

In touching upon the subject in a letter made public the other day President ROOSEVELT falsified in various particulars. He said that no part of the purchase money had been paid to an American citizen. There is abundance of sworn testimony to prove that all of it was paid to J. PIERCE POINT MORGAN & Co., who were acting for a syndicate of which WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL was the head and in which CHARLES P. TAFT and the President's brother-in-law were concerned. In other words, President ROOSEVELT has again written himself down as a malicious and malignant liar as will be shown by the congressional investigation which is now being demanded by the Democrats in Congress.

Roosevelt's Latest Outrage.

The President has at last created an issue with Congress which that body cannot ignore or overlook. In his annual message he said: "Last year an amendment was incorporated in the measure providing for the secret service which provided that there should be no detail from the secret service and no transfer therefrom. It is not too much to say that this amendment has been of benefit only and could be of benefit only to the criminal classes. If deliberately introduced for the purpose of diminishing the effectiveness of war against crime it could not have been better devised to this end. In another paragraph he added: "In its perfect form the restriction operates only to the advantage of the criminal, of the wrongdoer. The chief argument in favor of the provision was that the Congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men. * * * On my belief we should give ample means to prosecute them, (the criminals) if found in the legislative branch. But if this is not considered desirable a special exception could be made in the law prohibiting the use of the secret service force in investigating Members of Congress."

These statements are susceptible of only one interpretation. They involved a blanket indictment of the whole membership of Congress as criminals. They comprise a wholesale accusation of venality against the entire membership. Nor is it an accidental arraignment. There is no "slip of the tongue" element in it. It is deliberate, wanton, malicious. This evil-minded man conceived the notion that as it was his last annual message he would take advantage of the opportunity it afforded to cast an aspersion on a body that during at least two sessions had revealed the temerity to oppose some of his schemes. He knew it was malignant slander. He realized that it was a criminal libel. But in his malicious heart he had fostered the cowardly impulse to get revenge and imagined that the murderous thrust would escape unnoticed until after his term of office had expired, and consequently the limitations had run, and like a moral reptile he sneakingly struck the blow.

It was even more detestable than his venomous attack upon a woman as in the case of Mrs. BELLAMY STORER. But it was not worse than might be expected of a man who will first enlist the confidence of a woman and then betray her.

When he was discovered in his dastard act he undertook to bully himself out of the disgraced situation. He sent for Speaker CANNON and threatened that if the contemplated action was pursued he would expose some of the delinquencies of Congressmen. Possibly there are some vulnerable men in a body of so great a number who can be intimidated into condoning such an offense against the American Congress and American people. It is even probable that there are some Members of the House of Representatives who can be bribed with presidential favors and official patronage to bear this insult. But we shall not believe for the present, at least, that a majority of the Congressmen are so destitute of self-respect and the other elements of decency, that they will permit this outrage against themselves and the people they represent to go unrebuked. BELLAMY STORER permitted his wife to be insulted. HARRIMAN and others allowed themselves to be slandered. But they represented only themselves and their polity in their own affair. But the honor of the American people is involved in this case and they will insist on just punishment for an atrocious outrage.

More Official Figures.

It is only within the past week that sufficient official returns of the recent presidential election have been filed to allow of anything like a correct approximation of the total vote cast for the different candidates. The New York Times has taken the trouble to gather up the data and although the official vote from a few of the States is not yet accessible, those will not change or vary totals as now given. The figures shown are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name and Vote Count. Includes Taft (7,659,688), Bryan (5,450,690), Debs (911,596), and Chaffin (229,014).

When compared with former elections, the Republicans show a gain of 457,765, over that of 1900, and a gain of 36,102, over four years ago. The Democratic gain is 92,557 over the election of 1900 and 1,372,729, over that of 1904. The Socialist vote is 782 less than in 1904, and the Prohibition vote 30,522 less than four years ago.

It must be a very pessimistic Democrat who can find any discouragement in these figures.

—The annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association for the election of directors will be held at the Y. M. C. A. building, this (Friday) evening at 7.30 o'clock. A meeting of the Board of Directors will also be held this evening to consider special business.

Grafters Again Frustrated.

The hope that those who illegally profited through the construction of the State capitol may be compelled to expiate their offense behind prison bars gains strength by the decision of the Dauphin county court, which denies motions for a new trial made by the attorneys for Contractor John H. Sanderson, former Auditor General William B. Snyder, and former State Treasurer William L. Mathews, and former Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings James M. Shumaker.

In truth, many persons have long since despaired of anything coming out of the graft prosecutions. The defendants are influential and have powerful supporters. As long as they are allowed their liberty there is little danger that they will divulge the secrets that are locked in their breasts. There is a suspicion that there is more in this great scandal than has yet appeared on the surface, and the only chance that it will ever be made known is that some of the tools and accomplices who are under indictment will turn state's evidence to save themselves.

Justice Kankie rules that there is nothing in the multitudinous reasons presented by the defendants to warrant the granting of a new trial. The latter, however, have declared their intention to carry their cases to the appellate court, and there is no telling just how they will be definitely determined. According to the law and the evidence, it is to be hoped, not so much because of the fact that it will bring the guilty parties already known to book, but for the chance that holds out that the real scoundrels will be disclosed.

The amount of money stolen at Harrisburg was entirely too great to go into a few hands. The old Quay policy of addition, division and silence" is as greatly honored by the conspirators as it ever was, and those in the plot will not disgorge their secrets unless some unusual pressure is applied.

The imprisonment of the grafters would be a great moral effect, without doubt; but it might be productive of something tangible in the way of revealing the arch-conspirators, who have believed to have been prominent State politicians.

Taft's Inauguration.

Mr. Roosevelt gave a startling exhibition of monarchial tendencies when he decided that Mr. Taft should succeed to the Washington throne and then used the great power of the federal government to carry out his whim. He therefore may be justified in the preparation he is making to put his successor in office. His dictatorial policy at the Chicago convention has been approved by the people and his imperial inaugural program should be accepted as a matter of course. It is to be the most expensive inauguration in the history of this country. Immense detachments from the army and navy are to form the great parade. Gold epaulettes are to glitter as they never glittered before in the national capital. It is to be distinctly a military affair—and nothing cheap and gaudy at that. The simplicity attending the inauguration of Jefferson, Jefferson and Lincoln is to have no place in the ceremonies attending the induction of Taft into office. It is to be an inauguration of pomp and splendor calculated to make the kings of Europe turn green with envy. The cost of it all is not to be considered.

Why not? Is not the imperial Teddy still at the helm? Is not Taft the heir to the throne and is not Taft quite as much an imperial personage as monarchial Roosevelt? You have voted for the imperial ostentation that Taft has booked for his heir. You may not like it, but that is neither here nor there. When you approve imperial adventure at the polls you must accept a greater show of it at the seat of power. And you are going to get it in an allopathic dose in Washington March 4 next.

Hail to the new king.

Without Excuse.

It is difficult to find any excuse for the President's ugliness in insinuating that congress's dislike of having the criminals of its membership shadowed by secret service men was the cause of limitations placed upon the employment of the force by the executive department. Any one familiar with the question understands that congress's motives were much broader and much more justifiable than the president concedes. The previous use of the secret service had passed lawful bounds by far, and the corps was rapidly developing a by-product of espionage, in the interests of the executive, from which even the legislative department was not wholly free. The question of the dimensions of a federal spy system should be seriously considered, and if Mr. Roosevelt's remarks fresh attention to the matter his statement in the message may be passed over as relatively unimportant.

An Ancient Scourge.

The foot and mouth disease, of which we are just now hearing too much that is disagreeable, has been a malady with a history of not less than 2000 years, and indeed, is identified by some writers as the ancient "morrius." In the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries it prevailed extensively in France and Germany, and about 1839 it appeared in England, and was soon widely diffused. Two years later it came to this country from Canada, and was stamped out. Its scientific name is the epizootic apthia or exzema epizootica, and it is not only contagious among cattle, but is transmissible to other domestic animals. One attack does not preclude others, although it is not always a fatal disease.

—A vanderbilt and moving picture entertainment was given at the Scenic theatre last night under the auspices of the Bellefonte Lodge of Elks for the benefit of the worthy poor of the town. Over one hundred dollars were realized.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The tie preserving plant which the Pennsylvania Railroad company is installing at Mount Union is being equipped to treat from 1,500 to 2,000 ties daily.

—Considerable quantities of asbestos have been found near Oxford, Chester county, and it is likely that next spring extensive operations will be made for mining it.

—Citizens of Phillipsburg are urging a Greater Phillipsburg by extending the borough lines so as to take in South Phillipsburg, Point Lookout, Cold Stream, North Phillipsburg and Chester Hill.

—Last Friday a cow belonging to Abram A. Guss, of Decatur township, Millin county, broke the ordinary record by giving birth to three calves. One of the calves died, but the other two are alive and promising.

—State Game Commissioner Kalbfus says that he will urge the legislature to increase the act to pay bounties on noxious animals from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for 1909 and 1910. He says the law has worked well in many instances.

—Spurious nickles have made their appearance in nearby counties in large numbers. The coins are said to be a good counterfeit, although somewhat lighter than the genuine. They are causing the moving picture men to be on the lookout.

—The Geiser Manufacturing company, of Waynesboro, has decided to go into the manufacture on a large scale of gasoline traction engines and will place this line of work in its shops at Greencastle, which will require an increase of workmen there.

—The Geiser Manufacturing company, of Waynesboro, Franklin county, is at present preparing for shipment to Mexico, five of its large plough rigs, each including a thirty-horse power traction engine to pull the plough which has eight large shares.

—Mrs. Margaret Casselberry celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary on Sunday at her home with her daughter, Mrs. Emma M. Phipps, in Norristown, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

—An unknown donor has made provision for from fifty to one hundred Christmas dinners for the poor of Williamsport. The dinners will include turkey and all the accessories and will be distributed in baskets on the day before Christmas by City Missionary T. P. S. Wilson.

—Mrs. W. A. Stone, wife of a prominent banker and coal operator of Uniontown, Fayette county, has been missing from her home since Tuesday; the same day Emory Martin, a merchant of Hopwood, disappeared leaving a wife. Stone offers \$2,500 for the capture of his wife.

—The McLaughlin Iron and Steel company of Pittsburg, has purchased the plant of the Westmoreland Steel company, in South Greensburg, which has been idle for two years, and will at once erect two mills, one for the manufacture of railroad spikes and the other for the manufacture of a new patented steel rail. Several hundred men will be given employment.

—One of the pipes of the Standard oil pipe line, which passes through Perry county, recently burst at a point near Landisburg, and it is estimated that about twelve hundred barrels of oil flowed out before the oil could be stopped. The oil was thrown up to a great height and it is said that an acre of ground was saturated with it and will be rendered unfit for agricultural purposes.

—A jury in the Cambria county court has awarded Joseph Brown \$2,000 damages against the Pennsylvania Railroad for injury done to his farm near Summerhill by a change in the railroad line. Immediately following this verdict there was taken up the case in which Charles Crum, administrator for Sylvester Crum, sues for \$10,000 from the railroad for damage to the Crum farm.

—A. L. Barnes, representing the Bible Spoke company of Penn Yan, N. Y., recently completed negotiations for the purchase of a tract of land near Oval, covered with about 80,000 feet of hickory timber of the second growth. The trees range in diameter from eight to eighteen inches. They will be sawed into lengths and shipped to Penn Yan, where the lumber will be used in making spokes.

—Patrick Donahue, of Bedford, has uncovered a vein of ore that is thirty-four inches thick on his land in what is known as the Narrows, east of Bedford. A tunnel was driven into the base of Eritt's mountain with the above result. The vein will be developed in order to see just how good it is and if it turns out well mining operations will be started. The ore is said to be 60 per cent. pure.

—On Thursday night burglars entered the residence of Rev. J. B. Brennenman, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church in Lock Haven, and thoroughly ransacked the lower rooms, scattering about the contents of drawers, but the only thing missing was some small change, less than one dollar in amount. The rear kitchen door was unlocked and it is believed that they entered by a kitchen window that had not been locked and then unlocked the door on the inside.

—Mrs. Rebecca Parker, of Jersey Shore, celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary on Saturday in the enjoyment of good health and with body and mind well preserved. Mrs. Parker is the widow of Professor A. T. Parker, who was for a number of years principal of the Jersey Shore schools, and was a member of the constitutional convention in 1872. She is a great-granddaughter of John Morton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. A number of relatives in Bellefonte and Centre county were in attendance.

—The State live stock sanitary board this week issued a warning to all farmers to beware of men representing themselves to be agents of the State and charging for examination of cattle under pretense of searching for foot and mouth disease. They are also warned that the State has sanctioned no reduction of price for calves because of the presence of the disease. Both complaints came from York county and in one instance farmers were victimized by shippers who in buying calves stated that an official recommendation had been issued that \$1 be deducted from prices because of prevalence of the disease.