

YES, WE BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS!



BY A STATESMAN.

CHAMP CLARK, Speaker of the House of Representatives: I am a strong believer in Santa Claus. I got much pleasure out of him when I was a youngster. My children have enjoyed him greatly, and I want other people's children to derive all the pleasure they can from life. I am opposed to abolishing Santa Claus or any myth which affords pleasure to the little folks, and old folks too. I remember that my Christmases on a farm in the Mississippi valley were the happiest days of my life. We boys used to save up hog bladders from hog killing time until Christmas, when we blew them and had great fun bursting them. They sound like gun. We all had bobbeds and homemade popguns and whistles and had many simple pleasures on Christmas. If we were to abolish Santa Claus hard to tell where we would stop.



CHAMP CLARK.

BY A CATHOLIC PRIEST.

FATHER J. J. O'CALLAGHAN, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Chicago: I used to believe in Santa Claus when I was a boy. Now that I am grown up I still believe in him. You know if life were all inflexible, literal truth it would lose half its poetry and beauty. If our food was all antiseptic we should starve to death. So it is with our mental faculties. They crave a stimulus, so



Sure, They All Believe In Me!

---Santa Claus.

to speak. Therefore we have our fairy tales, our traditions and our folklore, and among these the story of Santa Claus stands out pre-eminently. To take Santa Claus out of the lives of children would be to deprive them of one of the greatest sources of joy known to history. But we are not going to do that, for who could go back on Santa Claus?

BY A LABOR LEADER.

MRS. RAYMOND ROBINS, President National Women's Trade Union League: Do I believe in Santa Claus? Most certainly I do, with all my heart. I was brought up in a Kris Kringle atmosphere, but the name doesn't matter. In our home the windows were thrown wide open to let in the Christmas spirit. I do not suppose that I was more imaginative or less imaginative than other children, but I do not recall that I ever regarded the Christmas tree as anything other than an expression of the Christmas spirit. But I love the idea and can enjoy it now as much as when I was a little girl. I have no sympathy with those who want to do away with all illusions. The doing away with mystery to a child is doing away with a fundamental fact in life. The longer we can remain children the better. Life is full of mystery anyway, and in that respect we grownups do not differ much from children. We kneel down and ask for things with that same faith the children show when they write their little letters to Santa Claus. We cannot understand any more than they can, but we feel and hope and are comforted. The idea is very beautiful and should be encouraged. Every little illusion that makes for happiness is good for children and grownups alike.



MRS. RAYMOND ROBINS.

BY A SETTLEMENT WORKER.

MISS JANE ADDAMS of Hull House: The belief in Santa Claus should be encouraged in children. I think the idea a very pretty one, and not for the world would I try to discourage it. The chief value of it lies in giving children an idea of the kindly spirit that walks abroad about Christmas time. All the children in the neighborhood of Hull House believe in Santa Claus. We enter into a conspiracy with their mothers and take the trees to their homes after they are asleep. Then they come next day to see us and gravely tell us all about the mysterious visit of Santa Claus. No one could look



JANE ADDAMS.

the big, wondering eyes of the little ones and wish to dispel the illusion. I get utilitarian views soon enough. I think the belief in Santa Claus is of influence in the lives of children. It is a very pretty way of expressing to them the Christmas spirit, and the longer they keep up the belief the

BY A SENATOR.

SHELBY M. CULLOM, United States Senator from Illinois: Of course I believe in Santa Claus, and I am old enough to be him myself. Santa is much better to the young folks now than he was in my day. We were glad to get a few pieces of candy for Christmas or some other simple gift. I believe in Santa Claus so strongly that I am going to entertain my granddaughter and her two children at Christmas. I am going to have a Christmas tree and let Santa trim it for the little girls, and I expect they will be delighted with the presents he brings them, as they have been good girls.



SHELBY M. CULLOM.

BY A MAYOR.

CARTER H. HARRISON, Mayor of Chicago: I believe we ought to believe in Santa Claus. My Christmas, however, comes election day, and my faith in the old gentleman depends upon what he slips into my stocking at the primaries. Every man who has the right spark of youth in him believes in Santa Claus, and the older he grows the more he cherishes these traditions that give color and joy to childhood. I believe in the jolly old saint just as I believe in music, paintings, flowers, stories, literature, laughter, song, good cheer, fellowship. I like to believe in everything that is the expression of a beautiful sentiment. There's nothing like keeping the fountains of youth eternally bubbling in one's heart, and that's why I believe in old Santa.



CARTER H. HARRISON.

BY AN ACTRESS.

MARGARET ILLINGTON: It wasn't so much the fact that it was Christmas that delighted me when I was a child, but it was the regular Christmas party at the Sunday school. I was always the little fairy who distributed the gifts, and it always pleased me more to watch the expressions on the children's faces when I'd hand them a doll or something. I'm as young now as I was then, for I love to go to Christmas parties yet. My, what wouldn't I give for a good old fashioned Christmas? Of course I believe in Santa Claus!



MARGARET ILLINGTON.

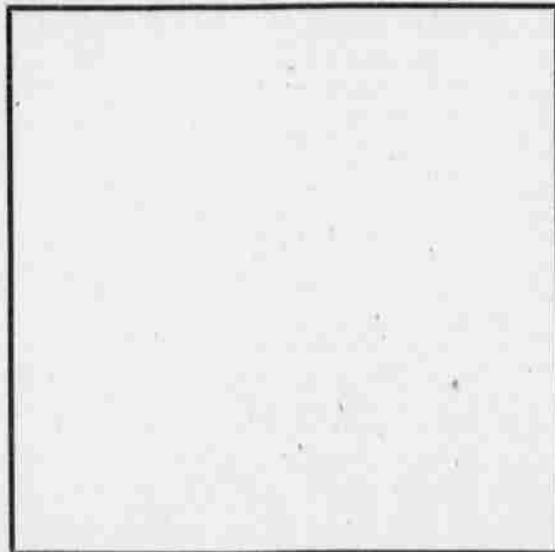
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