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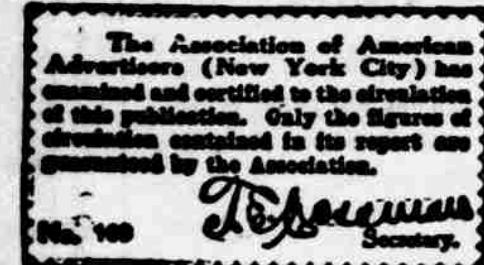
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Items Gathered in
From Far and Near

Mr. Morgan's Influence.

From the New York Times.
By his purchase of Mr. Ryan's majority holding of the capital stock of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, who has long been considered the world's chief man of finance and of affairs, very considerably adds to his already great power and influence. The resources of the banking, industrial, railroad and other corporations in which Mr. Morgan is a dominant figure now aggregate something like three billions of dollars. In these days the world is inclined to look with apprehension upon the centering of so great a financial might in the hands of one man. We have been accustomed for some years to hear off-and-on prophecies that the time would come when the people would take steps to prevent the control of one man and one mind over so great a portion of the financial resources of the country. The laws of the land already forbid the great corporations engaged in interstate commerce to acquire control over competitors, regardless of the fact whether they make good or bad use of such power; it will be but a step, and a short one, we are told, to extend the restraints of the law over the possessors of great private fortunes.

Grounding of the Prairie.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.
Although the inevitable publicity given to the mishap to the cruiser Prairie, which stuck its nose in the mud at the side of the channel while on its way to sea Thursday, will be made use of by the enemies of the port of Philadelphia to magnify the physical difficulties in the way of expansion of its commerce, such a use of the incident will be so transparently unfair as to nullify the damage it may effect. Were the channel of the Delaware three times as deep as it is, there would be but one way to avoid such accidents, and that is the obvious one of keeping to the channel. The Prairie is not a deep-draught vessel, as modern vessels go, and there has been no time within the last thirty years when it might not have been taken up and down the river with perfect safety. If it was out of the channel, which in ninety-nine times out of a hundred is found to be the case with vessels aground in the Delaware, the blame must be laid elsewhere than on the channel.

The Message.

From the Springfield Republican.
The astounding report comes from Washington that Mr. Taft has written his annual message to congress within two days. If this be true, it may be that the people will be able to read it within two hours instead of two weeks.

7 WINKLES

(By Philander Johnson)

Sincere Sympathy.

"The artists' models in Paris have struck for higher wages."

"I don't blame 'em," answered Mrs. McGudley. "The pictures prove that the poor things aren't paid enough to buy clothes."

And the Passenger Paid It.

"What was the outcome of your argument with the cabman who overcharged you?"

"He charged me \$2 more for the time I took up arguing with him."

The Congressional Serial.

The Record's page are long we'll see
Discussing many a text,
The outcome always seems to be
"Continued in our next."

Evidence Lacking.

"That young man is one of the greatest foot ball players in the country."

"Don't believe it," said the contradictory person. "I never saw him walking on crutches."

"Honesty," said Uncle Eben, "don't allus seem to bring de quickest profits, but it's de onlies' way to build up a stiddy trade."

The Baffled Cynic.

Regarding this telepathy
And all that sort of thing.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although the President has outlined his policy in his speeches throughout the country—for the whole administration, the message which has just been sent to Congress sums up in a more satisfactory manner what we may expect. The whole temper of the chief executive is apparent throughout. The message is careful, considerate, optimistic and unworried; savoring of the judicial; and hopeful that he will be allowed to carry out his intentions without interference and without controversy.

The intense honesty of Mr. Taft and his evident fairness and justice is almost sad to behold when the men on whom he will have to rely in order to obtain his good intentions are considered.

WHAT IT DOES NOT CONTAIN

Two things, which were looked for in some quarters, failed to appear: The Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, and the recommendation that the Sugar scandal be investigated by Congress. In regard to the Department of the Interior, the public is promised that another message, devoted to that subject, will be sent to Congress. There is a hopeful sign in the indication that the President desires further legislation from Congress along the lines of conservation. But there is also a feeling that it will not be granted, and that in the meantime greater inroads may be made.

It would seem that the President shares the same view of Congress that many other people do—although he does not put the distrust in so many words. In the Sugar Trust scandal he evidently does not approve of a perfunctory whitewashing by a Congressional committee which will allow the real malefactors to escape. The people will trust the courts and Taft and Loeb to see that this thing is probed to the bottom, rather than to allow Congress, under the influence of the Havemeyers, to select a favorable committee to do what they can to smooth the matter over.

ALDRICH

It is cheering to find that, despite the favorable words which were spoken in the late presidential tour in regard to Mr. Aldrich, that the President seems not dominated by him in his message. And this will be regarded as a hopeful sign for the next three years to come, if it means what it indicates. Mr. Aldrich has been busy in this Western country, in the newspapers, with his plans for a central bank and an avoidance of the postal banking plank in the republican platform. Mr. Taft has stuck practically to his promise, and whether he will get what he wants, it is due him to give him credit for sincerity. There is no surrender to Aldrich on the statehood proposition to which Aldrich is opposed, as it would reduce his working force in the Senate.

FOREIGN POLICY

Diplomacy has been Taft's strongest point. His services to his country along these lines have been immeasurably greater than his other performances. It is, therefore, not surprising, to see the steady and firm grasp which he has on the foreign policy. He sums things up as one policy of fairness and consideration to all countries. Even when he talks of the Nicaraguan situation there is the same spirit of fairness. And whether it is the contemplation of the Chinese and far eastern relations, or our temper toward the South American republics, it can easily be seen that it is the work of a man who has been on the ground and understands the real, underlying situation. It promises that as far as Mr. Taft is concerned, his administration (if following his direction) will be brilliant for its real statesmanship.

ECONOMY

The President serves notice on Congress that no appropriations which are not absolutely necessary will meet with his approval. His eye is on cutting down the expenses of the government and raising the standard of efficiency. And this must create a shock in some quarters, which lust after the Pork Barrel. It will create interest in newspaper circles to see the proposed changes in second class rates, but in this the President has been fair in placing the greater part of the postal deficit to the account of the magazines and periodicals.

TARIFF

It is interesting to see the attitude of the President on the tariff these few months after he has affixed his signature to that most controversial measure. He is still of the same mind, and can not apparently distinguish the real dissatisfaction of the people in their insistence that the tariff is still unjust and for the benefit of very powerful interests which have forced through the legislation for their own gain in opposition to the wishes of the consumers who are in the majority. The appeal to the prosperity of the country is not a real answer to the iniquity of some of the remaining schedules in the tariff. The spolts of the tariff do not go to the people but to the interests which have lobbied for the legislation or owned their legislators.

Nevertheless the announcement in the message that Mr. Taft is going to try to make something out of the emasculation of Senator Beveridge's tariff commission is a step far in advance. It forebodes something very much greater in the future and may be as effective a source of relief as the Interstate Commerce Commission in its line.

HUMANITY

It is the distinguishing feature of the message that it has so many human appeals. It is thoroughly Christian. Be it the long suffering from the law's delay either of private persons, or the whole people against their oppressors; or the persecuted in the Congo, or in the red light districts; or the relief of human suffering from disease, or in the jail in the District of Columbia; or the foreign policy—it is the sense of fair play which actuates it all.

It leads to a kindly feeling toward the President which is willing to admit that though many of us have felt that he has made very serious mistakes, the faults were those which were temperamental and of circumstances over which he had no control. If the President is really able to get any considerable part of what is indicated and not allow it to be turned into the comfort of the enemies of the people through their agents in Congress—it will be with rejoicing among the people of the whole country. Let us be hopeful for the best.

THE MESSAGE

It doesn't much appeal to me
In summer, fall or spring.

But when the early snowflakes fly,
The same old thoughts, I find,
Although to keep them off try,
Are getting on my mind.

I say, "A holiday's a sell;

I'll treat it with disdain."

But just the same I can't compel

My thoughts to keep that vein.

The old-time melodies will ring

Unbidden in my ear,

And voices from afar will sing

The songs of Christmas cheer.

I hear the laugh of childish glee

And see the lights that gleam,

And my opinions uttered free

Of small importance seem.

I'm hypnotized, as I make out

My early shopping list.

Old Santa Claus beyond a doubt

Is a telepathist!

**UNCLE SAM STILL
IN SECOND PLACE**

Keeps Next to England in the
Race for Supremacy
On the Seas.

GERMANY IS CLOSE THIRD

MR. PULISFER, AUTHOR OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S NAVY YARD
BOOK, POINTS OUT STRENGTH
OF THIS COUNTRY.

French scientists are investigating the fact that heat is imparted to some soils by rain, which they think plays a hitherto unrecognized part in the phenomenon of vegetation.

The tallest people in the world are the Patagonians; the shortest the Laplanders.

MASONIC CALENDAR.

Wednesday, Dec. 8.—Webb Lodge, No. 24, F. & A. M. Work in Master Mason degree.

Thursday, Dec. 9.—Wayne Council, No. 10, R. & S. M. Work in the degree.

Friday, Dec. 10.—King Solomon's Chapter, No. 4, R. A. M. Stated meeting and election of officers.

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