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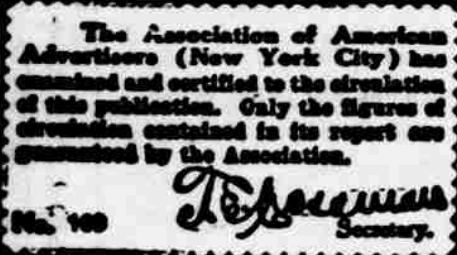
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ed until payment is received.Entered at Richmond, Indiana, post  
office as second class mail matter.**Items Gathered in  
From Far and Near****Mr. Morgan's Influence.**

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-hand 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.

**TWINKLES**

(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 over-charged 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 last 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 spoils 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 emasculating 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 spoliators; 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.

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 I 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!

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  
Laplanners.

**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 de-  
grees.

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

**UNCLE SAM STILL  
IN SECOND PLACE**

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

**GERMANY IS CLOSE THIRD**

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

Washington, D. C., Dec. 8.—With  
Germany striving to match her  
strength upon the sea with that of  
Great Britain, the United States is still  
the second naval power in ships actual-  
ly in commission. This is the conclu-  
sion of Mr. Pittman Pulsifer, author of  
the Navy Yard Book, published by con-  
gress. Mr. Pulsifer, who was until last  
March the clerk of the senate commit-  
tee on Naval Affairs, is an acknowl-  
edged expert in naval matters. Last  
year he maintained successfully in the  
face of considerable opposition that the  
United States was the second strong-  
est naval power. This year on being  
questioned on this point, he said:  
"Perhaps the most prominent feature  
in the naval world is the struggle of

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Union Suits .....50c to \$1.20

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Union Suits .....50c to \$3.00

**MISSES' UNDERWEAR—**

Vests and Pants .....25c to 50c  
Union Suits .....25c to \$1.25

**CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR—**

Union Suits .....20c to 70c  
Union Suits .....25c to \$1.00

**INFANTS' UNDERWEAR—**

Vests and Pants .....20c to 70c  
Shirts .....15c to 30c  
Bands .....25c

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Germany to overcome the effort of Great Britain to maintain a two Power navy. As the navies now stand, considering only ships in commission, the relative positions of the powers has not changed during the year. In ships completed, considered either in numbers of the larger craft, total displacement, or armament of the largest calibre, or in all by gunships, the United States is still ahead of Germany.

**Germany Third in List.**

"Clowes, in his Naval Pocket Book for 1908, in a comparative summary of the 'fighting ships,' puts the United States, with fifty-three, ahead of Germany, with fifty-one. Germany has two all big gun ships completed, while we have the South Carolina and the Michigan, and early next month—January—will have two more, the Delaware and the North Dakota. But taking the list of ships built, building, provided for and projected, Germany is equal, if not ahead of the United States.

"This should be of little concern to our people, for we should not enter into the scramble to see which country shall either have the most or the largest ships. Our interests should lie principally in maintaining an adequate navy, having more concern about the quality of the ships and seeing that in providing and planning for each the best naval architecture prevails and that our officers and men are well trained in gunnery.

"I believe the investigations of the Committees on Naval Affairs of the Senate and House proved to the satisfaction of the country generally the integrity of our ships, and that they are, ship for ship and date for date, the equal if not the superior of any other in the world."

A piano stool that will accommodate but one person under ordinary circumstances but which contains leaves which can be spread to hold two to play duets has been invented by a Chicagoan.

**MONEY BACK.**

L. H. Fihe Sells a Remedy for Catarrh on that Liberal Basis.

Breathe Hyomei over the germ-ridden membrane, and it will kill the germs and cure catarrh.

There is no other way—you must get where the germs are before you can destroy them.

And when catarrh germs have disappeared, other things will happen; there will be no more hawking, not even in the morning; that offensive breath will disappear; there will be no more obnoxious mucous, or coughing, or sneezing, or huskiness of voice, or difficulty in breathing. All these disagreeable accessories of the demon catarrh will disappear, and as they go the glow of health will return, and all the strength and energy that was formerly used in combating the inroads of catarrh, will bring back your vitality and ambition. will make a new, healthy, happy being of you in a few weeks.

L. H. Fihe will sell you a complete Hyomei outfit for \$1.00. This includes a fine inhaler, a bottle of Hyomei pronounced High-o-mei, and instructions for use. Sold by leading druggists everywhere. Extra bottles 50 cents. And bear in mind, money back if Hyomei doesn't cure.

**MI-ONA  
Cures Indigestion**

It relieves stomach misery, sour stomach, belching, and cures all stomach diseases, or money back. Large box of tablets, 50 cents. Druggists in all towns.

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