

CONVENTION PLUM SANTA'S BEST GIFT

New York Hangs Stocking Beside Chicago's.

DEMOCRATIC PRIZE SOUGHT

Gotham's Entry Regarded as Only Partly Serious.

CITY WOULD 'ENJOY' TREAT

Party Leaders Fear if Convention Is Held at New York Charge May Be Brought That Moneyed Interests Controlled Vote.

BY SUMNER CURTIS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Santa Claus' visit to the favored ones in the political world this season will be like President Taft's annual message to Congress—on the installment plan. Not to speak of the stockings that have been hung up on a Christmas eve that will be as long as a night within the Arctic Circle—the one that will precede the morn when a great, big Presidential nomination is left in the receptacle tied to the fireplace for the luckiest little boys of the respective parties—there are many expectations to be filled and hopes to be blasted at an earlier calendar date.

Chicago Gets First Plasm.

Santa paid his first visit a few weeks ago, when he dropped the Republican National Convention, sweetest into the toe of Chicago's big sock, and now the chimney-place is lined again with a variegated assortment of hoastly in expectation of his second visit with the Democratic plum. There is more rivalry among those who have written to Santa to bring them the Democratic convention than was the case with those who wanted the Republican event, and when the Democratic National Convention meets here to play a vicarious part for the white-bearded old saint, there is likely to be a real struggle in deciding the problem.

Chicago, whose capacious stocking again is suspended, will have for rivals St. Louis, Baltimore, Denver and New York, and maybe some others. New York's entry into the contest has added the most interesting feature. If money can buy preference, New York may cut an important figure.

Game Is Suspected.

There is an intimation, however, that the New York movement along strong financial lines is being encouraged by some party leaders who have not the slightest idea the convention will go to that city, but who hope that New York's efforts will spur Chicago or some other city to "raise the ante."

There isn't a shadow of doubt but that Chicago, everything considered, is the natural first choice of a majority of the Democratic National committee for the convention city.

There is no doubt of the seriousness of the local boomer of New York. New York wants the convention. A National political convention in New York City would excite the "great white way" the same as the opening of a combination lobster palace and opera comique with a Parisian name and would last about as long as some of the latter attractions. Or it would be like Buffalo Bill's Wild West or the circus at the Garden, or the time Dowd and his followers invaded the metropolis.

Convention Might Be "Hit."

They have been trying National conventions on the dog, so, these many years. Isn't it really time to give it a metropolitan production and see if it really is a "hit"? That's the spirit. What a fine entertainment would be afforded by the conglomeration of "hoobs," who have the misfortune to live in the provinces, with strange whiskers and clothes. Like as not, if it proved a "success" it would become the parodical place de resistance in the "Politics of 1911"—the grand revue of the only things that have passed, in which the world ought to have any interest.

And "it's all settled," as the chairman of the New York finance committee said the other day. "We have seen Charles Murphy and Governor Dix and they are heartily in favor of it, so that nothing remains to be fixed except the details."

On the serious side, the main reason that it is doubtful that the Democratic National committee will vote to send the National convention to New York under any circumstances is the fear of mounted interests, otherwise known as Wall Street.

Serious Objections Imaginable.

As a matter of fact, these interests would not have any more effect on a convention held in New York than in any other place, but the party never could recover from the attack that would be made upon it should a conservative candidate for President be nominated in the burg, or if by some chance, a reactionary note was struck in the platform. New York is a nice town to visit occasionally when one's bankroll is bulging, but it's liable to be a dangerous hoodoo as a convention city and that idea will not be lost upon the careful deliberated men who are

TAFTS LOST TWO HOURS TO GUARDS

CHRISTMAS LARK IN WASHINGTON CAUSES ALARM.

President and Wife Tramp Streets in Rain Visiting Friends and Giving Holiday Greetings.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—President Taft and Mrs. Taft were lost for two hours today and there were 120 minutes of uneasiness in the White House.

In the face of a driving rain the President and Mrs. Taft, at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon, left the White House, dodging the guardian, Major Butt, and the secret service men, and for two hours tramped together through the streets, dropping in at the homes of friends to wish them the compliments of the season.

Secretary Hillis was the first to discover that his chief was missing. He desired to consult with him with reference to some public business and was astonished to learn that the Chief Executive had escaped from under the watch of his special guard.

At 6:30 o'clock the anxious searchers were surprised to see the President and Mrs. Taft going up the walk, dripping with rain, but apparently thoroughly delighted with their afternoon's escapade. Mr. Taft addressed the children at All Saints' Church, taking for his text the subject "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

MEN RACE TO GOLD FIELD

Greatest Stampede Since Klondike Stirs Alaskans.

DAWSON, Y. T., Dec. 24.—Two hundred men with dog teams and prospecting outfits are on the trail making a six-day race to the new gold field at the head of Sixty-Mile River, 130 miles from Dawson. The stampede is the greatest seen in this district since the first Klondike rush, 14 years ago. Many gold-hunters are traveling day and night, stopping only long enough to cook a meager meal, get a little rest and then push on.

Ernest Miller, who returned yesterday from the new camp, said he saw 75 outfits, including about 200 men, rushing from Dawson.

All the trained dogs in this district have been taken, and moccasins have been worn nearly off in efforts to get a claim. The temperature was about zero when the rush began, but has since dropped to 40 below and will be a cold finish.

MOLASSES FORTUNE BURNS

One Million Gallons of Syrup Destroyed; Damage \$300,000.

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—More than 1,000,000 gallons of molasses were destroyed in a fire today among the wharves and buildings of the Boston Molasses Company.

The loss is estimated at from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Year's Benefactions \$150,000,000.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Public benefactions of 1911 have amounted in this country to more than \$150,000,000, according to figures compiled Saturday. This total was never exceeded except in 1909, when the aggregate approximated \$175,000,000.

Andrew Carnegie has this year given away more than \$40,000,000. His largest gift was \$25,000,000 for the Carnegie Corporation of New York, especially organized by the Legislature at Albany to carry on the iron man's charities. Mr. Carnegie gave, too, \$10,000,000 to the Carnegie Institution at Washington, to be used for general scientific research.

Mr. Carnegie, who is now a little more than 77 years old, has given to the public more than \$221,000,000. John D. Rockefeller's publicly announced gifts this year have not amounted in all to more than \$2,000,000, of which \$1,515,000 went to the University of Chicago and \$1,000,000 to the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York City.

The second largest individual giver

was Frederick C. Hewitt, who left \$2,000,000 to a post-graduate medical school and hospital and \$2,000,000 to the Little Missionary Day Nursery, both New York institutions. Joseph Pulitzer bequeathed more than \$2,000,000 to public uses. Prominent women were large givers to public purposes. Mrs. Russell Sage provided \$300,000 for a new dormitory at Cornell University. Among her other donations were \$150,000 to Yassar College, \$65,000 to Princeton University and \$100,000 to the New York Exchange for Women's Work. Mrs. E. H. Harriman gave \$600,000 to the hospital department of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and \$125,000 to Carlelele University.

Mother and Four Children Happy.

IT WAS the belated Santa Claus letter yesterday that received attention. Here is one that was received by Multnomah Camp Woodmen of the World, after the Woodmen had given their Christmas tree, at which 300 children received presents and popcorn.

"If you please, will you send us some candy too? We are poor, my father is in insane asylum. And my mother has to wash for a living. She has four children to support. I am the oldest and am 12 years old. ANNA Kefsky." With a basket of provisions that two men could hardly lift, an automobile was hurried to the scene. The story was found to be true. The mother could not write, the children speak but little English. The Christmas of the Kefsky family will be a real one.

Veteran Gift-Bearer Drops Dead.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 24.—Laden with toys and candy for his grandchildren, George W. Blanchard, a Civil war veteran, 76 years of age, dropped dead on a street crossing as he was returning home tonight.

State Wards Will Feast.

OLYMPIA, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The State of Washington will enact the role of Santa Claus tomorrow to 5000 inmates of the different State institutions. The Legislature biennially makes an appropriation to cover the expenses of giving the state's wards an elaborate Christmas present in the way of a holiday feast and a royal time and each of the 11 state institutions will not only enjoy the usual Christmas "feed" but will hold special entertainments for the benefit of the inmates and the general public. The Board of Control has received re-

MRS. VANDERBILT TO WAGE SOCIAL WAR

"Four Hundred" Awaits Battle of Giants.

MRS. ASTOR HAS AMBITIONS

Two Brides May Be Arrayed in Drawing-Room Clash.

MONEY EXPECTED TO FLY

New Mrs. Alfred G. Sald to Be Planning Campaign to Attain Leadership When She and Her Husband Reach New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Society is deeply stirred by the report that when Alfred G. Vanderbilt and his bride, who was Mrs. Margaret McKim, return shortly to the United States to make their home, they will wage a right royal battle for social supremacy in the metropolis. It is said Mr. Vanderbilt will install his wife in his mother's mansion at Fifty-seventh street and Fifth avenue, there to challenge the Nation for the social leadership. The rumor that Mrs. Vanderbilt will have six-day races to the new gold field at the head of Sixty-Mile River, 130 miles from Dawson, Jacob Astor gives promise of a glorious war.

If the war comes as outlined, it is certainly safe to say that the production will be handsomely mounted, for when the Vanderbilts and the Astors clash in social combat, the millions will fly. Both sides have enormous fortunes into which to delve for all manner of weapons, and New York is promised a series of balls, receptions, teas, fetes and other in-and-out-door sports such as it hasn't seen in years—since the Vanderbilt and Astor clans of another day met.

Both Sides Strong.

Both sides will have their comrades in arms and retainers without number. Mrs. Vanderbilt has youth, beauty, wealth. Mrs. Astor has more youth, beauty and as much of wealth. Mrs. Vanderbilt has had, perhaps, more experience in society, but rumor has it that Mrs. Astor already is laying her plans and undaunted by such obstacles as may appear upon the drawing-room horizon. Mrs. Vanderbilt knows about art and outdoor sports. Mrs. Astor is similarly equipped with knowledge and enthusiasm.

The husbands of the fair warriors

(Continued on Page 2.)

INDEX TO TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. TODAY'S—Fair, westerly winds. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 42 degrees; minimum, 26 degrees.

Christmas. News of day reflects spirit of Christmas. Page 1.

Spent Christmas shown in all walks of life. Page 8.

Inmates of charitable institutions have Christmas cheer. Page 8.

Rich and poor children alike at Portland Heights Club Christmas tree. Page 8.

Foreign. Europe profoundly impressed by force of 40 state splendor in America on Russian passport question. Page 2.

General Reyes is in tight hole. Page 2.

Imperial forces in China prepare for battle. Page 3.

Mrs. Buckley issues pamphlet denouncing American Lady Barclay, whose daughter is Sir Coleridge Kennard's bride. Page 2.

Persian official says Russians are butchering women and children. Page 1.

National. Army engineer urges early building of Crater Lake road. Page 7.

Hard fight on wool tariff coming in Congress after holidays. Page 2.

Politics. New York enters race for Democratic National convention. Page 1.

Domestic. Bride of Alfred G. Vanderbilt wants to be social leader. Mrs. J. Astor may give battle. Page 1.

Twins, 91 years old, to celebrate birthday today. Page 14.

Through of 100,000 single findings of goodness in San Francisco streets. Page 1.

New York District Attorney secures new evidence against Southeyver Coon. Page 3.

Break in vaudeville combine announced in Chicago. Page 4.

President and Mrs. Taft lost to guards for two hours. Page 1.

Pacific Northwest. Harry Mine shot by roommate, Cal Stevens. Page 17.

Opinion vary as to effect of Judge Gallows' decision in university referendum case. Page 5.

Brother and sister of murdered Spokane girl under police suspicion. Page 4.

Sports. Annual Christmas swim in Willamette River to start at 11 o'clock today. Page 15.

Demoralizes to waste Berg's belittles opponent. Page 14.

Honeyman and Eagles indoor league teams win. Page 17.

Portland and Vicinity. Portland to protest against rate advance via Panama. Page 17.

Metropolitan committee would set rate removed from noise of carlines. Page 17.

Police. Captain Keller may be appointed in Bailey's position if latter is dismissed from police force. Page 3.

Proposed ordinance is held unwise by Standard Oil agent. Page 16.

Travelers to vote on school budget Friday. Page 17.

Report of proposed reorganization of Great Northern operating department denied by President Gray. Page 17.

To provide for wife, man killed in Sellwood holding confesses he is escaped convict. Page 17.

Chief of Police Hoover preaches at Free Methodist Church. Page 4.

PERSIA CRIES AT CZAR'S BUTCHERY

Women and Children Slain, Says Official.

PITIFUL PICTURE IS PAINTED

Russians Ignore Overtures to Cease Bloodshed, Charge.

COSSACKS SEEK REVENGE

Strong Detachment of Muscovites Depart From Djulba, Determined to Slay Tribesmen Who Showed Fight.

TEHERAN, Persia, Dec. 24.—A telegram from the vice-Governor of Tabriz gives an appalling picture of the situation in that city as a result of Russian aggression. He says: "I swear before God that innocent women and children are being butchered in cold blood."

The vice-governor estimates the number of persons killed in Tabriz as 500, and adds: "The Russians ignore our overtures for the cessation of hostilities."

Telegraphic communication between Teheran and Tabriz is now interrupted. The British and Russian Legations are without means of communication with their consuls.

The Regent, Nazir El Mulk, today, acting in agreement with the Cabinet, declared the National Council dissolved. The War Minister sent troops to prevent the deputies from entering the Parliament building. The Persian government has unconditionally accepted the Russian ultimatum, Russia having previously agreed to a slight modification of one of the demands. The Russian Minister has signified his acceptance of the Persian reply.

POPE TO NAME DELEGATES

Successors to Falconio and Agius Are Discussed at Rome.

ROME, Dec. 24.—The papal secretary of state, Cardinal Merry del Val, conferred today with Cardinal Falconio concerning the appointment of apostolic delegates at Washington and Manila, these posts having been made vacant by the elevation of Monsignor Falconio and the death of Monsignor Agius.

Among the most prominently mentioned for the position at Washington are Monsignor Ragni, apostolic delegate to Canada, and Monsignor Averani, apostolic delegate to Cuba and Brazil.

OLDEST TWINS CELEBRATE TODAY

BORN ON CHRISTMAS 93 YEARS AGO, THEY LIVE TOGETHER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Samuel and William Muncy, the oldest twins in the United States, tomorrow will celebrate the 93rd anniversary of their birth on the outskirts of Babylon, the Long Island town, in which they were born. Hale and carefree, with the firm conviction that this world is getting better every day and that life really is worth living, these venerable men expect to continue their tranquil existence for many years more.

Born on the property which their respective homes now occupy, the brothers have lived side by side, practically throughout their long lives, and in woeing longevity they have followed the same course. Each married young and each had eight children, and each has for many years been a widower. Four generations will tomorrow assist them in observing their birthday and in celebrating Christmas.

Moderation has been the keynote of their lives. Moderation in all things except stimulants and tobacco. Both are prohibitionists of the most pronounced type and neither seeks solace from Lady Nicotine. About four scores years ago William Muncy essayed the tobacco habit. One trial was sufficient to convince him that tobacco would be no aid in leading him on to a ripe old age.

"Don't Drink, Don't Smoke, Don't Overeat and Don't Worry" Is Recipe Given for Longevity.

That is William Muncy's recipe for longevity.

THRONGS A-THRILL SING JOY IN STREET

Heart of San Francisco Beats in Gladness.

HYMNAL MELODIES FILL NIGHT

Kubelik and David Bispham Stir Crowd of 100,000.

CHRISTMAS FETE IS FIXED

Tidings of Goodwill Will Be Sung Each Year—Walls of City Ring With Carols of Season From Thousand Throats.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant." One hundred thousand people, singing with solemn exultation, joined tonight in the Christian hymn of faith and adoration, standing bareheaded under skies that smiled down as kindly as they did over Bethlehem 19 centuries ago. They sang from the city's heart where Market, Kearney, Geary and Third streets meet, sang from the windows and the dimly visible tops of tall buildings that cluster about the square of open ground and while they sang the traffic of the city paused until the great chorus ended in a solemn "amen."

Kubelik Plays to Multitude.

The sing, "Adante Fideles," came at the conclusion of the city's open-air celebration of Christmas eve. It followed a full programme of music, given by a trained chorus and the members of the French opera company, which is holding its winter season in San Francisco.

Jan Kubelik, the great violinist, played to the vast audience crowding the vast audience crowding the radiating streets with a solid mass of humanity; David Bispham, the famous baritone, sang to them; the chorus voiced its glad Christmas carols and then the rolling melody of the hymn before the thousands separated, each to make Christmas cheer in his own particular niche in the world.

Singers Face Fountain. Singers and chorus occupied a low stand, raised against the looming bulk of the Examiner building, facing outward toward the intersection of the four streets and toward Lotta's fountain, the old landmark which survived the earthquake and fire and beside which Tetrazzini stood just a year ago tonight, to sing Christmas carols to the gathered thousands.

Across the way from the stand the huge buildings which house the two other morning dailies—the Call and the Chronicle—showed lights and crowding heads in every window. All around, other big buildings, standing where the twisted ruins left by the great fire smoldered a little less than six years ago, flamed with light, every window adding its quota of humanity to the massed thousands in the street below.

Annual Festival Fixed. Overhead an all but cloudless sky was brilliant with stars, while a gentle wind from the north brought a bracing hint of the far-off snow peaks from which it had traveled.

With the celebration tonight, San Francisco sets its record for a Christmas eve musical festival every year, a possibility because of the weather usual at this season, to which today was no exception.

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\$500,000 PEARLS ARE GIFT

Frank Jay Gould Makes Handsome Christmas Present to Wife.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The young and beautiful Mrs. Frank Jay Gould, of 34 1/2th avenue, will find a necklace of pearls costing \$500,000 in her stocking Christmas morning. Her husband took the purchase up with agents of Santa Claus in Paris and is said to have secured a fascinating rope of gems.

The necklace consists of two perfect strands. Mr. Gould may buy another strand later on. He is quite a fancier of pearls; knows all about them. He had quite a time getting the particular pearls that make up the Christmas gift to Mrs. Gould. He said the other day that he was able to buy them only after six months of negotiating. He said he got a bargain, at that.

NEWSPAPER IS DYNAMITED

South Chicago Plant Wrecked Following Anti-Black Hand Crusade.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Dynamite destroyed tonight the publishing office of the Daily Calumet, a newspaper published in South Chicago. The printing press and linotype department were blown to pieces.

George W. Bowling, editor of the paper, had been active in a crusade against writers of black hand letters, and had received many threatening letters.



Mrs. E. H. Harriman, whose \$1,515,000 donations to charity have been great.



Andrew Carnegie, who heads list of public givers for the year 1911.



Mrs. Russell Sage, whose benefactions in 1911 have aggregated vast sum.