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Headlight.
Tillamook, Ore, Dec. 13, 1906.

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MRS. SANTA CLAUS.

**UNCLE SAM'S DEAD LETTER EX-
PORT GUIDES STRAY CHRIST-
MAS GREETINGS.**

Handed out Many Presents to Children
Has a Remarkable Memory and
Knowledge, and Deciphers the most
Burdling Addresses.

Trucked away in a little corner of
the Postoffice Department at Washing-
ton behind a desk which has held a
thousand interesting stories sits a
fairly young woman who is known
as "Mrs. Santa Claus." Through
the woman to whom this suggestive
name has been given is Mrs.



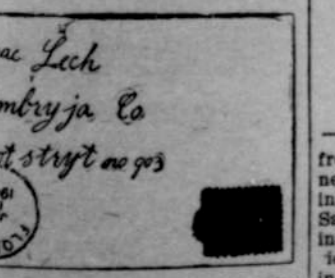
MRS. "SANTA CLAUS"

Patti Lyle Collins, head of the "Open-
ing and Unmailable Division" of the
Postoffice Department.
Each holiday season brings to her
desk thousands and thousands of
"Santa Claus" letters and were she of
the ordinary type of clerk, thinking
only of the salary she draws twice a
month, these letters might go into
Uncle Sam's waste basket without so
much as a thought for the writers.
Not so with Mrs. Collins. Through
her generous heart, her love for chil-
dren and, possibly, with a memory or
two of her own when she, too, believed
in the real existence of the children's
patron saint, this lovable woman at-
tends first to her duties of returning
the letters to their writers if this is
possible and then she plays "Mrs.
Santa Claus" to her army of little
friends.

Christmas Presents to the Children

When such a thing is possible Mrs.
Collins finds out the addresses of these
children, sends them some little thing
they have asked for and gets her
friends interested in them until she
has now earned the title which came
to her so long ago merely through her
associations with this part of Uncle
Sam's postoffice.
This is rather the sentimental side
of Mrs. Collins' work, but there is an-
other and scientific phase of it which
has made her invaluable to the Gov-
ernment. She is the official chiro-
graphical expert of the Department
and through her efforts each year
ninety per cent. of mail matter bear-
ing manifestly indecipherable ad-
dresses finds its way to the person to
whom it is addressed.

Mrs. Collins is a linguist and a deep
student. Added to this she has stored
away in her brain a fund of general



knowledge which enables her to solve
problems which would puzzle a hun-
dred other heads. Her knowledge of
streets in various cities of Europe led
to her compilation of a street directory
of its countries.

The value of Mrs. Collins' work in
ferretting out addresses is all the more
notable when it is considered that each
postoffice in all the large cities has a
division especially set apart for de-
ciphering illegible and otherwise pus-
tling addresses. So after this has been
done letters which are still unclaimed
are sent to the postoffice at Washing-
ton.

Knows All Languages.

Mrs. Collins has made such a study
of this rather psychological work that
she knows just what section of the
country, even to the cities, in which
various nationalities have settled. She
can put her finger on the Japanese,
the Chinese, Greeks, Spaniards, Italians
and all the rest of them.
This particular talent has enabled
Mrs. Collins to decipher many a letter
which would have been otherwise un-

intelligible. Among the hundreds of
such which she received the other day
was one addressed to "Ygnac Lech,
Combrjja Co, brot stryt no 903,
Sannony Pan."

How many, or rather how few, peo-
ple would have known how to go about
locating this person. The letter was
postmarked Florence. Mrs. Collins' own
store of information told her that the
Cambria Iron Works of Johnstown,
Pa., was employing a large number
of Italians and she sent the letter on.
Sure enough Mr. "Ygnac Lech" was
there and received the letter which,
without Mrs. Collins' assistance,
would never have fallen into his
hands.

A facetious student at the University
of Virginia wrote to a young society
girl in Washington and addressed the
envelope entirely in Greek. It takes
greater obstacles than that to balk
Mrs. Collins and the young woman re-
ceived her letter as promptly as if it
had been addressed in the most legible
English hand. The list of such letters
is almost unlimited in length. A Spaniard
sent a letter to "Sr. Fernando Maya,
Fuerte galen Colo" and it was promptly
forwarded to Mr. Maya at "Fort Garland,
Colorado."

Mrs. Collins is a charming woman
and occupies a tiny apartment in one
of Washington's fashionable apartment
houses.

Senator Harris Balked.
Henry Clay Evans, late consul gen-
eral at London, was once in Congress

POLITICAL TAXATION.

**LEGISLATION LIKELY REQUIRING
PUBLICATION OF ALL LARGE
CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Such a Bill, introduced Last Year,
was Looked upon as a Crank Meas-
ure—Will be on a Different Basis
This Session.

Exposure of the practice of the
great life insurance companies and
other corporations, of making contri-
butions to political campaign funds
and of devoting large amounts of
money to influence legislation will
bring before the next session of
congress the question of the passage
of a bill similar to that introduced at
the last session by Representative
Bourke Cockran, of New York, and
famously known as the "Corrupt
Practice" bill. It may not be that
this bill will be taken up and given
the serious consideration which it
was denied at the last session, but
that a bill containing provisions of
the same general description as those
of the Cockran bill will be introduced
and pressed to a vote is a moral cer-
tainty.

The Cockran bill provided that
every contribution of more than \$50
to a national campaign fund should
be reported to the clerk of the dis-
trict court of the United States.

to the republican committees in the
last three presidential campaigns,
and John A. McCall, president of the
New York Life Insurance Company
admitted that he had contributed
\$150,000 of the company's funds to
the same committees. In fact the
big companies have frequently been
contributors to both political parties.

Public May Demand Legislation.
There are two questions involved
in any fair consideration of these dis-
closures. The first is the desirability
of corporations taking such an active
and influential part in political cam-
paigns and the second is the moral-
ity of corporation officers making
contributions on their own initiative
out of funds that are really trust
funds.

Of course a law can be made pro-
hibiting campaign contributions by
insurance companies or other cor-
porations. This may correct the abuse
or it may not. Laws are not always
obeyed or enforced. There, for ex-
ample are the laws of Moses. The world
has been violating them for thou-
sands of years. It might be consid-
ered fair if the directors of every in-
surance company, savings bank, trust
company or other corporation hand-
ling the people's money, would adopt
a rule forbidding absolutely all such
contributions and holding every offi-
cer financially and morally respon-
sible for its observance. Second, po-
litical candidates and committees
could announce that they would
neither solicit nor receive contribu-
tions. Public sentiment is rapidly crystal-

NEW PONTOON BRIDGES.

**Collapsible Boats of Canvas Which
Can be Carried by One Man.**

The soldiers of the United States En-
gineers' Corps seem to have solved one
of the greatest problems which has
confronted generals in command of an
army when on the march. Small un-
folding streams are often encountered
by the army and these must be crossed
in the shortest time possible. In fact
large rivers often confront an army
when about to give battle to the enemy,
and it would take weeks, if not months,
to construct even temporary bridges
to allow the men with their heavy
armaments to cross. The pontoon
boats, of course, is well known to every
reader of history, for this most useful

WHITE HOUSE XMAS DINNER.

**THE ROOSEVELT FAMILY CELE-
BRATES IN THE GOOD OLD-
FASHIONED WAY.**

Always Have Huge Rhode Island Tur-
key Which is not Spoiled by French
Cooks.— President Himself Does
the Carving.

Old fashioned cooks and old fash-
ioned cookery hold the fort in the
White House kitchen at Christmas-
tide. When the President and Mrs.
Roosevelt give one of their great state
dinners to eighty or one hundred
guests, they usually entrust all the
preparations to professional caterers,
but when it comes to the dinner which



THE PRESIDENT'S TURKEY

auxiliary came into great use during
the war of the Rebellion. The pon-
toon train, however, is a very cum-
bersome affair when the ordinary flat
bottom boat with the necessary timbers
and accessories are packed on to
what is known as the "pontoon train."
The German army recently adopted a
sort of sectional pontoon boat which
allowed of greater mobility to the
train.

However, the soldiers of the United
States Engineer Battalion have been
drilling in the use of pontoon boats
made of heavy canvas stretched over
a wooden frame. These boats are wa-
ter-tight and when assembled are cap-
able of supporting six or more men.
A boat may be taken apart and packed
into a small bundle light enough to be
carried by one man. Upon arrival at
a small stream all that is necessary is
for each man to unstrap his bundle,
quickly put the boat into shape, and
launch it into the water. The wagons
which must necessarily carry the tim-
bering and flooring of the bridge to
be, can be sent forward with a much
smaller guard than is necessary when
the cumbersome pontoon train wagons,
each carrying a boat or section, are in
motion.

is pre-eminently the home meal of the
year the French chefs have to give
way to women who know just how to
prepare the generous wholesome
dishes that an American citizen looks
forward to finding on his dinner table
on the joyous holiday. President
Roosevelt also shows a fondness for
carving the turkey himself.

A good old fashioned Christmas din-
ner, moreover, with all the essentials
from turkey to plum pudding is regu-
lar institution at the White House
during the present administration.
Perhaps President Roosevelt, with
his assertive good health and his fam-
ily of lively young folks, are particu-
larly well qualified to appreciate a rou-
suing yuletide feast, but whatever be
the reason certain it is that during the
Roosevelt regime the Christmas re-
past has become one of the most im-
portant as well as one of the jolliest
meals of the year.

To Be Family Reunion.

President Roosevelt and his family
follow the general policy of all pre-
vious occupants of the White House in
observing Christmas as a family fes-
tival. This year it will have especial
significance as a reunion, since of late
months the junior members of the
Roosevelt household have been scat-
tered as never before, by reason of
their attendance at different schools
and colleges. The Roosevelt Chris-
tmas, while a family affair, is by no
means confined to the immediate
household. The Roosevelt children
have long been allowed to entertain
their numerous cousins on Christmas
and other relatives are likewise in at-
tendance, while the President and
Mrs. Roosevelt usually ask a few per-
sonal friends to also join the party.
Christmas dinner at the White
House is served in the evening and the
President arouses an appetite for it by

(Continued on next page.)



Baby's First Christmas.

Long, long ago the Wise Men, we are told,
Laden with Myrrh and frankincense and gold,
Journeyed afar, and found the Shepherd's fold
On the first Christmas Day.

Oh Baby, Baby, may thy life be sweet;
May God send angels guide thy little feet;
May every day to come be as complete
As thy first Christmas day.

And now both young and old, with shining eyes
Gather to watch their Baby's glad surprise,
His ecstasy, his joy, his gleeful cries,
On his first Christmas day.

from Tennessee and knows all the emi-
nent men of that State. He was col-
lecting a good story the other night of Col.
Sandford and Major Saunders, promi-
nent business men of the Knoxville re-
gion. They were once on a Pullman com-
pound. This was hot and they sat in
this way. It was hot and they sat in
pajamas far into the night. An old
man came in, lighted a cigar, smoked
and said nothing. They did not recog-
nize him, and kept on talking about
the miserably poor representation, their
State had in Congress. "It is a pity,"
said one of them "that a State like
ours should have such poor worthies
men at Washington. One senator has
no good, old Harris is the only man in
Josiah Patterson amounts to anything."
The House that the stranger arose and
in a tone of thunder began to hurl
inveective and abuse at the two men.
"It is about time I was called and went
this conversation," he yelled and went
on to tell a few of two. When he
astonished party one of them asked,
had subdued a bit one of them asked,
"But who are you to get so mad about
"Who am I? Well, I am Senator
Harris, ding you, and I have much
more to say to scoundrels like you."
Both men were amazed and they had
tried to apologize. They all became
friendly, and the old man often told
the story on himself.

Criminal penalties were provided for
violations of the law.

Looked Upon as a Cockran Oddity.

The bill was treated with derision
last winter, both by the daily press
and by gentlemen of the House of
Representatives, the Senate and
Third House. It was worth a laugh,
people said. There was very little
corruption, they averred. The idea
that corporations employed legisla-
tive agents and disbursed huge sums
of money for or against certain bills
was moonshine delect only by sensa-
tionalists to gratify the morbid fancy
and the appetite for scandal of a peo-
ple class of people.

The legislative inquiry into the af-
fairs and conduct of the Equitable
Life and Mutual Insurance companies
at New York seems to have placed
the matter of campaign contributions
and legislative disbursements in
other than a humorous light. It mat-
ters not whether the corporations
come forward voluntarily with their
contributions to campaign funds or
whether they are solicited and bound-
ed by campaign collectors until they
contribute—the result is the same.
Vice-president Gillette of the Mut-
ual Life Insurance Company testi-
fied that his company contributed
\$22,500 of the policy holders' money

izing into the conviction that corpo-
rate contributions should either be
made impossible or else required to
be made in such public fashion that
they would be robbed of their banef-
ul effect.

Foot's Farrago.

Foot, the comedian, when a young
person of either sex applied for a po-
sition, seldom refused outright, but
gravelly handed them the following
lines, and asked them to commit and
repeat them to him correctly in ten
minutes. If repeated with no error,
he promptly took them for trial.

So she went into the garden to cut a
cabbage leaf to make an apple pie and
at that time a great she-beast coming up
the street poked its head into the shop
What no soap? So he died and she very
impudently married the barber; and there
were present Mr. Pieninies, and the Job-
bilies and the Garrylies and the great
Panjandrum himself with the little round
baton at the top, and they fell to play-
ing the game of "catch as catch can,"
till the gunpowder ran out the heels of
their boots.

The popularity of "Triby" for a
time exceeded that of any novel pub-
lished, with the possible exception of
"Uncle Tom's Cabin."

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