

GUNNER'S MATE PLAYS  
PART OF SANTA CLAUS.

John Walsh of the Cruiser Baltimore Aids Dead Comrade's Mother in St. Louis and Means to Fill Little Chicago Niece's Stocking With Silver Dollars.

John Walsh, chief gunner's mate on the cruiser Baltimore, and a veteran of thirty-eight years' service in the United States Navy, who arrived in St. Louis Friday on a sixty days' furlough with a valise full of silver dollars, has brought Christmas cheer to the mother of a dead comrade and intends to play Santa Claus to-morrow for his little niece, Irene Walsh, who lives at No. 24 Grand avenue, Chicago.

Part of his money was received in the distribution of prize money after the battle of Manila Bay. While his ship was still in Philippine waters one of his comrades, Louis Mitchell, of St. Louis, second-class gunner's mate on the gunboat Nashville, was accidentally shot and killed by a shipmate while returning from a visit to the city of Manila on the evening of September 26. Walsh heard that Mitchell's mother was in destitute circumstances.

Since his arrival here he has hunted up the woman and given her money to relieve her immediate needs, and brought her contribution to the notice of local charitable organizations.

It has been more than seven years since Walsh visited his relatives in Chicago. Shortly after returning to sea from his last visit his niece, Irene, was born. The child's father, William Walsh, is the sailor's youngest brother. When the little girl became old enough to understand she was told of her uncle and took the greatest interest in him. At times her parents would complain at not hearing regularly from John. Even when very young Irene would resent anything which was not complimentary to the sailor. She was his champion whenever his name was mentioned.

She continually asked questions concerning him, and when letters arrived from some distant port the little lass would insist upon their being read to her. Her mother and father in their letters to Walsh, informed him of the child's attachment for him, and great affection for the little one grew in the big heart of the gunner's mate.

Walsh's family does not know that he has left his ship, and his visit will be a complete surprise. He will leave St. Louis to-morrow. His stay in Chicago will be short. He has been assigned to the heavy-artillery ship Paducah, which sails from New York under sealed orders on January 2. He says that he looks forward to the meeting with his niece with unshakable pleasure and believes that all the hardships and pain which he has suffered in thirty-eight years' service will be more than compensated by embracing her and watching her surprise and delight at the presents he will give her.

Walsh is 34 years old, but looks more like a man of 25. His hair is beginning to turn gray, but his well-knit form is erect and he walks with an easy, springy step. He owns four medals awarded him for distinction in the service. The only one of these which he wears is the Distinguished Service Medal, which was awarded to him by the English Hospital Society for assistance rendered in saving the lives of Spanish sailors after the battle of Manila. The long-service medal, given by the United States government to sailors who have served in the navy for thirty-five years, and a medal for valor, which was awarded to him by the Brooklyn Navy Yard about ten years ago.

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DIED BEFORE HIS  
REMITTANCE CAME.

John McCray, Who Is Buried in Potter's Field, Supposed to Have Had Well-to-Do Relatives.

BODY MAY BE EXHUMED.

It Was Interred Same Day That Money Order From Dead Man's Mother Arrived—Suicide Suspected.

John McCray, who was found dead in the Cherokee Hotel last Friday, is supposed to have had well-to-do relatives in New York. The day before he died he looked for a money order from home and on Saturday after the body had been placed in a pauper's grave in Potter's field, the Western Union Telegraph had a remittance for the dead man, from his mother, Mrs. J. C. McCray, who lives in New York.

McCray the day before his demise was in a morbid frame of mind, it is said, and a remark which he made has given some ground to the belief that he may have committed suicide. It is said that he was frequently advised by the other roomers at the place and by Joseph Hefz, the company clerk, to go to the City Hospital. Friday morning he did not arise at the usual hour, and when Joseph A. Vase, the porter, found McCray lying dead upon the bed.

The body was taken to the morgue. He had no relatives or friends so far as was known, so he was buried in Potter's field.

Yesterday the Western Union Telegraph Company telephoned the Coroner asking for McCray's death. The death having been confirmed, the company stated that a money order had arrived from New York on Saturday from McCray from his mother.

According to the story of another employee of the Western Union, McCray had asked several times whether he was well, and whether any money had come for him, and on being answered in the negative, had seemed very depressed. It was also stated that he remarked: "Well, I'll be passing in my checks pretty soon if I don't come." Nothing was thought of the remark at the time, but the man was found dead two days later.

At the hotel it is not believed that McCray killed himself. The clerk said he was admitted to drugs and suffered from an incurable malady.

The only person who knew McCray, so far as the Coroner's inquest has been able to discover, is the Reverend P. W. Cornell of No. 120 Locust street, city missionary for the Episcopal Church. William Barton, for Mr. Cornell at various times, and when the clergyman discovered that the body had been buried in the Potter's field, he called upon the Coroner and asked whether he could have it removed and buried in a private cemetery.

McArthur Johnston was unanimously re-elected president of the Central Trades and Labor Union at the semi-annual election of that body, which was held at Wall-Hall yesterday afternoon. This will make his third term as president.

The other officers elected were: Vice president, Richard DeBarry; secretary and organizer, David Kreyling; treasurer, Moses Levi; trustees, William Barton, Charles Roloff and George Murrenberg; sergeant-at-arms, William Schilling; fraternal delegates to the Building Trades Council, Owen Miller, J. T. Nettler and H. Kohler.

All of the newly elected officers will serve for six months, except David Kreyling, whose term lasts one year. After the election of officers David Kreyling moved that the rules be suspended and the charges preferred by Glassblowers' Union No. 5 against him and other delegates of the Central Trades be taken up. The motion carried and the charges were considered. A lively debate followed. The resolution of the glassblowers' union all averred that the delegates of the glassblowers' union against the accused, all of whom emphatically denied the charge. After about two hours of acrimonious debate a resolution was adopted completely exonerating the accused members and declaring the charges false.

FOUND WIFE DEAD  
AND GAS TURNED ON.

W. W. Williams in Doubt Whether Companion's Death Is a Case of Suicide.

MISSED HER WHEN HE AWOKE.

She Had Gone Into Next Room and Locked the Door—Had Been in Bad Health for a Year—Inquest To-Day.

Mrs. Anna B. Williams, 39 years old, was found dead yesterday morning by her husband in an unoccupied bedroom at their house, No. 204 Pine street.

The dead woman's husband, W. W. Williams, is a foreman at the C. F. Kelly Printing Company. They were married nine years ago. They had no children. Mrs. Williams conducted the establishment as a boarding-house, assisted by her mother, Mrs. Sarah P. Martin.

According to the statement of her husband, Mrs. Williams rose in the night and went to the unoccupied room, which is used as a parlor, leaving him asleep. He missed her upon arising and called her mother. They found the door of the room locked and Williams was forced to enter through a window. He found his wife's body lying on the bed with the gas turned on from a single jet hanging from the ceiling.

"My wife and I were downtown together last night," said Williams, "and went to bed at the same time. We undressed in the dining-room, which we use as a bedroom at night, and she seemed to go to sleep all right. Some time in the night she evidently arose and went to the next room. She had been confined the company stated that a money order had arrived from New York on Saturday from McCray from his mother.

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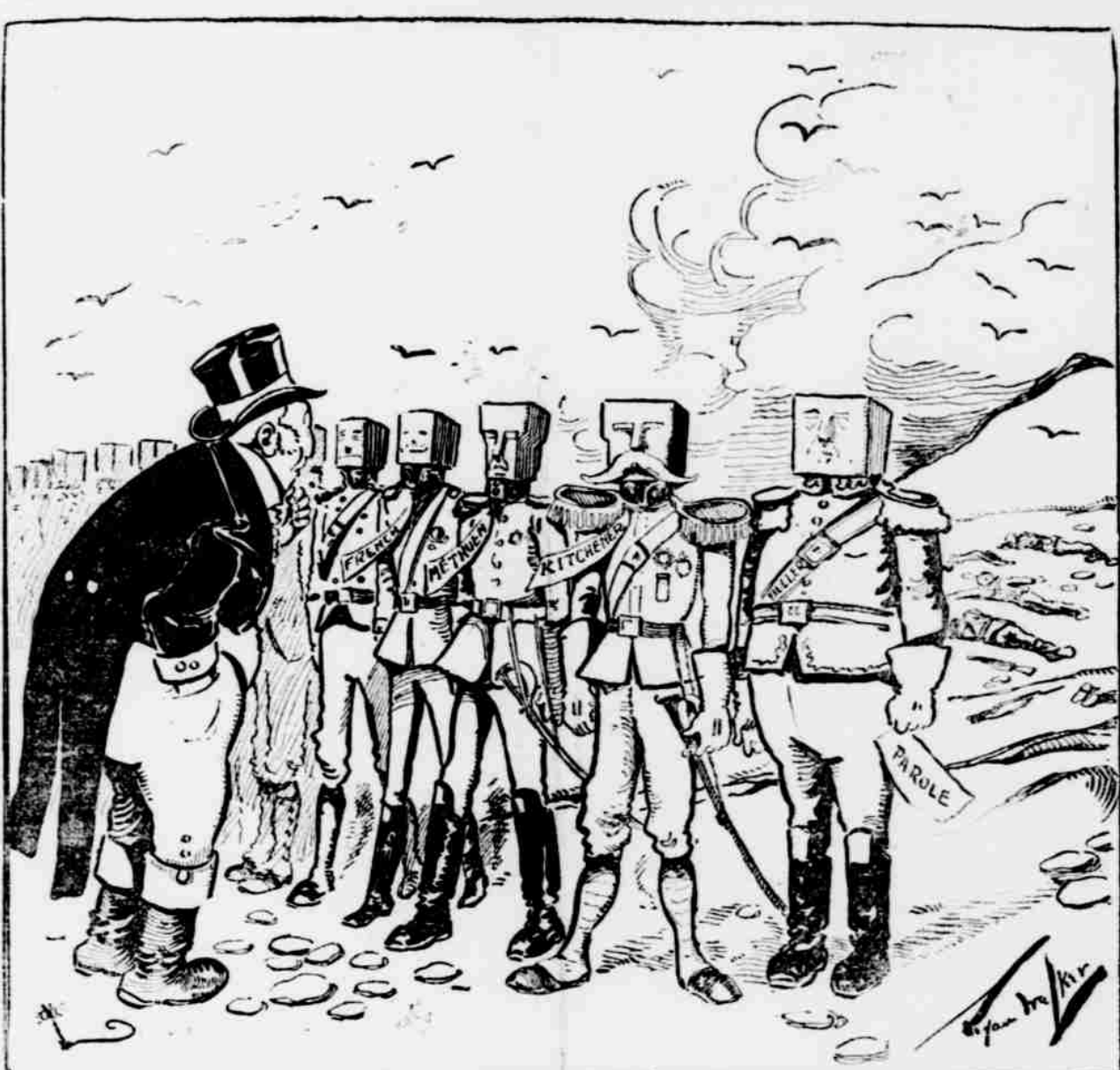
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John Bull: "Sure as I live there's something wrong with their 'eads."

JAIL PRISONERS DECLARE  
THEY ATE POISONED FOOD.

Adam Wentzel, "Dude Highwayman," Is Sent to the City Hospital.

BELIEVED TO BE A RUSE.

Hospital Attendant Says Patient Admitted That He Hoped to Escape.

Adam Wentzel and John Williams, the "dude highwayman," who are under indictment on eight counts for robbery in the first degree and who are prisoners at the City Jail, apparently became violently ill yesterday immediately after eating the contents of a basket sent to Wentzel by a person outside the jail.

An attendant at the City Hospital last night said that Wentzel declared that he had been shamming in the hope that he would be sent to the City Hospital and that a chance to escape would arise either on the way thither or at the institution. Both men are confined in cell No. 64. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon, after having eaten a quantity of food sent them by a person outside the jail, they were suddenly seized with convulsions and had vomiting fits. Wentzel seemed the most afflicted. He rolled over and over on the floor of his cell, crying out that he had been poisoned.

Doctor S. R. Johnson of the City Dispensary was sent for. He examined the men and advised that Wentzel be sent to the City Hospital. Doctor Johnson said that he could not tell positively whether the men were poisoned or not; that their symptoms indicated cholera morbus.

Such symptoms could be produced, in the opinion of the doctor, either by ptomaine poisoning or poison introduced into the food or by a skillful sham.

Wentzel was received at the City Hospital by surgeon Assistant Surgeon. He was apparently very ill, and was carried in on a stretcher. Bowdler applied the stomach pump. Wentzel violently objected to this treatment. The strength exhibited in maintaining his objections aroused the doctor's suspicions, and he endeavored to evoke from Wentzel a confession that his sickness was a sham. But it was without success.

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ADAM WENTZEL.

Instead of to ward No. 8, where poison cases are usually sent, Wentzel was no sooner locked up than his apparent weakness left him, and he walked about as if nothing were wrong.

Wentzel asserted for a long time that he knew of two men who had sworn to have his life, and he thought that one of these had sent him the food which caused his sickness. He averred that he had received two baskets yesterday, one from his sister, Mamie Wentzel, who lives at No. 202 Franklin avenue, and a second, the sender of which he did not know. According to him the second basket contained potatoes, boiled rabbit and a can of coffee. He divided the coffee and food of the second basket with Williams, and the two became sick immediately after drinking the coffee.

But he retracted this story last night when talking to an attendant in the prisoner's ward of the hospital, and admitted that his illness was a ruse. He said that he had expected to be taken to one of the sick wards at the hospital, where there would be no guard put over him and from which place an escape would be comparatively easy. He also stated that he had thought that he would try to escape while in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, but that he had been strapped hand and foot, which precluded an attempt.

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LEADING TOPICS  
—IN—  
TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missouri—Fair Monday and Tuesday; winds becoming northerly.

For Illinois—Fair and cold Monday, Tuesday, fair; high west to northwest winds.

For Arkansas—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Kansas—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Nebraska—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Colorado—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For New Mexico—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Arizona—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Texas—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Oklahoma—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Louisiana—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Mississippi—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Alabama—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Georgia—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Florida—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For South Carolina—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For North Carolina—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Virginia—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For West Virginia—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Maryland—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Delaware—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

For Pennsylvania—Fair Monday and Tuesday; west to northwest winds.

TWO BOER COLUMNS  
ARE IN CAPE COLONY.

Kitchener Reports Many Battles—Clements Again Attacked, but Result Is Yet Unknown.

De Wet, Now Described by Correspondents as a Military Marvel, Is Directing a Thoroughly Organized Boer Campaign Against British.

London, Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, December 22, says:

"The western column of Boers occupied Britstown and cut off the railway south of De Aar Junction. The enemy is being followed up."

"General French has been in contact for two days with the commandos of Beyer and De la Rive, south of Magaliesberg. He is pursuing them. The enemy have lost considerably, and Commandant Kruze and others have been captured."

"General Colville engaged two separate commandos December 21, near Vlakfontein, with slight losses, the enemy retreating."

"An earlier dispatch to the War Office from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, December 22, says:

"As far as it is possible for me to form an opinion from the reports of officers on the spot, I think the Boer movement into Cape Colony has been checked."

"Of the forces that entered the colony, the eastern is still north of the Zoutpansberg Range, while the one that entered west appears to have been turned in the direction of Britstown and Priska."

"Our troops are getting around both bodies, and a special column is also being organized, which will be dispatched immediately, when I know where its services are most wanted."

"The Boers have not received much assistance in Cape Colony, as far as my information goes. We have armed some of the colonists, who are assisting our forces. Railway and telegraph communication has been much interrupted by the very bad weather."

"De Wet is in the neighborhood of Senekal. General French, in conjunction with General Clements, attacked a force under Beyer, south of the Magaliesberg. The Boers broke away in a southerly direction, toward Pochefstroom, and were followed by General Gordon, with a column of the Imperial Light Horse."

"Yesterday evening, about 5 o'clock, Clements's force was engaged south of Ollifant's Nek, but I do not yet know the result."

Lord Kitchener's dispatches breathe a confidence hardly justified by their contents. They are almost the only available news from the seat of hostilities in South Africa; but telegrams from Cape Town depict the situation in anything but roseate hues.

Without believing the assertion of the Transvaal agency in Brussels that 6,000 Boers have invaded Cape Colony, it is quite evident that the invasion was a serious and well-planned affair. In connection with this, a correspondent sends an extremely interesting letter, dated Bethulie, December 1, describing General De Wet and his doings.

"De Wet has never been taken seriously enough," says the correspondent. "It is of little use to pursue him, as he lights a rear guard action, and gains twenty miles while he is being fought. He is a born military genius, whose wonderful powers have kept up this phenomenal resistance."

"Once he falls, the whole thing could be crushed in a fortnight. He is every single commando under his supervision. All his patrols and columns march and counter-march on his order. The forces under his command have been reduced by gas attacks of will to a properly organized army, moving at his word. The sooner the British rid themselves of the idea that De Wet's forces are mere rabble, wandering aimlessly, the sooner they will grasp the need of the determined effort which is necessary to capture him."

Other advice from Cape Town reports the Dutch element in Cape Colony as greatly excited over the southward progress of the Boers, and as boasting that the whole district of Victoria West will join the raiders. It is suspected in Cape Town that the force traveling from Zoutpansberg is not a body of Boers, but one of colonies, hastening to join the invaders.

The Pretoria correspondent of the Daily Mail says:

"The Boers are active between Johannesburg and Pretoria, exchanging shots with the British, and it is reported that parties of Boers are hovering around Johannesburg."

Peking, Dec. 23.—Li Hung Chang, answering an inquiry from the foreign envoys regarding his health, said he believed that he would be able to attend the meeting to-morrow in order to accept, with Prince China, the preliminary joint note.

The note will be presented by the Spanish Minister, Senor B. J. de Coloman, doyen of the diplomatic corps, with a few words expressing a hope of as prompt a reply as possible to the note.

The note is a telegraph line between Peking and Tientsin-Fu, where the imperial court is established, so that the agreement, as soon as it is reached, will be telegraphed at once to the Emperor. I am sorry that the efforts of the United States to eliminate the world's 'unreliable' from the agreement was not crowned with success, but I hope that the Powers will not be inclined to interpret that word in its strictest sense."

Emile Sana's Bill.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Two hundred million dollars is the maximum sum the administration wants the Powers to demand of China as indemnity, yet the figures are likely to be many times that amount. The United States Army has a deficiency of \$11,000,000 for transportation and army supplies, and most of that is charged against China.

A determined effort will be made by the President and Secretary Hay to induce the Powers to consent to the arbitration of the indemnity question by a court to be appointed in conformity with the provisions of the Hague treaty.

Article 6 of the agreement, signed by the foreign Ministers in Peking, requires the payment by China of "equitable indemnities" for the damage done to the property of the Powers in China, and it is reported that the indemnity to be paid to the Governments is in the nature of a restitution of the expenses incurred in dispatching and maintaining troops in China, and may be made to include sums to be paid to the heirs of those killed in action, or to those who received wounds during the engagements, incident to the capture of Peking.

The total losses of the allied forces defending the legations were 67 killed and 129 wounded, and many Chinese in the employ of the legations and the legation lost their lives. An idea of the indemnity to be demanded for the expenses of the several military expeditions may be obtained from this table, showing the strength of the allies:

Russia, 45,000 men, brought from Siberia; Japan, 25,000 men, transported from Japan; Germany, 15,000 men, and 40 guns, sent by sea; France, 15,000 men, sent by sea; Italy, 15,000 men, sent by sea; Austria, 24 men, landed from their warships.

The societies named are the religious bodies which maintain missionaries in China, many of whom were killed. They will not only want heavy sums to indemnify the heirs of those killed, but to solace those who were insulted, and also to repair the damage done in the destruction of mission property.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Windsor, Mo., Dec. 23.—While attending the services of unveiling the monument over the grave of E. E. Garrett, a brother Woodman of the World, here this afternoon, C. Hutchinson of Clinton, fell dead of heart failure. He was the oldest man and the oldest member of the Clinton lodge, and the first one to die in that lodge. He leaves a wife and five children.

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CHINA, THROUGH EARL LI,  
GETS POWERS' NOTE TO-DAY.

Spain's Representative, as Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Will Ask for Prompt Action—Reply Is Expected Thursday.

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