

It will prepare you for Christmas—Lloyd Osbourne's \$1,500 prize story, "Boy Bright," which will be one of the clever features next Sunday in The Sunday Call



"The Slaves of St. Nick," a humorous story in verse by Wallace Irwin, will open your eyes and also your heart. It will appear next Sunday in The Sunday Call

ATTACK ON ROOSEVELT BY EDITOR

New York World Comments on President's Message Regarding Panama Canal Deal.

Paper Objects to Alleged Attempt to Cripple Freedom of American Press

Chief Executive Called the Most Unscrupulous Demagogue People Ever Trusted

Threat of Criminal Libel Proceedings Likened to Doctrine of Lese Majeste

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The World in the course of its answer to President Roosevelt's reference to that paper in his special message to congress today says:

"Mr. Roosevelt is mistaken. He can not muzzle the World. "While no amount of 'billingsgate' on his part can alter our determination to treat him with judicial impartiality and scrupulous fairness, we repeat what we have already said, that the congress of the United States should make a thorough investigation of the whole Panama transaction, that the full truth may be known to the American people."

New Doctrine, Says Paper

"The World appreciates the importance and significance of Mr. Roosevelt's statement when he declared to congress that the proprietor of the World 'should be prosecuted for libel by the governmental authorities' and that the attorney general has under consideration the form under which the proceedings against Mr. Pulitzer shall be brought."

"This is the first time a president ever asserted the doctrine of lese majeste or proposed, in the absence of specific legislation the criminal prosecution by the government of citizens who criticized the conduct of the government or the conduct of individuals who may have had dealings with the government. Neither the king of Great Britain nor the German emperor would venture to arrogate such power to himself."

Adams' Course Recalled

"John Adams' attempt to enforce the sedition law destroyed the federalist party in America. Yet Roosevelt, in the absence of law, officially proposes to use all the power of the greatest government on earth to cripple the freedom of the press on the pretext that the government itself has been libeled—and he is the government."

"It is true that the World printed the public reports concerning the Panama canal affair, which resulted from William Nelson Cromwell's appeal to the district attorney's office during the recent campaign to prevent the publication of a story which was said to be in the hands of the democratic national committee."

Cromwell Raised Issue

It was Mr. Cromwell's own action which raised the issue in the campaign. It is true also that when Mr. Roosevelt made his attack upon Delavan Smith, the World called attention to certain statements which Mr. Roosevelt must have known to have been false and misleading, and appealed to congress to end all scandal by a full and impartial investigation. If this be treason, let Mr. Roosevelt make the most of it."

"Mr. Roosevelt's lamentable habit of inaccurate statements makes it impossible to accept his judgments or his conclusions. In his message he does not state correctly even so simple a matter as the pretended causes of his presidency."

President's Word Challenged

"The World has never said that Charles P. Taft or Douglas Robinson made any profits whatever. Mr. Taft denied that he was concerned in the transaction in any way, which denial the World published and accepted. It would have been equally glad to print Mr. Robinson's denial had it succeeded in obtaining one from him, as it frequently attempted. The World has no evidence that he was associated with Mr. Cromwell and would accept his word to that effect; for Mr. Robinson is an estimable gentleman of high character, whose reputation for veracity is infinitely better than that of his distinguished brother in law."

Roosevelt Called Demagogue

"The World has libeled anybody we hope it will be punished, but we do not intend to be intimidated by Roosevelt's threats or by Roosevelt's denunciation or by Roosevelt's power."

"No other living man ever so grossly libeled the United States as does this president, who besmirches congress."

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

JOS. PULITZER, OWNER OF NEW YORK WORLD, SCORED BY PRESIDENT



INDEX OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL'S NEWS TODAY

TELEPHONE KEARNY 86

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1908

WEATHER CONDITIONS
 YESTERDAY—West wind; clear; maximum temperature, 54; minimum, 46.
 FORECAST FOR TODAY—Clear; cold in morning, with frost, followed by increasing cloudiness and probably rain; light north winds, changing to fresh southeast. Page 15

EDITORIAL
 No more judges needed. Page 6
 A strange festivity. Page 6
 Parker's dying kick. Page 6

GRAFT
 Lathan pleads not guilty to charge of perjury at last trial of Ruef. Page 16

CITY
 Sailors tell story of great cruelty on high seas during examination of Captain Thompson of ship Homeward Bound. Page 13
 Committee completes draft of bill prohibiting officers of banks from borrowing large sums from their institutions. Page 16
 Louis McKinnon prepares to contest will of his mother, who left estate valued at \$250,000. Page 3
 Paris dress maker sees R. Jaffray Dunstan for daughter's wedding trousseau. Page 3
 "I'll not live a lie," pens runaway wife who thinks it a crime to live with husband she does not love. Page 8
 Temporary presiding judge of superior court to be selected today or tomorrow. Page 8
 Canopy of lights over Market street is vanguard of New Year's eve celebration downtown. Page 16
 Fillmore street plans joyous celebration to usher out old year. Page 16

Hair survivor of wrecked Aeolus returns with hair whitened by her experiences. Page 3
 Police investigate further milliner's loss of \$18,000 in gems to fire. Page 7
 Body of late Chief of Police Biggy is recovered from bay, but no light is thrown on suicide or accidental theory of death. Page 1
 Merchants and United States national banks expect a merger. Page 13
 Theodore Vogt proposes to substitute park band by orchestra of 50 pieces. Page 7
 Wilson coolly questions witnesses during inquest into death of Henry Boas. Page 8
 Walls four stories high to carry immense signs will be erected on the Mayer building at Geary and Kearny streets. Page 5
 Trace excursion to Islais creek results in removal of hostilities on India basin question. Page 5
 Immigration official lets Englishman land but bars American. Page 9

SUBURBAN
 Mrs. Isabella J. Martin convicted after jury deliberates six minutes. Page 4
 Le Beuf denies intimacy with other women when questioned by wife. Page 4
 Simple ceremony marks burial of Judge John Garber. Page 4
 Prograft press is scored at organization of Berkeley league of justice. Page 4

COAST
 Mrs. August Rose of Vallejo, mother of six children, dies of poisoned food. Page 1
 Youthful deserter from navy confesses to brutal murder in Pittsburg. Page 1
 Physicians of Pacific coast seaports form public health association to keep up anti-plague war. Page 4

EASTERN
 President elect Taft in speech highly praises labor unions. Page 1
 Foraker introduces resolution asking for report of detectives concerning Brownsville riot. Page 3
 New York World replies to President Roosevelt's denunciation of editorials on Panama canal purchase. Page 1

FOREIGN
 King of England is grievously ill and prince of Wales assumes many of his duties. Page 1

SPORTS
 Decario Pletli collapses in sight of goal, and Longboat wins Marathon race. Page 10
 Lowry says he will prevent gambling on ball games in Bay Cities league. Page 10
 Frankie Nell loses decision to Owen Moran in 12 round bout at Boston. Page 9
 Montgomery breaks coast record at Arcadia, going one and an eighth miles in 1:51. Page 10
 St. Francis the only winning favorite at Emeryville; Pajorita captures Reber handicap. Page 10
 Twenty-five round battle between Papke and Kelly declared a draw by Referee Jeffries. Page 9
 Stanley Ketchel going to Michigan to buy a home. Page 9
 Edward Corrigan will fight Locke anti-gambling law of Louisiana. Page 9

MARINE
 Liner Alameda, which arrives after stormy passage from Honolulu, brings 200 bags of Australian mail from the island port. Page 15

SOCIAL
 Miss Aida Hastings and Newton Standish Kelley to be married in All Saints church at noon today. Page 4

LABOR
 The barbers plan home for aged members similar to that of the printers at Colorado Springs. Page 4

UNIONS PRAISED BY TAFT AS A BOON TO NATION

"They Have Done Marvels and Will Do More," Declares the President Elect

Magnates of America Gather at Banquet and Hear Words of Statesman

National Civic Federation Brings Together Men of All Classes in World's Work

Labor unions have done marvels for labor, and in the future will do more. I am not quite ready to part with the anti-trust or Sherman law. One of our greatest dangers lies in the delays in the administration of justice, civil and criminal.

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Speaking at the banquet of the National civic federation tonight President elect William H. Taft said:

"Time was when everybody who employed labor was opposed to labor unions. Time was when these organizations were regarded as a menace. That time has now largely passed away and the man who today objects to the organization of labor should be relegated to the last century. Labor unions have done marvels for labor and in the future will do more."

Unions Lift, Not Depress

"Labor unions will encourage workmen, not to a level down, but to a level up, and will exemplify that those who lead in energy will have the leadership and reward."

"I thank Mr. Gompers for saying that I am to be his president as much as anybody's. In the next congress and the one that succeeds it many questions will arise with reference to legislation in assistance of labor. To me one of the most important questions is as to an employers' liability act. In my judgment, one of our greatest dangers lies in the delays in the administration of justice, civil and criminal. By a reasonable employers' liability act in both federal and state governments we could remove from the courts nine-tenths of the suits for damages growing out of personal injuries, and have just awards rendered by quasi judicial tribunals."

Carnegie's Suggestion

Carnegie created a storm of approval when he declared that he believed the problem of capital and labor would be solved through a profit sharing plan, which would make all men laborers and all men capitalists.

Gompers declared that every man associated with organized labor hoped that Taft's administration would be pre-eminently successful and would make every effort to the attainment of that purpose.

Taft was the last of a brilliant throng of speakers at the banquet. Grouped together at one of the five score of individual tables sat President elect Taft and Mrs. Taft, Samuel Gompers, August Belmont; A. B. Garretson, chief of the brotherhood of railway conductors; Melville E. Ingalls, former president of the Big Four railroad; President Seth Low of the federation and Mrs. Low, former judge and Mrs. Alton B. Parker, and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie.

Strange Associations

At other tables at the banquet hall of the Hotel Astor sat employers and many employees of corporations. John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Frank E. Kellogg, who had been prosecuting the government's inquiry into the Standard oil company, were near neighbors, though not at the same table. Andrew Carnegie and John Mitchell sat side by side. Taft was the last of eight speakers. Those who preceded him were Seth Low, who acted as toast master, and Mitchell, Gompers, Carnegie, Belmont, Ingalls and Garretson.

The following officers were unanimously chosen: President, Seth Low; vice presidents, Samuel Gompers, Nathan J. Bachelier, Ellison A. Smith and Benjamin Ide Wheeler; treasurer, Isaac N. Seligman; statistician, Ralph P. Faulkner.

TOBACCO COMBINE DECLARED ILLEGAL

Government Wins Suit for the Dissolution of Big Trust

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Nine companies, with their subsidiaries, are named as constituting an illegal combination in the final decree, filed today in the United States circuit court, putting into effect the judgment recently obtained by the government in its suit to dissolve the so called tobacco trust. The companies named are the American tobacco company, the American cigar snuff company, the American stogie company, the American stogie company, MacAndrews & Forbes company, P. Lorillard & Co., R. J. Reynolds tobacco company, Blackwell's Durham tobacco company and the Conley-foil company.

BRUTAL MURDER IS ADMITTED BY NAVY DESERTER

Youth Betrayed by Companion in Crime Confesses to Bloody Deed

Beat Wealthy Man to Death in Pittsburg to Secure Money and Jewels

Young Criminal Will Be Extradited East at Once to Answer for Offense

VALLEJO, Dec. 15.—Betrayed by one of his three companions in the crime, Leo P. Stout, a youth of 18 who is in irons on the prison ship Manila charged with desertion from the navy, today confessed to participation in the murder of a well dressed and apparently wealthy man in Pittsburg more than six months ago. Stout made his confession to Commandant Thomas Phelps.



Police escort under command of Captain Kelly taking the remains of Chief of Police Biggy to the morgue soon after its recovery from the bay.

who has communicated with the Pittsburg authorities, and Stout probably will be extradited before the end of the week.

The confessed murderer talks of his crime nonchalantly and it was with little apparent uneasiness or apprehension that he told the story of the brutal deed.

Stout in his confession says that he and three others, including his betrayer, George Collins, shortly before the departure of the Atlantic fleet from the eastern coast were together in Pittsburg. The quartet needed funds and went out one night bent on robbery.

They noticed a well dressed man who wore several large diamonds riding on a streetcar and at once marked him for their victim. They boarded the car and got off with their prey. Nonetheless they followed the man to a dark spot where one of the four—which one is not known—crept up and struck the victim on the head with a blackjack. The man afterward died from the effects of the blow.

Thugs Loot Body

The body was looted of a large amount in currency besides much jewelry. Stout says he got \$12 as his share. Then the gang separated, Stout joining the navy, where he afterward met another of the quartet, George Collins. Both deserted in San Francisco and were captured here nine days ago. Collins was claimed by the authorities of South Dakota for horse stealing. Thinking to better his own condition, Collins wrote to Chief of Police McQuaide of Pittsburg telling of the crime.

McQuaide wired to Mare Island. When told of his betrayal by Collins Stout readily confessed.

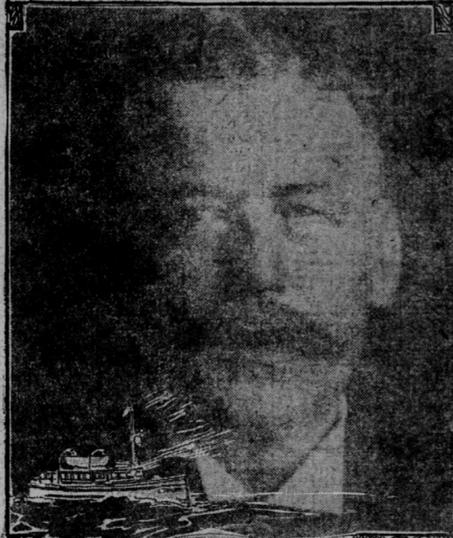
The Pittsburg authorities will make an effort to learn the whereabouts of the other two members of the gang.

After Brutal Murderer

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 15.—The police of Pittsburg are more than interested at the news from Vallejo, Cal., regarding one L. P. Stout, who alleges that he is from Pittsburg and that he killed a man here. While Pittsburg does not want any man by the name of Stout here, so far as known, by any one of that name, the Pittsburg authorities do want, and badly, a man named Herman Hirsch for murder, and so had have been after Hirsch in the last two years that they are satisfied he has been compelled to change his name. The police hope, therefore, that "Stout" may be Hirsch.

The murder for which Hirsch is

Wm. J. Biggy's Body Is Found



Police escort under command of Captain Kelly taking the remains of Chief of Police Biggy to the morgue soon after its recovery from the bay.

KING OF ENGLAND IS GRIEVOUSLY ILL

British Ruler Feels Gravity of Situation and Prince of Wales Shoulders Duties

[Special Cable to The Call]

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The royal family and physicians who are attending King Edward are deeply concerned over his condition. Nothing but reassuring news is given to the public, but the king's health is such that the mask must soon be thrown off, and the fact that a grievously ill man is upon the throne of England must be recognized.

That the king himself realizes the gravity of his illness is shown by the fact that he is rapidly unloading many of his responsibilities upon the shoulders of the prince of Wales.

Hitherto the prince has been merely an ornament in the English scheme of government, but of late he has taken upon many of the tasks of his father and is consulted on all important matters.

The prince has established headquarters in Buckingham palace, to be close at hand whenever wanted. While not brilliant, he is said to show unexpected aptitude for his new duties.

The most alarming feature of the king's illness is the reappearance of the symptoms that preceded the operation for an abdominal trouble in 1902. He suffers much pain and has lost considerable weight.

WOMAN DROWNS IN BAY

Mrs. Mary Caproni Seeks in Vain to Join Husband After Long Separation

After traveling all the way from Italy to join her husband in San Francisco, Mrs. Mary Caproni fell to her death last night in the waters of the bay. She was about to board the ferry boat at Point Richmond to complete the last stage of her journey when the accident occurred. She was accompanied by her 19 year old son, who was later cared for in this city. Just as the vessel was departing the woman ran down the gang plank and fell headlong into the water.

BAY GIVES UP REMAINS OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Body Is First Seen From Freight Steamer Between Verba Buena Island and Lombard Street

Word Is Sent to City and Police Are Promptly Sent in Launch to the Scene of Discovery

Quest Is Successful and Body Is Removed From Wharf to Morgue Escorted by Members of Force

Head Is Reduced to Skeleton, but Identification Is Made by Clothing and Personal Effects

FLLOATING with an ebb tide in the channel midway between Yerba Buena island and Lombard street wharf, the body of Chief of Police William J. Biggy, who was drowned from the police launch Patrol two weeks ago Monday night, was discovered and rescued from the bay yesterday morning. Though the features of the late chief had been destroyed beyond the possibility of recognition the body was in perfectly sound condition and positive identification of the remains was made easy by the clothing and personal effects. Even before the body had been towed to the shore the identification had been made and a squad of mounted police was waiting at the Mission street wharf to act as an escort of honor by the time the launch sent to make the rescue returned from its trip to the middle of the bay.

Seen From the Transit

It was shortly before 10 o'clock yesterday morning that the body was first seen by First Officer Charles Hansen and a passenger on the ferry freight steamer Transit, which was then on its 9:15 o'clock transbay trip. Even as the body was sighted it was whirled off into the foaming wake of the ferry boat and no opportunity was given for a rescue. The position was carefully noted, however, and as soon as the San Francisco landing was made Hansen notified Detective Donovan that a body which he believed to be that of Biggy had been seen.

Body Is Recovered

The police launch Patrol, from which the late chief went to his death on the stormy night of two weeks ago, was still searching the bay off Meiggs wharf when the news of the sighting of the body was brought to the shore. Instead of waiting to communicate with the Patrol, Sergeant Donovan secured Crowley's launch No. 1 and with Policemen P. Burns and M. Barry aboard steamed at once to the vicinity designated by the officer of the Transit. In the meantime the body had been sighted a second time by R. W. Reaper and Paul Jones of the crew of the scow schooner Georgie Woods, who had made fast a line to the body and were preparing to tow it ashore.

The policemen aboard the Crowley launch immediately took possession of the body and brought it to the Mission street wharf, where already a crowd of several hundred persons had gathered. Captain of Police Conboy of the harbor station arrived a few minutes after the body had been taken to the side of the wharf, and was followed five minutes later by Police Commissioner Cutler and Captain of Detectives Kelly in the police automobile. At 11:35 the body was taken from the water under the direction of Deputy Coroner John Kennedy.

Big Crowd Gathers

By this time the report of the finding of the body had spread throughout the city and hundreds of morbidly curious idlers had gathered at the wharf and were packed far into East street in a solid mass. So great was the crowd that 10 extra policemen of company A from the Mission and Park districts were rushed to the wharf to assist in maintaining order.

Following Commissioner Cutler and Captain Kelly was another squad of mounted policemen, detailed as soon as the news reached police headquarters to act as a guard of honor.

The body of the late chief was placed in the coroner's wagon as soon as it was taken from the water, and the little cortege started at once for the morgue in Fell street near Octavia. Preceding the morgue wagon rode Captain Kelly and four mounted policemen, while behind it came the automobile containing Commissioner Cutler, Captain Conboy and Deputy Coroner Kennedy.

At the morgue a second crowd had gathered to witness the arrival of the wagon containing the remains, and an