THE EVENING STAR,

With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON,
THURSDAY.....December 4, 1913

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The Evening Star Newspaper Company.

Business Office, 11th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue.
New York Office: Tribune Building.
Chicago Office: First National Bank Building.
European Office: 3 Regent St., London, England.

The Evening Star, with the Sunday morning edition, is delivered by carriers within the city at 45 cents per month; daily only, 25 cents per month; Sunday only, 20 cents per month. Orders may be sent by mail, or telephone Main 2440. Collection is made by carrier at the end of each month.

Payable in advance—by mail, postage prepaid. Daily, Sunday included, one month, 60 cents. Daily, Sunday excepted, one month, 40 cents. Saturday Star, $1 year; Sunday Star, $2.40 year.

Entered as second-class mail matter at the post office at Washington, D. C.

☞In order to avoid delays on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Department, according to topic or purpose.

Wilson and Roosevelt.

Naturally, the touch of progressivism in the President's message has raised the charge that he is poaching on Mr. Roosevelt's preserves. "Aha!" exclaim the bull moosers. "Sits the wind in that quarter?"

The prediction follows that the contest in 1916 will be between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Roosevelt, both bidding for the advanced progressive vote, and both willing to bear the characterization of radical.

But this prediction leaves the conservative vote in both the democratic party and the republican party out of consideration. If Mr. Wilson bids too conspicuously and recklessly for radical votes, how can he hope to hold the conservative democratic vote? And if Mr. Roosevelt offers himself on a platform showing the full courage of his progressivism, how can he hope to draw to his side those republicans who last year refused him support on the score of his radicalism?

So much is uncertain now—so much in a fluid state—predictions while free to all in a free country, are of no great value as applied to 1916. Politically speaking, an age, full of possibilities, lies between this time and that. But this prediction seems a little persuasive: the contest in 1916 will not be between two radical parties appealing for votes on radical issues. One of the leading parties must take account of conservative sentiment, and it may fall out that both will. The proposition to put everything into the melting pot and take chances on what may come out has too many supporters, but not enough by any means to control the affairs of these United States.

Mr. Wilson, then, we may all be sure, has no thought of putting all of his eggs into the radical basket. He claims to be a progressive democrat, and will urge some measures along that line. But there is a conservative element in the democratic party which in four presidential contests running rebuked radicalism in that organization. And it so happens that Mr. Wilson sympathized with the rebukers. And that conservative element is still strong, and would act again under sufficient provocation.

As for Mr. Roosevelt, his position and calculations are clear. He believes that he has destroyed the republican party, and his hope is that the democratic party will fail in office and destroy itself. He sees wreckage on every hand in 1916, and himself, hook in hand, landing enough of it for the construction of a raft to bear him back over the stormy waters to the White House.

But the republican party is not in the condition imagined and desired by Mr. Roosevelt. The report of its death "is very much exaggerated." It is showing many signs of life, and, penitent and progressive, may be on its feet and in excellent fettle again three years hence.

Postal Savings.

The utility of the postal saving system as a means of encouraging thrift is shown by the fact that during the last fiscal year the number of depositors intrusting their money to Uncle Sam had increased from 243,891 to 331,006, while the deposits had increased from $20,237,684 to $33,818,870. Thus the average deposit has increased from $83 to $102, indicating that in a considerable number of cases the depositors have continued their use of the postal savings system and persisted in making systematic deposits, while a large number of new patrons of this system have appreciated its advantages. It is impossible yet to determine to what extent the use of the postal savings banks has taken from the commercial banks, but it is a fair assumption that the effect felt by the latter is not considerable, for in all likelihood a large percentage of the money deposited with the post office comes from the "stockings" and other home depositories. The savings habit, whether encouraged through the banks or the post office, is most desirable of cultivation, especially when the money thus saved is put into circulation through some safe agency of employment. The confidence that the people feel in the government's financial security is undoubtedly a large factor in the success of the postal savings system. At the present rate of progress the postal savings deposits will soon mount to a great total, constituting one of the most important fiscal factors in American affairs.

No doubt ex-President Taft will be interested in noting whether this administration will find it necessary to take up another controversy with the name "Pinchot" in evidence at one end of the hyphen.

The man with an enthusiastic and reliable chautauqua following might be regarded as having considerable strength under a system of direct primaries.

It must be rather cheering to Col. Muihall to note the distinguished names now and then mentioned in connection with lobbying.

Brawn Versus Brain.

The physical test proposed by leading democratic senators on the currency measure is ill advised, on several grounds.

It is a form of cloture; and cloture, undisguised, has always been repugnant to the Senate. As The Star has more than once pointed out, when the subject was last seriously considered in the Senate—some twenty years ago—the ablest speech made against cloture was by Mr. Turpie of Indiana, a democrat, and one of the closest and profoundest political students of his day. He fairly put the other side to rout. Why a disguised cloture? Why attempt to accomplish by indirection what has failed by direction?

It is an appeal from reason. Senators who have prepared themselves to discuss the currency in the open should have opportunity to do so on the most advantageous terms. They should have attention for the spoken word as well as for the printed word. Their associates should be present to hear them—not in drowsy plight wishing for bed, but wide awake, and full of interest. And, anyhow, why make such a heavy draft on the physical strength of men who have been hard at work for months, and some of whom are no longer young?

It seeks to bring an important contest to a close not in line with the deserts of the subject, or the previous proceedings. No time has been wasted on the question since the House voted. Eminent democratic senators testify openly to the value of the hearings the Senate committee on banking granted to business men naturally interested in legislative action of so much moment to themselves and all their business connections. Why, then, apply the whip and spur as soon as the committee lets go and the full Senate takes hold?

An answer offered is that the subject has been sufficiently thrashed out; that every senator is ready to vote; that further discussion spells only delay for partisan purposes.

Not much. The same thing was said about the tariff after the House had voted. Why further talk about that? Had not the subject been thrashed out in every national campaign since, and including, that of 1876? Who wanted, who needed, to hear another word? Nobody. The thing to do was to vote. Business was halted and anxious, and every day's delay was costing the country millions of dollars.

All of us see now how important it was that the Senate proceed with caution. Every hour the House tariff bill was in committee and every hour it was under discussion in the open Senate were well bestowed on what in the House shape was immature and dangerous. Haste makes waste; and waste in as momentous a matter as currency revision would be calamitous to the country.

Suffrage and the Balance of Power.

The woman suffragists, now in session in Washington, occupy a position of undeniable strategic strength in the national campaign for country-wide enfranchisement. Possessing the right to vote at all elections in nine of the states, the women come close to holding the balance of power. One of the speakers at last night's meeting, a man of wide experience in political matters, declared that as a result of their solidarity of sentiment and organization the woman voters of this country have it in their power to determine the next presidential election. This may seem a broad statement, and yet when it is remembered that presidential votes will be cast by women in 1916 in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California, Arizona, Kansas and Oregon, with a total of 55 out of a total of 531 electoral votes, it is to be seen that there is a decided force of probability in it. No candidate for the presidency can afford to ignore this element, in its present spirit of determination and the general aloofness of the women from ordinary political affiliations in matters affecting the main issue of the extension of the franchise. It is possible for the women of the nine states in which the full suffrage is now enjoyed to deliver them to any party that declares for suffrage as against one that declares itself in opposition to it or fails to adopt a positively favorable attitude. For in the states where the women have been enfranchised the woman voters, while not perhaps numerically equal to the men, are nevertheless numerous enough to overturn the usual partisan majority. This fact will have an important bearing upon the outcome of the suffrage campaigns in Pennsylvania and New York, which are the next important battle grounds for the equal suffrage cause. If these two states were added to the suffrage list the women would have the vote in states controlling 138 electoral votes, or over 25 per cent. It is idle to doubt the ultimate success of suffrage throughout the United States, either by successive state enfranchisement or by the adoption of a federal constitutional amendment. The women have just made their appeal to the House committee and it remains to be seen how effectively they have argued their cause, or, to state the matter in possibly more practical terms, how potent is the influence they wield as enfranchised voters in nine states that are within the debatable ground of national politics.

President Wilson's attitude on direct primaries indicates a willingness to drop a professor's silk hat into the ring along with any specimen of rough-rider headwear that may happen to be present.

Arctic exploration has lost some of its former public interest, but there is an increasing eagerness to get better acquainted with cold storage conditions.

Release on condition that he shall retire to private life seems to let Zelaya off easy, considering the seriousness of the charge against him.

The statement "War is inevitable" in the majority of cases ranks as a figure speech and not as a declaration of absolute fact.

Poet Laureate Bridges has joined a society for the preservation of purity in English speech. Hexcellent hidea!

Direct primaries would be pretty sure to develop some brilliant displays of heart-to-heart speechmaking talent.

Huerta's activities as a warrior are now largely limited to denying reports that his soldiers have been defeated.

References to Huerta as a man of iron suggest that the metal may be in the nature of scrap-iron.

Street Car Spitting.

In every street car in the city of Washington a sign is conspicuously displayed warning passengers that spitting on any part of the car is an offense punishable by fines. That warning is ignored and the regulation is violated every hour of the day on practically every car. When passengers who have a regard for decency and the laws of sanitation object to this practice they are treated with contempt and on appeal to conductors receive as a rule no effective response. Passengers cannot make arrests themselves and the conductors will not call the police and enter complaints. Consequently the spitting practice prevails, as serious a nuisance as before the warning signs were displayed in token of the police-regulation mandate of the Commissioners.

A few arrests and convictions in the Police Court are needed to demonstrate that the signs in the cars mean something. At this time of the year it is particularly important to enforce this law, for windows are closed, ventilation in the cars is bad and just now the crowds are dense. The conditions are ideal for the spread of disease and it is a fact that needs no argument that diseases of the pulmonary organs are most freely spread through public spitting.

It would only be necessary to put a few street clothes men in the street cars of the city to round up an impressive array of spitting-rule violators. Apparently something of the sort is needed to give force to the law. Without it, in the present state of things, the signs might just as well be taken down and the regulation repealed. At times the Washington street cars are in a disgraceful condition as a result of this filthy habit and even if they were thoroughly scoured at the end of each day—which there is good reason to believe they are not—they would remain a menace to the public health. Enforce the rule and scour the cars and the sickness rate in Washington will be lowered.

A new style of pessimism has been developed in the man who insists on asking about the price of eggs whether he wants to buy any or not.

The unusual climate makes it clear that when a small boy mentions skates as a holiday gift he means roller skates.

A certain reluctance seems to hover in the mind of Porfirio Diaz concerning invitations to a farewell tour in Mexico.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Starting a Boycott.

"So you don't believe in Santa Claus?"

"Not if I can help it," replied the sturdy youngster. "He's the fellow who brought nothing but useful gifts to our house last year."

Melancholy Days.

"Don't you feel melancholy when autumn days are gray and chill?" asked the poetic young woman.

"No," replied the square-jawed young man. "What makes me melancholy is to be prepared for gray, chill weather days and then experience week after week of muggy warmth."

The Neglected Sage.

Should you attain to knowledge great,
A certain sadness will befall;
You can't get any one to wait
And listen while you tell it all.

Reminiscences of Opulence.

"Were you ever arrested before?" asked the magistrate.

"Why, judge," replied Plodding Pete. "didn't I tell you I had seen better days? Nobody could own as many automobiles as I used to without getting arrested every once in a while.

Hunting Trouble.

"Bliggins is a terrible man to hunt trouble."

"What is agitating him now?"

"He is worrying about the income tax he will have to pay if he ever gets an income big enough to be taxed."

Miss December.

Howdy, Miss December! I hopes you's feelin' fine.
You allus seemed to be a mos' partic'lar friend o' mine.
When you steps along de roadway in de sunshine or de snow
You calls attention to de place where Christmas trees done grow.

You walks into de parlor an' de white folks wears a smile
An' learns to say, "Jes keep de change," wif an engagin' smile.
You walks into de kitchen an' de fire begins to roar
An' forty kinds o' perfume hangs around de oven door.

So, howdy, Miss December! You is lookin' mighty gay.
We's allus glad to meet you when you travels roun' dis way.
You doesn' bring much sunshine, like some months dat we has known,
But you shows us how to manufacture sunshine of our own.

People Like Luxury.

From the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

When four-wheeled carriages made their appearance in Spain in the days of Ferdinand and Isabella it was confidently predicted that they would bring the country to ruin. So strong did this conviction become that a statute was enacted prohibiting certain and divers persons from recklessly spending their hard-earned savings for carriages. It was the judgment of the wise men of that time that people were likely to spend their money foolishly for luxuries and in this manner bring upon themselves want for actual necessities unless they were curbed by rigorous laws. Today we have the same problem in the auto world. And the wise ones are seeking to devise ways and means of preventing people from mortgaging their homes for the purchase price of a joy wagon. Human nature seems to change but little with passing centuries. Roosevelt said every reform has its "lunatic fringe." So it seems every generation has a similar fringe.

The Stock Exchange's New Start.

From the Newark News.

The action of the New York Stock Exchange in having a special committee bring in a report looking to closer supervision of corporations with more frequent and fuller statements of condition with the idea of extending the protection which the public have a right to expect in dealings to which they are supposedly invited from the corporate wares offered for sale at the exchange is a too long delayed and very gratifying procedure. It is something which ought to have been done long ago. If it had been, several securities listed on the exchange, the trading in which has resulted in scandals, would not have been placed there until they had been better understood, and, if not made more secure, in all likelihood, would not have been listed. The fly in the ointment of the present plan is that the new ruling is not to be retroactive. If it isn't applied to every security listed it will not amount to much.

No Speeding for Mail Trucks.

From the New York Tribune.

In adopting the ordinance depriving the automobile mail trucks of all special privileges the board of aldermen took the only course possible. The postal authorities to the contrary notwithstanding, there is no reason, in logic or fact, why these huge vehicles should have a right to unlimited speed or more laxity of control than any other vehicle in the city's streets. Their record has proved to the consternation and grief of the public that their drivers, and the contractors back of them, need the restraint of law. If more time has to be allowed for their trips the business of the country won't go to smash. About the only thing injured will be the post office officials' opinion of the importance of their routine duties. And compared with human lives that doesn't look very big to this community.

The Oyster Pirate.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The oyster pirate, like the reckless woodcutter, has no thought for the future. His thought is only for the season. The holding in reserve of oyster beds in order that the oyster may multiply and return a thousandfold the temporary care of the young he regards as an assault upon his rights to gather the bivalve wherever he chooses. He should have no mercy from the law. The oyster should be protected at all costs, and both state and federal governments can use their powers to no better purpose than in warding off all risk of its extinction.

Great in Little Things.

From the Baltimore Sun.

George Washington's surveying done 150 years ago with the comparatively simple instruments of the day has been checked up by government surveyors of today and found perfect. Experts in other lines might check up other works and qualities of his—his patriotism, his common sense, his foresight, his persistence—and find pretty nearly the same degree of excellence. Washington was only nineteen years old when he ran his lines through the forests and over the hills of Lord Fairfax's estate in Virginia. But the youth was father to the man.