

**ROBT. MAXWELL,**  
Mason and Builder, Valuator  
and Appraiser.

**Brick, Lime, Stone,  
Tile, and Plaster  
Work.**

General Jobbing Promptly and Neatly

Office 18 Sydney Street.  
Res. 285 Union St. Tel. 232.

**Butt & McCarthy,**

MERCHANT TAILORS

66 GERRARD STREET,  
ST. JOHN, N. B.

Next Canadian Bank of Commerce

**Rich'd Sullivan & Co.**

Wines and Liquors

Wholesale only

AGENTS FOR

WHITE HORSE CELLAR SCOTCH

WHISKY,  
LAWSON'S BLEND,  
GEO. SAYER & CO'S FAMOUS COG-

NAC BRANDIES,  
PABST MILWAUKEE LAGER BEER.

44 & 46 Dock St.

**HOTELS**

**The ROYAL**

Saint John, N. B.

RAYMOND & BOHRTY.

PROPRIETORS

**Victoria Hotel**

121 and 123 Street  
ST. JOHN, N. B.

Electric passenger elevator and all modern

improvements.

D. W. McCormick, Proprietor.

**Felix Herbert Hotel**

EDMUNDSTOWN, N. B.

Sample Rooms, Light, Stable, Good

Comfortable Rooms and Good Table.

Free High class trains.

Reduced Prices.

J. M. BIRCH, Proprietor.

**FREDERICKSON'S LEADING HOTEL**

IS THE

**BARKER HOUSE**

QUEEN STREET.

Centrally located, large new sample

rooms, private bath, electric lights

and hot water heating throughout.

I. V. MONAHAN, Proprietor.

**WAVERLY HOTEL**

FREDERICTON, N. B.

The best \$10.00 a day hotel in

New Brunswick. Some of our best

rooms \$1.50 per day. Electric lights

and steam heat throughout.

JOHNSTON and DEWEAR, Prop.

Regent St. Fredericton, N. B.

## SEVEN MAGIC NUMBER OF LIFE FOR CENTURIES

Figures in Births and Deaths  
and Many Other Affairs of  
Human Importance -- Influ-  
ence is Widespread.

HOLDS UNIQUE AND  
COMMANDING POSITION

Away back in the dim and shadowy past, when man, long armed and crooked legged, was the weakest animal that trod the earth; before even he had learned the use of weapons to defend his life to the cave; when he skulked in terror through the primeval forest and slept sitting, elbows on his knuckled knees and long claws in his hands clasped over his head as a protection from wind and rain, he began to have a faint conception of number. He had no use for the concrete things that the seven stood for that he should regard it with awe that but little diminished has come down to us?

Superstition and Science Meet. Notion of superstition and solid science meet and mingle in the magic seven. The seven visible ages of earth's creation may be tinged with preconceived ideas from the account in Genesis, the seven days of man may be an arbitrary division deferring to superstition; but the fact that nations and races that have never heard of or reject the magic account regulate their daily lives in weekly cycles of seven days shows that this number has a universal and unique importance in the life of man.

Even the statistic influences in the human family run in cycles of seven. One in seven of the births has eyes of a color different from the parental, and bears the optical hue of a remote ancestor.

Religious creed cannot overcome the influence of the magic number. In both Protestant and Catholic France seven per cent of the births are illegitimate.

In the artificial epochs that the necessities of society have established in the life of man, the number seven holds a conspicuous place. Infants are held to be incapable of a knowledge of "good and evil" or a contributing to their own support until seven years of age, and the male does not come into the full dignity and responsibility of manhood till three times seven.

A citizen cannot become President until he is five times seven years of age; in most States seven years open adverse and peaceable possession gives a title to real estate, a "homestead" is allowed seven years to "prove up" and twice seven months to commute a cash entry.

Morals and Affections. The moral and affections of the human body seem dominated by the insidious, insistent seven. A tendency to crime is greatest at four times seven, when the greatest stature is reached; at nine times seven, in the fact of the strongest circumstantial evidence the accused was acquitted in a French court for the reason that his life had been blameless until that age; it was held that a man would not fall after nine times seven years of exemplary life.

The average physical strength of woman is seven-eighths that of man and her tendency to crimes by violence, compared to that of man, is in the same ratio. When driven to the awful extremity of self-destruction one-seventh as many women as men commit suicide by violent means. Women's chances in the national lottery are greatest at three times seven years, then decrease until seven times seven, when they practically cease.

The great American lakes are subject to a tidal ebb and flow at intervals of seven years, the cause of which has so far defied solution, but the years of highest and lowest water are seasons of greatest rainfall in the "lake region."

In the practical sciences seven holds a commanding position. When a land surveyor wishes to retrace a line of which the variation is lost or unknown he has recourse to "the rule of seven." For one-fourth mile, twice the number of links, in error, minus one-seventh, is the correction. For one-half mile, the number of links in error, minus one-seventh, is the correction. The number of tons of rails required to lay a mile of track is found by multiplying the weight per yard by eleven and divided by seven and where there is a double "turnout" from the main track the number of the middle "frog" is seventeenth that of the middle two.

Lumbermen Use Seven. When a sawyer wishes to know the size of the largest square timber that he can cut from a log he multiplies the diameter by seven and divides by one figure; when he wishes to find the smallest log from which to cut a given size square piece without loss he divides the side of the piece by seven to get the diameter; the side of a square is seven-eighths its diagonal, and the circumference of a circle is for all practical purposes three and one-seventh times the diameter. But while the "magic number" lends its aid readily to the solution of problems constantly arising in daily life, it repels familiarity in the form of figure puzzles. It is easy to ascertain

## BATTLE AGAIN RESUMED IN GREAT BRITAIN

Christmas Lull Over and Political Combatants Return to Field--The Results as Fore-shadowed by Unionist Organ

9,000 SPEAKERS  
TO TAKE STUMP

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Stewart Lyon cables the Globe from Manchester as follows: The political truce officially ended today, when, in front of a store containing a tariff reform display of goods made abroad to be sold in Britain, protectionists started to hammer the new gospel into the unbelieving free trader. The police put a stop to the argument. The incident was only one evidence of a revival of the tariff reform propaganda all over the cotton manufacturing region, where it is undoubtedly making some headway. The Morning Post today abandons the theory that the tariff reform is intended to be pleasing to overseas dominions. It says it is simply folly to suggest that the United Kingdom candidates and supporters sacrifice in order to buy the support of the other members of the Empire.

Unionists Positions. The Standard gives the positions of Unionists candidates as follows:—All constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales are now provided with Unionist candidates with the exception of the following:—Durham (Mid.), Durham (Houghton), Le-Springs, Leicestershire, Bosworth, Cardigan (Horseham), Staffordshire (Horseshoe), Kirkcaldy, Oxford (Horseshoe), Reading (South), Hampshire (South), Kensington (South), George's, Hanover Square, Birmingham (West), Wigan, Bury, St. Edmunds, Durham City, Grantham, Sussex (Horseham), Staffordshire (Horseshoe), Oxford University, Glasgow and St. Andrew's Universities.

There are eight constituencies in which the Liberal candidates are likely to endanger what they would be safe Unionist seats. The constituencies are:—Dorchester, Marylebone (East), Bristol (North), Canterbury, Lincoln, Reading (North), University (2 seats), Holderness (York), Southampton and two members constituency, there are three Unionist seats, only one Radical. Defeat the exertions of the Liberal party chiefs to adopt three cornered contests by the adoption of both Liberal and Labor candidates, they have been successful in more than a dozen cases. Such a division of forces is threatened in seventy-six constituencies, six in London, fifty-two in the provinces, three in Wales and fifteen in Scotland.

London Safe. In a modest article the Morning Post expresses the view that London and the home counties are safe. It estimates that the following will be the result of the elections: Unionists, 278; Liberals, 269; Nationalists, 88; Labor, 49. The Morning Post editorially thinks the raising of the constitutional issues has been a failure and urges the Unionists to bring a tariff reform to the front vigorously on every occasion. The victory, it says, will be assured.

The news thinks the Liberal prospects in London are much brighter than they were a month back. The Liberal has withdrawn his candidature in East Manchester and the socialist has dropped out from South Bristol, thus leaving straight party fights in these political constituencies. The editor of the Manchester Guardian refuses to accept an unnamed Canadian minister's repudiation of his alleged attack on Lansdowne and the Unionist policy, and says his article is a perfectly correct statement of the views held and expressed by the Canadian minister. The Morning Post says nothing could be more fatal to the harmony of the Empire than the growth of a habit of interference in each other's affairs. It refuses to accept the assurances of the Guardian that the interview is genuine, and quotes Lansdowne's former use in favor of preference. It says that if a Canadian minister had expressed any opinions at the same time on the merits of the tariff reform, it would have been a fair and reasonable statement.

Contentions in each party still show a reluctance to end the Christmas truce. Balfour is almost crestfallen and able to be about again, but will exercise great care in not contracting a fresh cold in view of his New Year's campaign which includes Hanley, January 4; Ipswich, January 6; Aberdeen, January 10; York, January 12; Bradford, January 15; Trowbridge, January 18.

Lansdowne winds up the campaign of the peers at Liverpool on January 5, Salisbury, January 7. Surveying the field as a whole, 9,000 speakers will be at work continually during the next twenty days, the total number of speeches being 274,000, and the words spoken 1,756,000,000. The seven million voters will receive at least 16,000,000 election addresses and 16,000,000 personal calls.

By inspection if a number is divisible by any of the other digits, but seven refuses to accept any such aid. The only way to find if a number is divisible by seven is to try it. Back to the man whose fiftieth number was filled with dreams of the magic number we look in vain for a solution. It is the most potent of the numbers in Holy Writ. The Saviors regarded seven as a sacred number, and the Apocalypse was written for the benefit of "the Seven Churches of Asia." Joy and grief, pain and pleasure were measured by seven.

The seventh heaven was the acme of celestial pleasure; the limit of earthly disaster was when "seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will wear our own apparel!"

## DECLARES COOK IS HIDING IN DISGUISE

Mr. Wake, Explorer's Friend, Says He Feared Plot Against His Life -- Shaved off His Moustache.

ASSUMED NAME  
OF FREDERICK HUNTER

That Dr. Frederick A. Cook, Arctic explorer, regarding whose strange disappearance there has been such mystery, fearing a plot to take his life, shaved his moustache and in disguise left for Europe under the assumed name of Frederick Hunter was the gist of a statement issued by Mr. Charles Wake, of No. 16 East Sixth street, last night. Mr. Wake, who for many years was Dr. Cook's most intimate friend, makes no effort to defend the explorer.

When Mr. Wake last heard from Dr. Cook the explorer was stopping at the Central Hotel in Lisbon, Portugal, and in a cable message, dated December 10 and signed "Frederick Hunter," the explorer asked for the address of Mrs. Cook, who, it had been planned, was to have accompanied Dr. Cook to Europe with the original polar data. The cable message read:—"Where can I reach Marie? Has she my original records?"

Mrs. Cook was then nearing Europe on an Atlantic liner with the polar records in her possession, and Mr. Wake said that he communicated this fact to Dr. Cook by cable.

Sent Him Cable Message. Later, he said, he sent a cable message to Dr. Cook informing him where he would find Mrs. Cook. Since then Mr. Wake has received no word from Dr. Cook and he is sure that the explorer and his wife have not met on the other side.

After describing a conspiracy which he said Dr. Cook believed really existed, Mr. Wake tells how the Cooks urged him to come to meet them in London, and occupy a room adjoining their apartments. He said that to satisfy Dr. Cook he allowed the door connecting the two apartments to remain open during the night.

Several letters were received by Dr. Cook, Mr. Wake said, telling of the alleged plot to destroy his data, even if it was necessary to kill Dr. Cook to gain possession of the documents. Mr. Wake said it was not until he had received letters of a similar nature that he put any faith in the conspiracy story.

Evidence of the plot, as pointed out by Mr. Wake, were the warning letters, the fact that Dr. Cook was constantly followed by spies, or detectives, and that there was a telephone "leak," which made it impossible for either Dr. Cook or himself to communicate over the telephone without other persons hearing their conversations.

Plans Upset by Dr. Cook. After detailing the plan arranged for Mr. Walter Long, Dr. Cook's secretary, to convey only a typewritten copy of the polar records to Copenhagen, while the genuine data was to be taken to Europe by Dr. Cook and his wife, who were to meet Mr. Long at Stettin, Germany, Mr. Wake tells how plans were upset because of Dr. Cook's sudden impulse to flee from the men he believed were shadowing him.

"At the Grand Central Dr. Cook and Mr. Long found the usual array of men waiting to shadow them," Mr. Wake said in explaining the manner of the explorer's flight from New York. They hurried through the crowd and saw a southbound Madison avenue car just getting under way. Dr. Cook suddenly exclaimed: "Here is a chance to get away from them. I am going to take it. Come along. They caught the car just as it was entering the Park avenue tunnel and were certain that the men had been left behind."

They left the car at Thirty-third street and entered the subway. They left the train at Bleeker street, slipping out just before the last door was closed. Mr. Wake said that they were not being shadowed, but that they went to the depot by a circuitous route, and Dr. Cook took a train for Philadelphia. On the way to Jersey City he had his moustache shaved off and exchanged his derby hat for a soft felt hat.

MINISTER INTERPRETS  
FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY  
Paris, Dec. 28.—Replying in the Chamber of Deputies to M. De Pressensac, who urged a more active foreign policy, M. Pichon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, declared that the situation in Europe, thanks to the policy of ententes, was better than for years past. He said that France was forced to face stern realities, not ideas. Her object was, while strengthening her defences, to preserve peace by all means in her power. M. Pichon reviewed the international crisis of the past five years, the Dogger Bank affair, the Persian and Turkish revolutions, the situation in Crete, and other important events, which gave rise to anxiety, and pointed out that the recent agreement with Germany with reference to Morocco had removed a great source of concern, both in France and the whole of Europe. He referred especially to the solution of the Balkan difficulty as a "triumph of ententes." "Our policy in these affairs," said the minister, "was consistent and logical. It aimed at substituting an honorable treatment for butchery action, and the result has raised the applause of Europe." He declared that the republic, while safeguarding the general interests of the country, never lost sight of the cause of humanity.

# Hockey Boots

Men's \$2.00 \$2.25 \$3.50  
Boys' 1.75 2.25  
Youths' 1.50

## Skating Boots

Women's Warm Lined Skating Boots in Kid and Box Calf leather, sizes 5, 5 1-2, 6 1-2, 7. This is a broken lot of Skating Boots that formerly sold at \$2.25

Reduced to \$1.50

Then we have other Skating Boots in regular lines

Women's \$1.75 \$2.50 \$3.00 \$3.50

Girls' 1.40 1.50 1.85 2.25

Let us fit you with a pair, we attach skates free of charge.

FOOT FITTERS **McRobbie** KING STREET

**HUTCHINGS & CO.,**

BEDDING MANUFACTURERS

WIRE MATTRESSES, MATTRESSES,

IRON BEDSTADS, FEATHER

PILLOWS etc.

WHOLESALE and RETAIL

101 to 105 Germain Street.

**Make the Whole Family Glad**

By presenting a **Columbia Graphophone**.

10 p. c. cut for Xmas if you say you saw this ad.

**Maritime Phonograph Co.,**

DOCK STREET, SAINT JOHN

**ELECTRIC**

NOVELTIES

FOR

CHRISTMAS

PRESENTS

ALEX W. THORNE,

Electrical Contractor.

678 Main Street, St. John, N. B.

Phone Main 2344-11.

**ACT WISELY**

Get a PIANO for New Years

When you make an investment such as a Piano or Organ, see to it that you buy from the firm who in thirty-six years of upright dealing have sold in the Maritime Provinces over

14,000 PIANOS and ORGANS

The firm who do not countenance any FAKE SCHEMES, who GIVE DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR VALUE. This is

**The W. H. JOHNSON CO., Ltd.,**

Market Square, - ST. JOHN, N. B.

HALIFAX, SYDNEY, NEW GLASGOW.

controlling THE GERHARD HEINTZMAN, THE BRINSMEAD, MARTIN O'NEILL and other standard pianos and organs. Leading talking machines, records and musical instruments.

We have a few slightly used pianos and organs at BARGAIN PRICES.

Open every evening from 7 to 9.30 till Christmas.

**WOODSTOCK LODGE**

INSTALLS OFFICERS

**NEW C.P.R. DISPATCHING**

SYSTEM WORKS WELL

Montreal, Dec. 28.—The C.P.R. telephone system for the despatch of trains between Winnipeg and Brandon is pronounced by the officials to be an unqualified success. The despatcher's telephone sounds a big going, not an ordinary bell, and so there is no chance of a message escaping notice. By this means time is saved.

In case of accidents, anyone can get to the nearest depot and telephone the despatcher's office in Winnipeg. In this way urgent communications can be sent in. There is no telegraph operator "French" as sometimes happens at the stations. The relief Fish, Biggar, Oulsystem is expensive. B. Class III: Fraser, Guilford, Frerick, Ruggles, Bordie, extensy, Windsor, Pickup W. A. man French—Class I: Clark, Williams, Class II: Campbell, Pincock, Cash, Marsters, McTork, Brown, Lucas, Smith, R. Wells, Mosher C. Hanselbacher, McQueen, Bent B. E. at.

Calgary For Connaught.

Calgary, Dec. 28.—The Canadian Club is sending a petition to the Home Government asking that the Duke of Connaught be appointed the next Governor General of Canada.

Woodstock, N. B., Dec. 28.—The following officers of Woodstock Lodge No. 11, A. F. and A. M., were installed by Donald Munro, P. D. G. M., assisted by W. Bro. John McLaughlin acting as director of ceremonies, on the evening of Saint John's Day. After the ceremonies of installation the members partook of refreshments at the Royal Cafe.

Brother Charles A. Peabody, Worshipful Master; Brother Raymond M. Gabel, Senior Warden; Brother Albert G. Biddle, Junior Warden; Brother Hubert A. Seely, F. M. Chaplain; Brother Williamson Fisher, Treasurer; Brother Donald Munro, P. D. G. M.; Secretary; Bro. E. Kennerly, Councillor; Senior Deacon; Brother Wallace Gibson, Junior Deacon; Brother William Skillen, Senior Steward; Brother Dr. Morton G. McLean, P. M.; Director of Ceremonies; Brother George A. S. Howard, Organist; Brother Thomas R. Gabel, Inner Guard; Brother Emerson L. Hagerman, P. M.; Tyler; Brother Dr. N. P. Grant, Junior Steward.

Mr. R. P. Pearce, for the past ten years manager here of the London Life Insurance Company has been promoted to the head office of the company at London, Ontario. The new appointment dates from January 1st. Mr. Pearce will be succeeded as manager in this territory by Mr. W. B. Sceriff, who has been his assistant.

In the Police Court.

The police court yesterday Frederick Watson, reported by I. C. R. Police Officer Smith for violating the rules governing coachmen at the I. C.

## News of a Day

**Three Children Burned.**  
Pratt, Kan., Dec. 28.—While Mrs. Henry Blanton was across the street talking to a neighbor yesterday, she looked at her home to see if a mass of fire with her three children inside burning to death. It was impossible to save the children after the flames were discovered.

**Steamer Abandoned.**  
Hamburg, Dec. 27.—The German freight steamer Capua with her crew of twenty-three, has been given up for lost. The vessel belonged to the Sio-man Line and sailed from this port for Genoa on December 1. She was last sighted two days later. The Capua was built at Glasgow in 1889 and registered 1,282 tons net.

**Two Killed.**  
Cobalt, Ont., Dec. 28.—A most distressing accident occurred yesterday morning at the plant of the Cobalt Hydraulic Power Company on the Montreal River, two men engaged on the shaft, falling to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of three hundred feet and being instantly killed. Thomas Henderson, of Cobalt, was one of the men killed, while the other man's name has not been learned as yet.

**Navy Applicants.**  
Sydney, Australia, Dec. 28.—Defence Minister Cook, commenting on Canada's naval action, said the whole position here was being patiently and thoroughly worked out. He was considering the advisability of asking for the privilege of having their permanent men for the new unit trained on vessels of the present squadron. There was no dearth of applications for positions in the Australian navy.

**Real Estate Deal.**  
Montreal, Dec. 28.—The New York Life building, on Place d'Arms Square, one of the largest downtown office buildings has changed hands and although the name of the syndicate making the purchase have not been disclosed it is stated on good authority that the transfer is in the interests of the Quebec Bank. That institution now occupies a portion of the ground floor of its Montreal branch. The purchase price is said to be \$360,000.

**Attempt At Robbing.**  
Wolfeville, Dec. 28.—On Saturday night or early Sunday morning a daring attempt was made to rob the D. A. R. Club here. The burglars succeeded in blowing off the outer door of the safe, but the inner door remained intact, and as the noise of the explosion had alarmed many people, the robbers were compelled to make off without securing any booty. They were evidently experienced cracksmen. The safe is understood to have contained a considerable sum of money.

**A Cook Cues.**  
London, Ont., Dec. 28.—A traveller who arrived in this city yesterday en route to Detroit and whose hand grip was marked F. A. Cook, M. D., excited a good deal of curiosity at the Grand Trunk station as he was believed to be no other than Dr. Cook of North Pole notoriety. The man came here on the Toronto train. He disembarked at the Toronto train. He disembarked at the Toronto train.

**Promotions.**

Mr. R. P. Pearce, for the past ten years manager here of the London Life Insurance Company has been promoted to the head office of the company at London, Ontario. The new appointment dates from January 1st. Mr. Pearce will be succeeded as manager in this territory by Mr. W. B. Sceriff, who has been his assistant.

In the Police Court.

The police court yesterday Frederick Watson, reported by I. C. R. Police Officer Smith for violating the rules governing coachmen at the I. C.

## LOCAL

R. depot, on the 23rd inst., pleaded guilty and was fined \$2.

**Two Slight Fires.**

A fire in Carleton Masonic Hall was discovered beneath the flooring at noon yesterday and the West Side Department was called out. A stream of water soon extinguished the blazes, which had burnt through one of the joists. An alarm was also rung in about the same time for a slight fire in the house, occupied by Mr. A. S. Hart, 25 Coburg street. It was caused by some clothes in front of a stove and was quickly extinguished.