

WHISKARD'S

228, 230, 232 DUNDAS STREET.
LONDON'S RECOGNIZED CHEAPEST STORE.

New Year's. Useful Presents For Gift Giving.

After all it's the practical and sensible presents that delight. Trinkets please for a little while only. Take yourself for an illustration. Would you not feel better satisfied if someone gave you something serviceable and durable? Just think how welcome

A Nice Dress, A Sateen Quilted Skirt,
A Beautiful Silk Drape, Half Dozen Nice Handkerchiefs,
WOULD BE FOR A LADY.
A Tie, A Fine Undershirt,
A Pair of Gloves, or Half a Dozen Silk Handkerchiefs
FOR YOUR GENTLEMAN FRIEND.

These Are Very Special Millinery Values.

And there are plenty more in the Millinery Department. You can see conclusively from these that we are under-selling all others. We have thrown nearly all our Ladies Felt Hats, trimmed and untrimmed, at the one price, a big bargain,

29c EACH.

Beautiful Trimmed Hat, velvet and leather bound, ostrich tips, etc., worth \$3, our price \$1.69. No use paying the high price that is generally charged for trimmed hats of this kind when you can get them at WHISKARD'S at these prices. Call and see our Millinery. It will be a revelation to you in prices. Beautiful bunches of Fancy Quills, cheap at 25c, for 10c.

RIBBONS AT LESS THAN HALF PRICE.

These Prices and Goods Call Out Loud Enough to be Seen, Call and See Them.

Fine Lawn Apron Stuffs, fancy open work, worth 25c, for 10c.
Fancy Cushion Covers, back and front, only 10c.
Seventeen yards 32 inch Flannellette, \$1.
Heavy Fancy Red and Black Flannellette, reg. 12c, for 10c yard.
Large Size Towel Rings, 3 for 2c.
Ladies' Ringwood Gloves, special, worth 25c, for 15c pair.
Twelve dozen China Shit Buttons, for 3c.
Knife, Fork and Spoon in case, 15c.
Boys' Jack-Knife, 10c.
Twelve Long Hat Pins, 5c.
Tortoiseshell Hair Darts, 1c each.
Fancy Stock Pins, 10c each.
Six Large Cakes of Soap for 10c.

WESTERN CANADA NOTES.

Interesting Budget from the North- west and British Columbia.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 30.—Officers and passengers of the S.S. Victoria from the Orient say that all is excitement on the other side of the Pacific. People are walking of life expect that there will be a clash among the great powers over the seizure of different ports in China. The fleets of each nation have been massed in readiness either to fight or to make a show. The British flag ship Centurion, at Hong Kong, has been ordered to begin no work that will occupy more than 24 hours. Japanese vessels are anxious for Great Britain to make some move, but advise Japan to be prudent, and simply watch the progress of events. The German admiral, in a proclamation to the residents of the district, seized by Germany, advises them to continue their peaceful avocations, as any breaches of the law will be punished.

Nine of the Chinese bandits who took part in the murder of the Chinese priest at Yen Chau Fu, which Germany gave as a cause for the seizure of Kiau-chau Bay, have been apprehended, and much of the plunder has been recovered.

Capt. Debnay, of the steamer City of Pueblo, reports that on the way north from San Francisco he sighted a lumber-laden bark ashore a few miles south of Cape Lottery. He signalled, but got no answer. The bark was seemingly abandoned. Heavy seas were running. The tug Sea Lion was met in the Straits, and being told of the wreck went to the scene.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 30.—Mayor McCreary entertained the aldermen and city officers to a dinner last night. The gathering proved most enjoyable, and was a pleasing and fitting conclusion to the year's Council business.

At a meeting of the advisory committee of the School Board a resolution was passed to the effect that hereafter no certificate, other than those granted in Manitoba or the North-west Territories, would be recognized by the Board. Up to the present time the Board has held out inducements to eastern teachers by granting certificates without examination.

John Kasekano, the Indian who rescued six white children from a burning frame house near St. Ann's, during the

prairie fires in the fall, at the imminent risk of his life, is about to receive a bronze medal from the Royal Humane Society for his bravery. Lieut. Governor Patterson will make the presentation.

THE HUNTSVILLE TRAGEDY.

The Jury Find That James Rankin Came to His Death From a Wound Inflicted by His Nephew Walter Frankum.

Huntsville, Ont., Dec. 30.—The inquest into the death of James Rankin was resumed last night in the court house. The father and wife of deceased were present. The evidence brought out showed that the sister of the deceased, Margaret Stevens, had an altercation with him, during which she ordered her son to get the gun. He did so, and after some further quarrelling, shot his uncle in the leg, between the knee and ankle, from the effects of which he died. Doctors who held a post-mortem examination on the body gave evidence to the effect that all organs of the body were in a healthy state, and that death resulted from acute gangrene, which they had tried to stop by the amputation of the leg, but in vain. The jury, after duly considering the evidence, brought in a verdict that Rankin came to his death from a wound caused by a shot from a gun in the hands of Walter Frankum, with intent to do grievous bodily harm, being influenced thereby by his mother, Margaret Stevens. Walter Frankum and Mrs. Stevens will now be brought before a justice of the peace to answer the charges above stated.

THE LIBERAL REVOLT.

Members of the Party in Caucus at Montreal—Will Sir Richard Have to Go?

Montreal, December 30.—Several of the Liberal members of the Montreal district held a caucus this afternoon to discuss the political situation, and to discuss means to secure better representation and more patronage from the Dominion Government for the district.

The Star (independent) says of the political situation:—The latest rumor about the cabinet is that Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere is to follow Sir Oliver Mowat to a lieutenant-governorship. The next rumor will probably be to get rid of Sir Richard Cartwright, the strongest, ablest and most respected man in the government. Sir Richard will certainly not condescend to come of the railway deals now said to be in course of preparation, and his opposition to them will probably determine who is to have the upper hand in the councils of the Premier. Sir Wilfrid, everybody believes, would rather do right than wrong, but he appears to be very much under the control of his associates, and is, in fact, the last man's man. It is to Sir Richard Cartwright that the country chiefly looks for vigorous opposition to the government, and incidentally to wreck the government.

DEATH OF COL. HAGAR.

Wauseon, Ohio, Dec. 30.—Colonel W. D. Hagar, who was one of the managers of the national convention of the Populist party, died of pneumonia at his home here, after a long illness, at the age of 65.

BURKING INVESTIGATION.

The Piggery Revelations Alarm the Government,

AND IN SPITE OF PROMISES.

It Denies Mr. St. John Fair Play in the Committee.

THE MATTER BROUGHT UP IN THE HOUSE.

But Mr. Hardy Objects to Allowing Mr. St. John to Proceed with His Statement, and is Upheld by the Speaker—Proceedings in the Public Accounts Committee and the Legislature.

Special from Our Own Correspondent.

Press Gallery, Legislative Assembly, Toronto, Dec. 30.—The meeting of the Public Accounts Committee this morning is worthy of more than passing mention. The Government gave the lie direct to their own promises and placed themselves in a lie which is not redeemed any more favorable by the evidence produced at the session.

The first witness called was Mr. W. F. Harris, who bought the hogs sold from the cold storage at the Central Prison. This witness, to Mr. Davis, said he was a buyer of dressed hogs and handled about five hundred a week. He arranged with Mr. Hunter, the government's buyer, for the purchase of these hogs. There were ninety-seven of them, and he paid for them 5 1/2 cents per lb. He personally had inspected the hogs. They were all weighed, and he had been there and saw them. He had seen no hogs that were cut off that in any way showed any signs of disease. He had not known of any disease in the Hunter piggery when he bought the hogs. Not for some time afterward did he hear of the cholera outbreak. The hogs he bought were taken to his cold storage at the Central Prison, and he did not think that any butcher would buy hogs from which chunks of meat had been cut out.

When Mr. Harris left the chair the row began, and the remainder of the session was a regular bear garden, with plenty of lively side-scrapes across the table.

Dr. Sweetapple said that when they examined the hogs (he and Dr. Smith) they spent about an hour and a half at it. One hog was cut open and examined. Time, 30 minutes. Another was opened. Time, 30 minutes. They killed a hog and opened it. The rest of the time was spent in looking into the pens at the piggery and did not touch any of the swine in this inspection. They saw twelve diseased hogs, and there must have been some sick ones they did not see. As for the Central Prison:—He went there Monday and examined a number about forty, he thought. He saw one that was very bad. The next morning he went out to the prison, but the hogs had come and gone before he reached there. Dr. Sweetapple said that a hog might have had hog cholera, but an expert could not tell it from the dressed carcass without the entrails.

After Dr. Sweetapple retired, the row began in earnest. Mr. St. John wanted Newton examined if the Government were going to cross-examine him. Mr. Davis wanted Mr. Hunter called, and Messrs. Garson and Gorman supported him.

Mr. Kidd, who seldom interferes in discussion, most energetically and logically took the Government to task for their procedure in committee in calling their own witnesses when the Opposition had men ready and on motion of Mr. Gorman, Mr. Hunter was called to testify.

By a vote of 13 to 8 the Government was sustained. Mr. St. John declared that he would drop the case in committee, and despite the house, and the Conservative members retired from the room.

IN THE HOUSE.

This afternoon there was a large attendance of members in the House. Many would already be en route for home, but the removal of the famous piggery case from the committee to the House kept them here to await developments.

At 4 o'clock Mr. St. John rose, and, upon a question of privilege, began a speech, pointing out how the Government had just challenged the Opposition to prove anything they had made. Then, upon the Opposition endeavoring to do so, the Government had balked them in their desire. He wished especially to refer to the Public Accounts Committee, and the treatment accorded him in his attempt to prove the charges he had made. He rectified how the Government had insisted upon calling their own witnesses in the committee instead of calling the evidence which he wished to bring in. Mr. St. John kept on along this line till he made it uncomfortably hot for the Government, and the Attorney-General rose to a point of order and declared Mr. St. John from introducing any more charges in the House under the sanction of anything that occurred in committee.

The very evident object of the Government is to prevent any fair play being given to the Opposition in this matter. Let us make the position of affairs perfectly clear. The Government has a First—The Government on the floor of the House calls the Opposition to make charges against the House, and the Opposition is to make the charges. Second—The Government dare the Opposition to prove any charges they have made, or can make, against the Government.

Third—Mr. St. John springs a surprise party in the story of how cholera diseased pigs were sold to the public by the Government's officials.

Fourth—Mr. St. John is told that he cannot substantiate what he has said in the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. St. John endeavors to make assertions which he cannot verify.

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mittee the Government insist on calling their own witnesses instead of Mr. St. John's.

Seventh—The Conservatives leave the committee and promise to appeal to the House.

Now, another point to show the piggery measures of the Government to prevent the facts of the case going abroad, when Mr. St. John rose to speak to a question of privilege, he stated plainly that whether this was with his right or not, he desired to speak with regard to the Public Accounts Committee. The Attorney-General's silence took a color was given at this point, but he waited until Mr. St. John got fairly started, and then, with a great show of improvisation, realization of what was going on, dramatically broke in upon him.

This was not all. The Speaker ruled against Mr. St. John, referring to the rule as a very elementary rule.

Other business transacted was of trivial importance and the House adjourned on Tuesday afternoon.

KLONDYKE RELIEF.

AN INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITION TO THE GOLD FIELDS.

To be Composed of North-west Mounted Police and U. S. Troops—Arrangements Agreed to by Mr. Sifton.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Assistant Secretary McKeljohn to-day presented Mr. Clifford Sifton, the Canadian Minister of the Interior, to the President. Mr. McKeljohn greeted Mr. Sifton with cordiality, but did not discuss with him in any manner the object of his visit. Later Mr. Sifton took lunch at the British embassy. He had an engagement to meet Secretary Gage at three o'clock on business concerning Canadian relations, after which Mr. McKeljohn will present him to Secretary Bliss, if the latter should return in time from New York. Later in the day he will see Secretary Alger, and at this conference it is expected some conclusion may be reached regarding the facilities Canada will extend the expedition for the relief of the miners in the Klondyke country.

After the luncheon at the embassy, Mr. Sifton accompanied by Assistant Secretary McKeljohn called upon Attorney-General McKenna and Secretary of the Treasury Gage. The visit was mostly one of courtesy, but in the course of Mr. Sifton's visit to both these Cabinet officers the question of the Klondyke relief expedition was discussed. Mr. Sifton, in a general way, expressed the opinion that the Canadian Government would be glad to render any aid in its power to the Government in getting a relief expedition into the Klondyke, but expressed his belief that there was not likely to be great suffering among the miners.

Mr. Sifton, however, still open lack of food. This opinion he expressed upon the information in possession of the Canadian Government. He did not think, however, that there might be severe suffering on account of the excessive cold, as a large proportion of the miners had been supplied with food last summer were unacquainted.

McGovern, Mr. Sifton is not sanguine that a relief expedition sent by the Government could be successful.

The Canadian Government, with all the facilities in its possession, has not yet been able to get in 25 tons of provisions despatched some time ago.

He pictured in a gloomy way the mine, thinking of the driving reindeer through the narrow defiles and passes over the snow and ice. Mr. Sifton, in his talk with Secretary Gage, referred briefly to the question of duties on miners' supplies, but nothing significant was said on each side as far as could be learned.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, sent an official communication to-day to the Secretary of State, announcing that the British Government will permit the detachment of the United States army accompanying the expedition to cross British territory in making the trip. The detachment will be accompanied by a representative of the Canadian Government.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—The arrangement effected between Mr. Sifton, Minister of Canada, and the War Department, contemplates that the relief expedition shall be executed jointly by the United States and Canadian forces of the mounted police of Canada, which constitutes the military arm of the Dominion. The United States forces will proceed with the relief stores to Skaguay, where they will be joined by the Canadian mounted police, and from there the expedition will proceed to the points where the relief is to be distributed. The detachment of the Canadian forces will still open the route to Skaguay, on the Yukon River, and the Canadian officials concede much latitude to the American authorities in the actual distribution, recognizing that the expedition is fitted out on this side, although a considerable part of its work will be done on the Canadian side.

Mr. Sifton also held a conference with Secretary Gage and discussed the unsatisfactory condition of customs regulations along the border and at coast ports, where goods are being carried by one country for transportation to the other country. It was the mutual feeling that an improvement of the system could be made, and negotiations are in progress, which are hoped to effect changes advantageous to both sides. Mr. Sifton left for Ottawa at 4 p. m.

Mr. Sifton says that the only practicable route to Dawson City is what is known as the White Pass, or commonly called the lake route, commencing at Skaguay, on Lynn Canal. He stated that Canada has 85 men in the territory, and expects to have 50 more at Skaguay on or before January 5th. They have 20 tons of supplies now stored at Skaguay for the transportation over the pass, to which will be added ten tons more within the next 10 days for transportation over the pass.

The Canadian authorities have a post at Lake Bennett, another at Tagish, at which latter place 20 men are stationed, another post at White Horse Rapids and two posts intervening between the latter point and Fort Selkirk. It is the intention of the Canadian Government to have a detachment of 250 men in the territory within the next 30 days. This detachment will be ready to leave Skaguay on the 15th proximo, but the Minister has kindly consented to hold the expedition that they may accompany the expedition of the War Department, which will leave Skaguay on or before February 1st. The Canadian Government has kindly consented to grant to the United States expedition, provided the co-operation cannot be consummated. The Government duties upon all supplies sent in under military control will be waived by the Canadian Government. The Minister was over the pass in October last. He stated that the Government would be very glad to grant to the United States expedition the use of the Canadian territory.

AN IRISH KNIGHT AT BUFFALO.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Sir Henry Lynch Blasse, of Athlone, Castlebar, Ireland, arrived in this city this morning and registered at the Ironsides. He attracted considerable attention in the hotel on account of his appearance. He is at least six feet six inches in height and is well proportioned in his build. He has been in California and is on his way home to Ireland. "I don't know whether I can tell you anything of interest concerning Ireland," said he, "I would like to deny the story printed in the American newspapers recently that the people of Ireland are starving, to death now. Such is not the case. The people are not starving, nor are they on the verge of starvation. The condition of the country is as good as it has been in years. The outlook for home rule in Ireland is very black at present. The Liberal party has practically abandoned it, and I do not think the little island will have home rule for a good many years to come. I think the trouble is that the people are not ready for it yet, and until they are the island won't get it. The people will have to be educated up to the principles of it, and I think that is the only way to get it. I know what they are at present." He said he believed the Local Government Bill would pass at the next session of Parliament.

BILIOUSNESS.

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You know the feeling! The blood seeping on fire with a dull heat; the burning pains in the eyes; the head seeming to open and shut; the horrible nausea. You know the irritable quality which precedes and the languor that follows the attack. It's miserable, isn't it? Why not cure the trouble? There's a pill that will cure biliousness. Dr. J.C. AYER'S PILLS are an acknowledged specific for this derangement.

A. Swanger, Texarkana, Tex., writes: "For fifteen years I have used Ayer's Pills, and find them very effective in bilious complaints. I have yet to see the case where they have failed to cure."

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MISERY AND DEATH.

A DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN CUBA.

Ten Thousand Concentrados Have Died Within the Past Year—Others Dying in Huts, Reduced to Mere Skeletons.

Havana, Dec. 30.—The correspondent of the Madrid Intransigente, who has ridden over a greater part of the island, writes to his paper that he saw at San Jose Lajas, this province, 4,500 reconcentrados thrown into the streets, or dying in wretched huts, mere living skeletons. He states that 10,000 have died within a year. Numbers of the reconcentrados, he says, do not care to work when they leave their homes. They carried with them all their belongings, and have gradually sold these. Their physical strength is wasted, and they need a helping hand to lift them even from the gutter. Several correspondents of El Diario de la Marina describe the horrible misery, due to fevers and sickness, in different parts of the Province of Santa Clara. There many are abandoned without shelter, medicine or medical assistance.

BURNED TO DEATH.

A Southwold Young Woman the Victim—House Destroyed.

Southwold, Dec. 30.—Fire broke out in the farm house of Mr. John Bole about 5 o'clock this morning, in which the house was totally destroyed, and his daughter, Etta, lost her life.

The fire immediately called his daughter, who slept up stairs, and hurried for her room, only to find her lying dead and slightly burned on the floor beside her bed. She appeared to have been suffocated while trying to extinguish the flames. Strange to say the bed which she had just left had not yet caught fire, although the floor and the woodwork around the chimney were burning. How the fire originated is a mystery. Miss Bole was about 23 years of age, and an earnest worker in the Methodist Church. Besides her father and mother she leaves one sister, Mrs. Emerson Davdy, of this place. Nearly all the contents of the house were saved, together with adjoining buildings. Insured in the Southwold Mutual.

FIRE FLASHES.

Sherbrooke, Que., Dec. 30.—This morning a fire broke out at the St. Charles Seminary, a very large Roman Catholic business college, having some 300 students, most of whom are now absent on vacation. At 8 a. m. the fire broke out in the main building, where it started in the top floor, and this will likely be a total loss. It is supposed to have arisen from an explosion in a gas stove. Loss has not yet been estimated.

The fire at the seminary has now been subdued. It was confined to the original and main building. The loss is reported to be about \$10,000. Partly insured.

Kingston, Dec. 30.—During the night the office of L. H. Clark, maltster, was destroyed by fire, with the firm's books and office effects. The building was situated on King street, and was a part of the Moran distillery property.

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RUNIAN & BUTLER

208, 210, 210 1/2 and 212 Dundas Street,

LONDON'S GREATEST STORE

—WILL BE OPEN TILL 10 O'CLOCK
—TO-NIGHT WHEN WE WILL SAY

"Good-bye to '97"

And close the record of a successful year. The store will be closed to-morrow, but next week we'll open up in lively shape with new ambition and new enthusiasm. 1897 has been a good year with us. We're bigger now and better every way than when we started, and because success has come our way in larger measure, we're prepared to be still more liberal with our customers. This is the last store talk of the year. 'We're at the parting of the roads, and 1898 will swing into line before you hear from us again, but to-day will be made particularly interesting in all parts of the Big Store. Here's a few specials:

32-inch Flannellette, beautiful soft finish; light and dark patterns; fast colors; worth 10c, for 7c.

27-inch Pure All-wool Flannel, dark and light shades, plain and twill; worth 25c, for 20c.

White Wool Blankets, fast colored borders; worth \$3.25, for \$2.50.

White Wool Blankets