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THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

(From Saturday's Daily.)
 To-morrow will be Christmas Day, the greatest day of all the year. It is not only the significance of the day as the anniversary of the birth of the Founder of the religious faith of Christendom that stamps the Yuletide festival with a peculiarity not to be found in any of our other holidays. Custom has decreed that this is the season in which we shall forget for a while the cares of business, the weary grind of our daily labor, and give ourselves up unreservedly to pure enjoyment. It is the season for the reunion of families when all gather round the festive board, laden with delicacies, forgetful of the future days of indigestion. We throw dull care away and join with the children in making it the happiest of days. As we meet our friends we wish them happiness, we think happy thoughts, and the result is we are happy. And why not? We all take this old world much too seriously. Life is to most of us a battle with our creditors. We have to earn in order that we may pay. At Christmas time, however, we throw discretion to the winds, draw our salaries, hurry down town and purchase for the ones we love the little useless creations which will help to make both them and us happy. The fact that there is a time of reckoning coming in January never enters our heads. Let January take care of itself. This is the time to be happy. Let us eat, drink and be merry, for there will be plenty of time later to think of paying bills. To-night people who before this, have been unable to make proper provision for the celebration, will almost fight with each other for the privilege of buying the most nonsensical of presents; but to-morrow they will be well repaid when the children find the well-filled stockings, or gather from the evergreen tree the longed-for tokens of the goodwill of parents or friends. That we are paying three times the value of what we are getting never enters into our calculations. We become intoxicated with the pleasure of giving, the only time of year when custom allows us the privilege. It is our polka festival. The time when many give away all they possess just for the joy of giving. We know that this is most of our readers are among the intoxicated ones. We wish them all the happiness of the great and holy season. We hope all will be members of some family circle, where they will vie with the others in increasing the joy of the world. For those who have not already done so, it is not too late to look around among kinsfolk and acquaintances to find out if there is not still one who is perhaps left out in the cold-unprovided for. There may even be a stranger who can be admitted to the inner circle for the one day, thus increasing the pleasure of the rest. To see that there are none compelled to spend the day in solitude and loneliness when good cheer abounds is the very spirit of the season.

ROYAL NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE

The seasonal papers dealing with the Royal Northwest Mounted Police are always interesting. They show the large amount of work which is being done by this fine body of men, covering a vast territory larger than many of the countries of Europe. There are in all 649 men to patrol the whole of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the other territories of the Northwest. The number in the Yukon has been reduced of late owing to the gradual decrease in the population of that territory following the working out of the mines in some districts. But Commissioner Perry says he expects to have to again increase the number, as there are evidences that increased development will take place there.
 Besides doing ordinary work, these men have to a large extent under their control the Indian tribes scattered throughout the territory. They fight fires, act as health officers in preventing the spread of disease and enforce quarantine restrictions. They are also game wardens, having particular charge of the few wood buffalo now remaining in the country. Those patrolling the Mackenzie district go all the way down the Mackenzie river to the Arctic, making periodic visits to Herschel Island. They report on the conditions of the Indians and Eskimos, and make recommendations to the Dominion government as to suitable regulations dealing with those tribes. They also report upon the character of the country, and its possibilities for settlement or other purposes. Nearly all of the men are well educated. They live most of their lives on

horseback, and it is very seldom that they have to use force in dealing with their prisoners. During the year over ten thousand cases were brought to trial by them and over nine thousand convictions secured. The force is looked upon as the model police force of the world.

NAVAL BUILDING IN JAPAN

Like all countries which have a considerable seaboard and are consequently interested in the carrying trade of the world, Japan has its naval question and to-day it is looming large in that country. There is on one hand the extremist party asking for an immense navy, while on the other the men who fear the cost and who want scarcely any navy. The government has taken the middle course and is proposing to spend forty-two million dollars during the next six years with the purpose of keeping the navy in good fighting shape. In making a plea for further expenditures the Japanese newspaper Jiji Shimpo in a recent issue says:

"The plan is indeed imperfect, and it is very doubtful if the Japanese navy will have only nineteen battleships and armored cruisers, while the British navy will contain seventy-eight of such warships, the American navy forty-two, the German navy forty, and the French navy thirty-two. Not only that but it must not be forgotten that ten or more of the principal warships of the Japanese navy which played a prominent part in the Chino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese wars will soon be too old for further service. As any European power having a first-class navy may send about thirty battleships and armored cruisers to the Far East at any time of emergency, the Japanese navy ought to be increased by at least ten or twelve powerful battleships in the seven year period referred to above. This is obvious, if the government desires to guarantee the general peace of Japan and the Far East, as Marquis Katsura says he does." In conclusion, the Jiji Shimpo urges such increased naval development, even if something has to be sacrificed by the Japanese army in the matter of expenditures.

The Kobe Herald, an English newspaper published in Japan, discussing the same subject, doubts if the Japanese have properly considered the financial side of the question. It suggests that there are large expenditures which should be made for ordinary development work and does not think the income from the new tariff will amount to as much as is expected. As a matter of fact none of the countries which are to-day building huge navies can afford to do so. It is done simply because it has become the fashion. Germany and Great Britain are building against each other. France and the United States are building because Germany and Great Britain are doing so; and Japan is building in order to be in the swim with the others. It is a craze which if not stopped will eventually lead to national embarrassment.

LOYAL MR. BARNARD

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his speech on the Address in the House of Commons a few weeks ago, discussing the naval policy of the government, with his usual prescience, said: "In Quebec the policy will be attacked on the ground that it is an Imperial policy; in Ontario and the other English-speaking provinces it will be attacked on the ground that it is a separatist measure." The prophecy of the Prime Minister has been fulfilled already, and the fulfillment has come from the mouth of no less an authority than Mr. George Henry Barnard, the parliamentary representative of Victoria by virtue of a forged telegram. Mr. Barnard, by reason of the infamy attaching to his election, does not stand very high in the esteem of either party at the Dominion capital. Anything he says there carries but little weight. It is therefore only natural that he should come west to give publicity to his opinions, where the only significance that attaches to his utterances is contributed by the chief factor in his detestable offence against public and private morality. Mr. Barnard may, however, gain some prestige from the fact that he is the first to fulfil the prophecy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "In Ontario and the other English-speaking provinces it (the naval policy of the government) will be attacked on the ground that it is a separatist measure." Mr. Barnard is entitled to whatever glory that may attach to the occupation of a position of such evil eminence.
 But we do not think Mr. Barnard has given a satisfactory reason for his vote with the Nationalists of Quebec in opposition to the naval policy of the government. Granting, as he says, that the Liberal party are traitors, and assuming that true loyalty is only found in the heart of George Henry and his ilk, there remains something to be explained. For example, a year or so ago our E. T. M. P. and all the members of the Con-

servative party voted for the following resolution moved by Mr. G. E. Foster: "That in the opinion of this House, in view of her great and varied resources, of her geographical position and national environment, and of that spirit of self-help and self-respect which alone befits a strong and growing people, Canada should no longer delay in assuming her share of the responsibility and financial burden incident to the suitable protection of her exposed coast time and great seaports."

That resolution seems hardly consonant with the position now taken by Mr. Barnard that the construction of a Canadian navy should not be undertaken without first consulting the people through a referendum. The question therefore arises, what caused Mr. Barnard and his party within the short space of a year to swallow that resolution and undertake the next to impossible task of digesting it? And in attempting to account for the effort to turn themselves inside out it may be well to remember that the attitude of the loyal Conservatives was precisely the position of the disloyal Nationalists. Read what one of the leaders of the Nationalists with whom Mr. Barnard voted says:

"We are French-Canadians, not English. French-Canadians will not go down on their knees before the English. They will not have their backbone smashed for them. Vote against Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who wants to buy fifteen million dollars worth of guns." Yet Mr. Barnard, loyalist of the lips, says he voted with these men because the disloyal government did not go far enough and is not proceeding fast enough in taking measures for the naval defence of the country.

So much for the position of the party with which Mr. Barnard has allied himself. What is the position of the government as explained by another French-Canadian from the province of Quebec and a Liberal? Here it is, the speaker being Mr. Beland:

"That is the difference between their navy and our navy?—because everybody is in favor of a navy of some kind, no matter what they may say on occasion. They may say one thing and mean another, but on this side of the House we must tell the truth. Now the law providing for a naval service... says in effect that at a critical moment the Governor in Council of the Canadian government may put the Canadian navy, wholly or in part, at the service of the King. That is the point of cleavage between my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and the Liberal party. He would favor a Canadian navy, but one kept at all times at home, a navy that would not at any time, not under any circumstances, show its flag beyond our shores. On the other hand, maintaining our freedom to say that when British supremacy is threatened on the high seas we shall say to Great Britain: We are an integral part of the British Empire, your supremacy is threatened—Canada will be with you, because in protecting you we protect ourselves."

Yet in the face of such public declarations of principles, and the Conservatives being allied with the party which says "we are French-Canadians, not English," etc. Mr. Barnard comes west and boasts of the super-loyalty of himself and his friends and raises the old insinuation that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a disloyal person.

MORE TROUBLE OVER CREOSOTED BLOCKS

Contractor Says Culls Once Rejected Are Accepted by Inspector

(From Saturday's Daily.)
 At the street bridge and creosote committee meeting last night, Delbert Hankin, manager of the Michigan Puget Sound Lumber Company, alleged that the inspector at the creosote plant had on occasions rejected blocks which were returned to the mill as culls, and later, when the same blocks were thrown back on him, he did not know them as culls and accepted them, they having first been judged as unfit for street work. These blocks have presumably been treated at the creosote plant and then used on the city street paving work.
 Mr. Hankin's statement came owing to a charge of \$175 made by the city engineer for blocks delivered and refused by the city. Mr. Hankin said he had protested and had been advised to come to the streets, bridges and sewers committee and talk it over. Inspector McEachern is in charge of the block grading at the plant, and it is on his authority that the culls were returned on one occasion and accepted the second time of offering. He, however, is not working for the city at present, but is nevertheless drawing pay, owing to the fact that he is injured and is entitled to whatever glory that may attach to the occupation of a position of such evil eminence.
 But we do not think Mr. Barnard has given a satisfactory reason for his vote with the Nationalists of Quebec in opposition to the naval policy of the government. Granting, as he says, that the Liberal party are traitors, and assuming that true loyalty is only found in the heart of George Henry and his ilk, there remains something to be explained. For example, a year or so ago our E. T. M. P. and all the members of the Con-

TERMS MADE BETWEEN COMPANY AND CITY

Grand Trunk Pacific Gets Fixed Assessment for Ten Years in Rupert

Prince Rupert, Dec. 22.—D'Arcy Tate, G. T. P. solicitor, is on his way to Montreal with a draft agreement between the city and the company. The city agrees to fix the company's assessment at \$2,000,000 for a period of ten years, no exemption of taxation to be for a longer period than ten years, and the whole agreement to be subject to ratification by the people. The net amount of taxes payable to the city not to exceed \$25,000 for any one year, provided that in case the railway company shall alienate any of its lands the same shall immediately become subject to the ordinary city assessment and rates, but a deduction is to be made in the assessment of the railway company proportionate to the relative value of the property so alienated to the balance of the property held by the railway company.
 The assets and privileges to be granted to the city by the railway company, in consideration of reduction of taxes as aforesaid, are: Aeropolis Hill; a cemetery site; "Hazy Gorge" reservation for a park site; a city hall site in block 15, section one; waterfront 200 feet wide at the foot of Gladstone street, reserved site on Mount real hill, and in section two; four park sites at the corner of McBride street and Sixth avenue; vacant and un-subdivided portion of land running along the brow of the bluff between McBride street and Biggar place; including portion along Fulton St. between Third and Fifth Aves.; park sites in section seven and eight; grant of easements over Grand Trunk Pacific property for city sewers, water mains, etc.; grant of a lane lying between block 25, section 1, and block 1, section 1.
 The company is to bear its share of local improvement works benefitting its property. It agrees to commence immediately to build a station, round-house, engine works, dry dock, hotel and other work and keep its payroll within the city.

FOR MEN AND BOYS

AT 25¢
 PEARL LINKS, lever back.
 CAR TICKET CASE
 COIN TRAY, solid leather.
 LETTER BOOK
 CHANGE PURSE
 HANDKERCHIEFS
 INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS
 "TIGHTWAD," Patent Bill Fold.
 HANDKERCHIEFS
 INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS
 WOOLLEN GLOVES
 AT 50¢
 CIGARETTE CASE, oval, fitted 2 sides.
 SQUARE CIGARETTE CASE
 TRINKET CASE
 TIE PIN
 ARMLINKS, neatly boxed
 PEARL LINKS, solid, one piece, Holly box
 JEWELRY BOX

FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

AT 25¢
 GOLD PLATED BEAUTY PINS
 ENAMEL BUCKLE PIN
 PEARL LINKS
 SOUVENIR BROOCH
 WAIST PIN
 VEIL PIN
 BACK COMB
 SIDE COMBS
 HOSE SUPPORTERS
 EMBROIDERED JABOT
 EMBROIDERED COLLAR
 DUTCH COLLAR
 LACE COLLAR
 SMALL PURSE
 SATIN BOWS
 SILK SCARF
 LACE HANDKERCHIEF
 EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS
 BRILLIANT HAT PINS
 CORAL JADE HAT PINS
 BOX OF ASSORTED COLOR FRILLS
 AT 35¢
 PEARL LINKS

FOR CHILDREN AND INFANTS

AT 25¢
 TEDDY BEARS, \$1.50 to
 DOLLS' GO-CARTS, \$5.50 to
 DOLL BUGGIES
 FANCY BALLS, \$1.50 to
 RATTLES, 25c to
 JUMPING JACKS
 CHILDREN'S DRESSES
 DOLLS, \$6.50 to
 DOLL CRADLES, \$1.75 to
 DOLL COUCHES
 DOLL BEDS, 75c and
 RAIN CAPES, \$3.50 to
 WORK BOXES, 50c and
 ROCKING HORSES, \$1.75 to
 EXPRESS WAGONS
 A HUGE ASSORTMENT OF HORNS, TRUMPETS, etc., 50c to

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SIR OLIVER LODGE MAY BE RAIN MAKER

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 COIN TRAY, solid leather.
 LETTER BOOK
 CHANGE PURSE
 HANDKERCHIEFS
 INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS
 MERCERIZED MUFFLER
 WOOLLEN MUFFLER
 AT \$1.00
 COLLAR BAGS, leather
 CIGAR CASE
 CIGARETTE CASE
 IDENTIFICATION PURSE
 LETTER BOOK
 TRINKET BOOK
 PAPER RACK
 UMBRELLA STAND
 CIGARETTE CASES
 CUFF SETS
 USEFUL GIFTS AT MANY PRICES.
 BRASS SMOKING SETS, \$10.75 to
 \$25.50

FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

PEARL SET BEAUTY PINS
 GOLD PLATE VEIL PINS
 HEAVY STERLING SILVER WHIMBLE
 "TIGHTWAD," Smallest and Thinnest Bill Fold.
 SWISS EMBROIDERED JABOT
 PAIR HOSE
 DUTCH COLLAR
 ECRU DUCH COLLAR
 TULLE BOW, white
 COLORED TULLE BOW
 MERCERIZED MUFFLER
 WOOLLEN GLOVES
 PATENT LEATHER BELT
 CHANTECLER BELT
 PAISLEY AND DRESDEN BELTS
 AT 50¢
 JAPANESE SILK COLLARS, Lace Trimmed
 EMBROIDERED DUTCH COLLARS
 CHANTECLER BOWS
 HOBBLE TIES

FOR CHILDREN AND INFANTS

AT 25¢
 AUTOMOBILES, \$7.50 to
 BOOTEES, \$1.00 to
 WOOLLEN JACKETS, \$1.50 to
 WOOLLEN GLOVES, 50c to
 WHIPS, 25c to
 BUILDING BLOCKS, \$1.00 to
 MECHANICAL TOYS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, \$45.00 to
 CHILDREN'S DRESSES, cashmere, \$2.75 to
 BIBLES, 75c to
 RAG DOLLS, 25c and
 GAITERS
 MUFFLERS
 SMALL PURSES, 75c to
 HOSIERY, 75c to
 CHILDREN'S BOOKS, \$1 to

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 Sir Oliver, later, in an interview, said: "I showed in 1884 to the British Association at Montreal that the discharge of electricity into smoky air, or air laden with metallic fume, would disperse the particles, and so cause it to be deposited much more rapidly than if it were not electrified."
 It also showed that a steam cloud blown from a boiler into a bell-jar could be dissipated and turned into fine rain by a discharge of electricity from a point. It is the same cause as before.
 "Minute particles of water in the cloud or mist aggregate together under electrical influence, and thus become larger, fall as a perceptible shower, or Scottish mist."
 "The same action, intensified, goes on in the neighborhood of thunder clouds, and causes the difference be-

We have arranged goods and made prices for quick selling in the Toy Department, as every article must be cleared to make room for other departments which will use the space now occupied by the Toy and Fancy Goods display.

FOR MEN AND BOYS

IDENTIFICATION PURSE
 CAR TICKET CASE
 COIN TRAY, solid leather.
 LETTER BOOK
 CHANGE PURSE
 HANDKERCHIEFS
 INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS
 MERCERIZED MUFFLER
 WOOLLEN MUFFLER
 AT \$1.00
 COLLAR BAGS, leather
 CIGAR CASE
 CIGARETTE CASE
 IDENTIFICATION PURSE
 LETTER BOOK
 TRINKET BOOK
 PAPER RACK
 UMBRELLA STAND
 CIGARETTE CASES
 CUFF SETS
 USEFUL GIFTS AT MANY PRICES.
 BRASS SMOKING SETS, \$10.75 to
 \$25.50

FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

PEARL SET BEAUTY PINS
 GOLD PLATE VEIL PINS
 HEAVY STERLING SILVER WHIMBLE
 "TIGHTWAD," Smallest and Thinnest Bill Fold.
 SWISS EMBROIDERED JABOT
 PAIR HOSE
 DUTCH COLLAR
 ECRU DUCH COLLAR
 TULLE BOW, white
 COLORED TULLE BOW
 MERCERIZED MUFFLER
 WOOLLEN GLOVES
 PATENT LEATHER BELT
 CHANTECLER BELT
 PAISLEY AND DRESDEN BELTS
 AT 50¢
 JAPANESE SILK COLLARS, Lace Trimmed
 EMBROIDERED DUTCH COLLARS
 CHANTECLER BOWS
 HOBBLE TIES

FOR CHILDREN AND INFANTS

AT 25¢
 AUTOMOBILES, \$7.50 to
 BOOTEES, \$1.00 to
 WOOLLEN JACKETS, \$1.50 to
 WOOLLEN GLOVES, 50c to
 WHIPS, 25c to
 BUILDING BLOCKS, \$1.00 to
 MECHANICAL TOYS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, \$45.00 to
 CHILDREN'S DRESSES, cashmere, \$2.75 to
 BIBLES, 75c to
 RAG DOLLS, 25c and
 GAITERS
 MUFFLERS
 SMALL PURSES, 75c to
 HOSIERY, 75c to
 CHILDREN'S BOOKS, \$1 to

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

SIR OLIVER LODGE MAY BE RAIN