

The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XIII

CHATHAM ONT., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1904

NO 49

Men's Shirts and Collars..

on sale to clear

Wednesday.

Men's white laundered dress shirts, all sizes, open front and back, short and long bosoms, pure linen fronts and wrist bands, all sizes, 144 in. to 164 in. inclusive, reg. prices \$1 and \$1.25, on sale very special price, to clear the stock at..... **74c**

Men's white linen collars, the best quality made by W. G. & R., in each new desirable style as Polo-Carew, Arizona, Kitchener, Chippewa, etc., all sizes, regular price 20c each, on sale very special to clear at 2 for..... **25c**

Ladies' Underwear	Men's Underwear
Penman's natural pure wool vests with shoulder opening, medium weight, extra fine, regular price 75c a garment, on sale at..... 63c	Men's all wool shirts and drawers, well finished, good weight, regular price 75c a garment, on sale very special at..... 38c

Ladies' Underwear	Embroidery Special
Ladies' fine Scotch merino vests and drawers, nicely trimmed, beautiful soft finish, medium weight, regular price 85c a garment, very special sale at..... 63c	10 pieces of fine white Swiss cambric embroidery, beautifully worked, all 2 inches wide, a special purchase and marked at special clearing price 1/2 yd. 8c, 7c and..... 6c

Ladies' Underwear	Embroidery Special
Ladies' shaker flannel night gowns, lace trimmed, in plain white, grey and pink, regular price \$1.00 and \$1.25 each, on sale at..... 67c	White honey comb bed spreads, full double bed size, on sale extra special at..... 93c

Fine white Valenciennes, lace edging, regular price 25c a yard, on sale special per doz. Not less than one doz. sold)..... **15c**

"Black Cat" Hose Supporters, in black only, regular price 25c pair, clearing at..... **10c**

THOS. STONE & SON.

GEO. STEPHENS & CO.

Axes, 50c.
Fur Coats, \$12.00
Horse Blankets, Lined, 85c
Copper and Nickle Plate Coffee Pot, 40c.
Milk Pans 6c.
Mrs. Potts Sad Irons, 75c
Granite Wash Dish 12c.

GEO. STEPHENS & CO.

Furniture McDONALD & CO. Carpets...

THE MARSHALL SANITARY MATTRESS.



We handle the best MATTRESSES in the market. We are sole agents for the MARSHALL SANITARY MATTRESS, a veritable Air and Spring Mattress, price, \$20.00; Ostermoor Mattress, a patent elastic felt, \$15.00; Star Mattress, carded, cotton felt, price, \$9.00; No. 1 Health Mattress, clean, sweet smelling, \$4.75; No. 2 Health Mattress, clean, sweet smelling, \$3.75; No. 3 Health Mattress, clean, sweet smelling, \$2.75; Yankee Mattress, clean, sweet smelling, \$2.25. We also sell the Harlequin Mattress, made of alternate layers of hair and felt, price, \$10.50.

McDONALD & CO.

CROWN ATTORNEY URGES ACTION ON EXITS TO OPERA HOUSE

Forwards Report of Fire Chief, City Engineer and P.C. Groves to City Council—Thanks to Mayor, the M.C.R. and the Lake Erie for Relieving Coal Famine—Other Civic Business

The City Council held their regular meeting last evening, but apart from routine business nothing very special was done. Every alderman was in his place, with the exception of Ald. Piggott. Perhaps the most important communication received was a letter from Crown Attorney H. D. Smith, enclosing report from P. C. Tom Groves, Fire Chief R. Pritchard, and City Engineer Ed. Jones, on the condition of the Opera House. The communications were as follows:—

CROWN ATTORNEY'S LETTER.

W. E. McKeough, Esq., Mayor, Chatham, Ont.:

Dear Sir,—I beg leave to enclose you herewith a report, signed by the City Engineer, P. C. Groves, and Fire Chief Pritchard, relating to the Opera House. The report deals only with those matters that might fairly be considered necessary. There are many other things which might be suggested and would tend to the safety of the public, but if the suggestions carried out in the report were embodied in your by-laws, and then enforced, the dangerous situation which at present exists at the Opera House would, to a large extent, be lessened. Trusting that you will call the attention of the Council to this matter, and that they will act at once, I am, Yours sincerely,

H. D. SMITH,
C. C. A., Co. Kent.

REPORT ON THE OPERA HOUSE.

H. D. Smith, Crown Attorney, Chatham:

Dear Sir,—According to instructions received from you, we, the undersigned, beg to report as follows re Opera House:—

Fire Escapes.—We find there are no fire escapes in connection with this building.

Exits.—We have examined the exits to each of the galleries and main floor, and after giving the matter most serious consideration we are of the opinion they would prove totally inadequate for an emergency, and should there arise a necessity of emptying the building in haste, the crowding on the lower vestibule would probably prove fatal to many as the exits of the building are now planned it necessitates the crowding observable after each performance on the lower vestibule, and at this point occurs the long wait before a chance occurs to descend to the street by the one exit available. True, there is another exit at the back, but as far as we could learn, it is not generally available, being kept closed. At the time of our visit it was blocked with fire wood and other rubbish.

Assuming these two exits to be clear, we have the discharge from six exits pouring into the lower vestibule; the impossibility of two exits discharging the people in the lower vestibule as fast as the six exits from the body of the hall could discharge them into it, is quite clear. Should a rush occur, the consequences may be deplorable.

We found no efficient fire protection. There are one or two small chemical extinguishers, and there is always the chance that they may fail when needed.

We therefore recommend:—

A.—That each floor have a separate exit to the extension of the building.

B.—That two rows of seats be taken out of the middle section of the dress circle, from top to bottom, and an extra exit made in line with them, opening into the vestibule, and that the stairs leading into the vestibule be continuous with the stairs now leading from the exits of the dress circle.

C.—That two stand-pipes, four inches in diameter, be furnished, with the necessary stop and waste valve, so as to be operated from both sides of the stage floor; also all other valves that may be needed to turn on the water instantly, and at least fifty ft. of 2 1/2 inch reliable hose attached to each stand-pipe, and to have appropriate nozzles.

D.—That fire escapes be put in at convenient points. We would suggest in this connection that the gallery or platform be placed along the back wall of the building on a level with the floor of the Opera House, and that exits be made in connection therewith from the main floor of the house, and that from the said platform suitable stairways leading to the ground be erected.

E.—That no smoking be allowed in the building during a performance.

F.—That at least two men from the fire brigade be stationed on the stage to handle the hose at all performances.

G.—We further recommend that a fire alarm box be placed easily accessible from the stage, to be connected with the city fire alarm system.

H.—We further recommend a fire

Homer Turner, keeper of the cemetery, asked that some repairs be made to his residence at the cemetery.

W. D. Ross, for the Chatham Fruit Growers' Association, thanked the council for the use of the chambers.

A communication from J. E. Farrell, of the Good Roads Association, of Toronto, was referred to the Finance committee.

Tuesday, March 22, was appointed for the sitting of the Court of Revision on the costs of the pavement.

The matter of the holding of Harbison Hall was referred to the Finance committee.

A letter was received from M. Wilson re the bad condition of the Head Street sewer. Referred to the Board of Works.

A request for damages was received from J. J. Ross through Barrister W. R. Hickey. Damages are claimed for an accident to Mrs. Ross on King Street.

The matter of purchasing rubber coats for the fireman was left to the Property committee.

Ald. McCog suggested that the Property committee advertise for tenders for supplies the sum as the Board of Works.

Ald. Westman and Edmondson seemed to object to anyone telling them how to run their business and claimed that they did purchase their supplies as cheaply as they could.

This caused a very lengthy discussion, but as no motion was before the Board it naturally ended in nothing but regret.

M. Houston asked the Council to accept a plan of the foot of Victoria Avenue drawn by Engineer McDonald.

The thanks of the Council were tendered Mr. Lodger, of the M. C. R., and also the Pere Marquette, for relieving the coal famine.

Ald. Martin—I think the thanks of the Council should be given to Your Worship for the interest you have taken in the matter.

BOARD OF WORKS.

Tenders for supplies were then opened and referred to the Board of Works.

To His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Chatham:

We, your committee on the Board of Works, beg leave to report on matters referred to them as follows:

1. That we accept the tender of J. D. Campbell for oak plank at \$34.00 per M. feet for covering the two river bridges.

2. That we are having a sign put up at corner of Alfred Street, which is overlooked at the time of the burning of the streets.

A. B. McCog,
Chairman.

It was decided to purchase new racks for the city scales.

Two by-laws were then put through their various readings and passed. One was for a glazed pipe sewer on Head Street, and the other appointing officers on the Fire Hall to fill vacancies caused by the resignation of Perceval Alex. Jacques.

The following were the accounts: A. R. Crow, \$21.03; Chatham Gas Co., \$1.00; Chatham Gas Co., \$16.95—referred; Chatham Gas Co., \$38.42—referred; Chatham Gas Co., \$91.54; Bell Telephone Co., \$6.25; Bell Telephone Co., \$11.45; Dominion Express Co., 53c; Chatham Gas Co., \$32.00; Chatham Gas Co., \$1.88; Edwin C. Radley, \$45.00—referred with power.

R. Pritchard, 60c; Bon Marche Grocery, \$5.45; News, \$3.37; News, \$38.40—referred; News, \$26.52—referred; Planet, \$27.73—referred; Bell Telephone Co., 50c; Chatham Gas Co., \$1.55; Miss Bessie, \$3.50; Park Bros., \$1.20; Dominion Frying Co., \$221.44; Dominion Frying Co., \$420.54; Pay sheets, \$123.01; Bell Telephone Co., 50c—referred to County.

Bell Telephone Co., \$102.75; Chatham Gas Co., \$1.75—referred; Chrystal Pharmacy, \$21.95; Council adjourned to meet again next Monday night.

SKULL CRUSHED

Terrible Accident to a Maple City Man at Essex—Was Working at Oil Drill

Essex, Ont., Feb. 22.—Geo. Roberts, of Chatham, who has been drilling a well here for the M. C. R., was probably fatally hurt this afternoon, a chain or hook holding up an oak block weighing over forty pounds, broke and the block fell thirty feet, striking the man's skull as he looked up to see what was wrong. His skull was crushed in so that he cannot live. He is about 35 years of age, and has a family at Chatham.

Word was received in the city last night that Mr. Roberts had succumbed to his injuries.

Deceased leaves a wife and four children who reside on Harvey Street, the oldest of whom is a boy of about twelve years, to mourn his loss. Mrs. Roberts when the news was received, was grief-stricken. She has the sympathy of the entire community in her bereavement. The late Mr. Roberts was a highly respected Oddfellow, and an esteemed member of Lodge No. 93.

RUSSIA MAKES UGLY THREATS

Will Disguise Her Black Sea Fleet as Merchantmen and Order Attack on India

General Advance of Japanese Troops Has Been Ordered—Four Torpedo Boats Reported Captured.

(Special to The Planet.)

New York, Feb. 23.—Negotiations are progressing as to the Herald of St. Petersburg correspondent, for the passage of the Dardanelles by the Russian Black Sea fleet. Russia is determined to get her ships through, the correspondent says, even if it is necessary to adopt the strategy of altering their appearance, disguising them as merchantmen. The ports are almost willing, and if England makes any objection, the dispatch continues, "it will be the signal for an immediate advance toward India."

Admiral Alexieff's retirement toward Harbin with his staff, is interpreted to mean that he is convinced the Japanese will besiege Port Arthur. The fleet has received instructions not to engage in any fight at present, but to remain on the defensive until July, when a half of the whole Baltic fleet will be despatched to the far east. It is hoped also that by that time that part of the Black Sea fleet will be also on the way. Work on all the ships under construction is being specially pushed forward.

London, Feb. 22.—The Nagasaki correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, cabling under date of Feb. 22, reports that the Japanese squadron has captured four Russian torpedo boats at Port Arthur by using Russian signals.

This despatch appears to confirm the reports from various quarters of a fresh attack upon Port Arthur by the Japanese.

The report reached Nagasaki from Che Foo, and it adds that the Russian crews of the four torpedo boats have been arranged. No other news of this attack has been received in London, but the Che Foo correspondent of the Morning Post in a despatch dated Feb. 22, says the statement is current there that the Japanese torpedo boat destroyers, in the attack on Port Arthur on Feb. 14, sunk or damaged two Russian battleships in addition to the torpedo boats already reported.

It is possible therefore that the report of the Telegraph's Nagasaki correspondent also refers to the earlier attack.

[According to the Nagasaki correspondent of the Daily Telegraph the American squadron, the vessels of which are variously reported at Che Foo and Shanghai, is going to make a demonstration at the mouth of the Yalu river.

Tokio, Feb. 22.—It is reported here that Vice-Admiral Togo has again attacked Port Arthur. It is impossible to confirm the statement, but the navy department says it has had no news from Togo to-day. It is considered very probable that the vice-admiral has made another attack on the Russians, as he is engaged in blockading Port Arthur.

London, Feb. 22.—A correspondent at Tokyo Telegram says he hears from a reliable source that the Russian minister to China, Paul Lesar, has successfully bribed Chinese officials with the result that the instructions given the Russian gunboat Mandar to leave Shanghai were cancelled.

The Japanese government considers this to be a breach of Chinese neutrality and is taking steps in the matter.

Yin Kow, Feb. 22.—Viceroy Alexieff and his full staff have just arrived at Harbin, where headquarters has been established.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—Viceroy Alexieff left Port Arthur last Saturday, Feb. 20, for Mukden. Before leaving he handed over the command of the navy to Vice-Admiral Stark.

LAND ENGAGEMENT NOT FAR DISTANT.

London, Feb. 22.—F. A. McKensie, the London Daily Mail correspondent, cables from Seoul, dated Monday: "Russians have crossed the Yalu in force and are advancing steadily southwards. The crossing continues mainly at Wiju and Yanggo Jin."

"Six hundred Siberian rifles are reported to have occupied Sun Chin Anjo is occupied by a strong Russian force and scouting parties have been reported well to the southward of that place. The Japanese division, consisting of probably 20,000 men, began to advance on Ahjo to-day from Wonsan. A general advance has been ordered. Preparations are being made here for a march northward to-day. The commissariat starts to-night. I will accompany army corps. We start at daybreak to-morrow. An excellent here, but great anticipation of fighting soon."

JAPS PLAYING FOR STRATEGIC POSITION.

London, Feb. 23.—Indefinite reports of the movements of troops in the vicinity of the Yalu River and statements of attempts to cut off the Siberian railroad are published this morning. The Wei-Hai-Wei correspondent of the Times describes a visit to Chemulpo, Korea, on Feb. 19, and the Japanese

Continued on Page Four.

Beads

Are the Fad of the Hour.

Can you think of anything nicer to make than bead work? It will be a page all summer. We have made arrangements accordingly and now have in stock a full assortment of all shades. We would be pleased to have you call and make inquiries about the work.

Novels

Just at hand 2,000 of the best and most popular novels, at the price of 10c each. Call and look them over.

Toilet Soap

See the line we are using as a trade winner in our Sixth Street, Windsor, 3 for 10c, worth 5c cake straight. It's good soap, we guarantee.

Sulman's Beehive

Opp. Garner House.
King and Sixth Sts.
The Finest Retail Store in Ontario.

Shoes



We're constantly weeding out of stock all slow sellers and odd sizes, so as to keep assortments in good shape. Nothing wrong with the shoes in any way—simply a clearance of styles we don't intend to duplicate. No more at the prices when these are gone:—

Woman's Empress Kid Bals, leather lined, in new up-to-date lasts, sizes, 1-4 1/2, 3-5, 1-5 1/2, 2-6, 1-6 1/2, 1-7, regular \$3.00 shoe for..... **\$2.50**

Woman's Empress Box Bals, this season's goods, sizes 1-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-5 1/2, 1-6, 1-7, regular \$3.00 shoes for..... **\$2.50**

Wish everybody knew how good a store we have here. That's why we make it worth your while to come.

TURRILL

The Shoe Man