

DEAR CHARMS.

Gypsy Woman Got Over \$5,000
From Mrs. Wolf, Police Say.

Victim, It Is Said, Was Wrought Up
Over Daughter's Illness.

Buffalo, Dec. 23.—Not only did Minnie McGill, a gypsy, get \$538 last Monday from Mrs. Louis J. Wolf of No. 94 Fox street, as the price for removing a spell from the latter's home, the police allege, but previous to that she had procured \$1,800 and had Mrs. Wolf worked up to a frame of mind whereby she agreed to part with \$2,000 more.

The gypsy is one of a band which is wintering near Lancaster. She was arrested last Monday for the alleged theft of the \$538. The case has been adjourned in Police Court since and will come up again to-day. There will probably be another adjournment, as Mrs. Wolf is said to be ill to appear in court.

Mrs. Wolf is possessed of considerable money in her own right. She has a daughter, ten years old, who is in poor health. It was to effect a cure in the child's case that she began dealing with the gypsy woman. It is charged that the fortune-teller represented to Mrs. Wolf that there was an evil spell on the house, which, if removed, would remove all trouble from the family.

On the strength of the representation Mrs. Wolf is said to have first parted with clothes, a toilet set and other household articles. The removal of the articles was expected to remove the spell.

On September 22, 1908, Mrs. Wolf claims she made a cash payment of \$1,500 to the gypsy and the next day paid \$300 more to her. Dealings were not again resumed until last week. Then the gypsy called again, and it is alleged, received \$38, all the money at the time in the house. It was bargained that she was to receive \$500 more, which, the police say, was drawn by Mrs. Wolf through the lawyers, who have charge of her estate. She says that she gave the money to Minnie McGill.

Then \$2,900 more was demanded from Mrs. Wolf. It was when she asked her lawyers to procure this sum for her that they became suspicious. The matter was referred to the Watts detective agency. The arrest of the gypsy resulted.

It was said at police headquarters that Minnie McGill does not deny the transactions. The charms which she worked, she told the police, had produced cures in her own tribe. She was surprised that they did not work so well in the Wolf case.

DUNDAS.

Many Christmas Visits—Quiet
Wedding—Other News.

Dundas, Dec. 23.—Among recent visitors in town were: Paul Lange, Toronto; Mrs. (Dr.) McMahon, Toronto; Miss Minnie Millard, Vancouver, B. C.; Mrs. C. E. Ruddy, Brantford; Lorne Wood, London; Dr. Frank Inksetter, Montreal; A. B. and Mrs. Powell, Battle Creek, Mich.; D. M. Kennedy, Casley; Andy Hyslop, St. John's, N. B.

Miss Kramp goes to her home at Walkerton for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Nethercott and family will spend the week-end in Norwich.

Mrs. W. Cowper and family leave on Saturday to spend the holiday week in Paris.

The retiring members of the Board of Education are Messrs. Davidson, Watts, Kerr and Tyson.

Miss A. McKechnie left Tuesday for Fort William, where she intends remaining for a time.

Miss Sherwood, deaconess, will spend the Christmas holidays at her home in Brockville.

A. R. Wardell left last night for New York, called there by the serious illness of his sister. Miss Bee Wardell accompanies him.

Mr. Irvine Carter, the apple king, who has been lying seriously ill at the Melbourne for the past couple of weeks, was yesterday removed to the City Hospital.

William G. Robertson, son of the editor of the Banner, has passed with honors his junior exams at the Ontario College of Pharmacy.

The students are home from the different colleges to enjoy a couple of weeks' relaxation. Among them are: Aimea Bertram, Herbert Anderson, Fraser Pirie, W. Laing, Clarke, Whalley, Jack Suter, Graham Bertram, Ed. McCord, all from Queen's, Kingston; and Jamie Bertram, from the R. M. C., Kingston; Crossan Clark and Miss Lina Moss, from the Varsity; Chas. Pennington, from St. P. S.; Miss Jessie Keagay and Miss Ida Pennington, from Victoria; Miss Ethel Porter, from Alma College; Chas. Wilson, from McGill, Montreal.

The Canadian Order of Foresters met on Monday evening and elected these officers:

P. C. R. Wm. Duxbury,
V. C. R.—Albert Manning.
Clerk—C. R. A. Maynard.

Recording Secretary—Edward Boyd.
Chaplain—Victor Simon.
Financial Secretary—James Hodges.

Treasurer—Anthony Davidson.
S. W.—L. P. Spittal.
S. W.—F. Nethercott.

S. B.—Wm. Payne.
J. B. W. H. Bates.
Physician—Dr. Rykert.

Trustees—W. H. Bates, John Wyatt, A. Davidson.

Mr. and Mrs. McPherson, of Brantford, formerly of Dundas, are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son.

Mrs. W. F. Moore left yesterday for Owen Sound, called there by the serious illness of her father, Rev. R. Robinson.

Dr. Chown, of Toronto, will speak at the local option meeting to-night. The anti has been invited and a lively debate is anticipated.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. will be held on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 28th, at 4 o'clock, in the Y. M. C. A. parlors.

On Wednesday morning a committee from the Epworth League of the Methodist Church called on Mr. W. R. Sanders, B. A., who has been president of the league for some four or five years, and presented him with a handsome gold and enamel Epworth League emblem pin and a fine umbrella with engraved handle.

A very quiet wedding of two popular Dundas young people took place at the Presbyterian manse on Monday afternoon, the 20th inst., when Miss Jessie M. Oakes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Oakes, and Mr. William Farquharson were united by Rev. S. H. Gray, of Knox Church. They were unattended.

Furs Make the Best Gifts

You can buy them here at less than wholesale and get the dependable kinds, too, no matter how small the price.

Mink Throws, worth \$35.00, for	\$22.50
Mink Stoles, worth \$22.00, for	\$15.00
Mink Ties, worth \$15.00, for	\$12.00
Marmot Stoles, worth \$20.00, for	\$15.00
Marmot Stoles, high collar, for	\$10.00
Sable Stoles, worth \$40.00, for	\$30.00
Isabella Fox Stoles, \$35.00, for	\$22.50

THE BIGGEST BARGAINS IN MUFFS EVER OFFERED IN HAMILTON.

\$8.50 Muffs for \$5.00	\$10.00 Muffs for \$5.95
\$12.50 Muffs for \$6.95	\$18.00 Muffs for \$10.00

Women's Waists Make Gifts

Shea Waists have a reputation for quality, style and reasonable prices. Women's Taffeta Silk Waists, black and colors, 1-3 less than usual. \$2.95, \$3.50, \$4.50, \$5.00. Women's Lace and Net Waists, white and cream shades, 1-3 less than regular. \$2.05, \$2.95, \$3.49, \$4.50, \$5. Women's White Lawn Waists. \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$3.50.

Women's Silk Petticoats Very Rich

Black and all the good colors; the very best quality of silk put into Petticoats, and a full 1-3 less than any store in Hamilton. \$3.98, \$4.98, \$6.98.

Other Underskirts—Bargains

Sateens, Moreens, Taffettes, etc., all most reasonably priced, some 1-3 less, at, each. 99c, \$1.49 and \$1.95.

A Good Recipe to Fill Buy Gloves

And good advice is: Buy them at Shea's, for they'll be Penny's, the best gloves that come into Canada at the price. Can be exchanged for the proper sizes after the holiday. \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50.

Women's Lined Gloves, fur tops, over sewed seams, heavy stitched. \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.95. Men's Lined Mocha Gloves and Women's and Children's Mocha and Kid Mitts, less than wholesale, at per pair. 50, 75c and \$1.00.

Toques, Sashes and Mitts

Inexpensive but good, practical gifts and they are lower here than elsewhere, and the best that money can buy. 50, 75c and \$1.25. Children's Toques, Sash and Mitt Sets. 25, 35 and 50c. Children's Toques, plain and fancy colors. 15, 25 and 50c.

Bradley Mufflers—The Only One

White and all the wanted colors; no more and no less than 50c.

When in Doubt Buy Handkerchiefs

Women's Linen Initial Handkerchiefs. 15 and 25c. Men's Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, each. 25c. Newly imported Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, for women and men, the best you ever saw, at each. 12½, 15, 20 and 25c. Women's Fancy Embroidered Swiss Handkerchiefs, each. 10, 12½, 15, 20c up to \$1.00. Men's Fancy Colored Linen Handkerchiefs, worth 25c, on sale for each. 15c.

Biggest Day of the Year

Everything wound up to the proper pitch to give you the best possible service. Extra salespeople, extra parcelling staff, extra delivery wagons, everything that is to help out this busy day for you and for us. Help all you can by taking the small parcels with you. Keep to the right in crowded places, coming in and going out of the doors. Store open till 10 o'clock. But shop in the morning.

Mantles for Gifts

A gift to please any woman, the best in the country are here in all sizes, 32 to 46, and are on sale at 1-3 to 1-2 off regular values.

Caracul Coats

\$25.00 Coats for \$15.00	\$27.00 Coats for \$17.50
\$30.00 Coats for \$20.00	

Fur Lined Mantles Reduced

Brown, navy, green, black cloths, elegant fur collars and rich linings at these cuts:

\$37.50 Coats for \$25.00	\$50.00 Coats for \$35.00
\$75.00 Coats for \$50.00	

Women's Cloth Coats Same Reductions

\$25.00 Mantles for \$15.00	\$12.50 Mantles for \$6.95
\$16.50 Mantles for \$10.00	

WOMEN'S SUITS AT HALF PRICE

SHEA'S CHRISTMAS EVE, 1909. Store open till 10 o'clock. Phone 1501. "THE STORE FOR THRIFTY PEOPLE" "SHOPPING ELSEWHERE IS AN EXTRAVAGANCE"

Girls' and Misses' Coats Half Price

Good warm cloths, perfect fitting garments. \$3.00 Coats for \$1.50. \$7.50 Coats for \$3.95. \$4.00 Coats for \$1.50. \$9.00 Coats for \$4.95.

Girls' Dresses—Very Special

Swell Brown Serge Dresses, made with pleated skirts, nicely trimmed with silk and gold braids, 7 to 11 year sizes, less than regular, at each \$2.50, \$3 and \$3.50. Pure Wool Cashmere Dresses, in cardinal, navy and cream, made in elegant French style, nicely finished and trimmed. \$2.25 and \$2.50. Buster Brown dresses, brown, navy and cardinal and cream, finished with fancy buttons, 2 to 5 year sizes, a bargain at. \$1.95.

Children's Bear Cloth Coats

Dozens of different styles, all warmly lined, and well made and trimmed. \$2.25, \$2.50, \$4.50 and \$5.00.

Umbrellas are Good Gifts

Men's Umbrellas in a splendid array of handles, natural wood, horn, ivory, etc., both gold and sterling silver mounts, very best covering and paragon frames, each \$2.50, \$3, \$3.50, up to \$5.00. Women's Umbrellas, covered with splendid gloria and silk cloths, ivory, pearls, gunmetal and natural wood handles, sterling and silver mounts, jewellers' umbrellas at dry goods prices \$1.95, \$2.50, \$3, up to \$7.50.

Shea's for Gift Hose

Elegant Cashmere Hose, beautifully embroidered, in all the good colors and designs, prices a ¼ less than elsewhere, at per pair 50, 59, 65 and 75c. Newly imported Silk Hose, beautiful quality and through color, you pay \$2.50 anywhere for them, our price per pair. \$1.95.

Fancy Lisle Hose for evening wear, all the new shades, fresh from England, per pair. 40c. The best values in Canada, in all wool Cashmere Hose for women at 25, 35 and 50c.

WIFE OF CHRISTY, THE ARTIST, ASKS FOR LEGAL PAPERS.



MRS. CHRISTY.

New York, Dec. 23.—An order directing the State Lunacy Commission to furnish Mrs. Maybelle Thompson Christy with a certified copy of papers connected with the alleged commitment of her husband, Howard Chandler Christy, the artist, to an institution for the insane in this state in March, 1907, was obtained by Mrs. Christy's attorneys from Justice McLean to-day.

McLAREN THE MAN.

To the Editor of the Times: Sir,—I have just received a circular and pamphlet from Mayor McLaren, giving an account of his stewardship. I have not had time to read it carefully, but suffice to say it shows the city business for the year, and that the Mayor feels it his duty to give an account to the electors what business has been accomplished, and what the expenditures comprised of. His Mayoralty year is the first since 1901 that has closed without an overdraft. The year 1902 overdraft was, I see, \$8,237, and yearly increased till 1908 it was \$71,182. So it is very creditable to Mayor McLaren and the Council for having no overdraft. It is an unwritten law that the Mayor should get a second year term as Mayor by acclamation, and I hold it is unfair for Mayor McLaren to be put to the expense and annoyance in another contest.

Dr. Hopkins, I notice, is to be a candidate against the present Mayor. I understand he is very recently a citizen of Hamilton and an unknown quantity at that, and has shown no brilliancy in the

Council. I am sure if the Council had the appointing of Mayor from members of the Council, as is done in some places, he would not have a chance at all.

If Dr. Hopkins is the representative of any clique, I hope he will not even get a look-in.

Mayor McLaren is a courteous gentleman, easily approached by any one, firm in his convictions and not afraid to do what he considers right, and has paid a great deal of attention to his public duty.

The taxpayers will remember at the poll who to vote for, the man who has stopped overdrafts, and who has a moral title to a second term.

I have no doubt Mayor McLaren will get a larger vote than last time, and I think Dr. Hopkins should bide-a-vee.

W. S. Lumgair.

TROUBLE IN GREECE.

Alburg, Vermont, Dec. 23.—The roundhouse of the Rutland Railroad here was burned early to-day. Five locomotives were destroyed. Loss, \$100,000.

COOK DATA

Said the Originals Did Not Reach Copenhagen.

Captain Amundsen to Search For Missing Cook.

New York, Dec. 23.—The report of the special committee which investigated Dr. Frederick A. Cook's claim of having reached the summit of Mount McKinley will be delivered to the board of governors of the Explorers' Club to-morrow. While the investigators will not now divulge the text of the report, they do not deny that it discredits Dr. Cook's claim, and such a verdict has been generally anticipated.

While Walter Lonsdale, Cook's secretary, delivered only the carbon copies of the explorers' report at Copenhagen, it is now reported here that Mrs. Cook went abroad with the originals, and was to have delivered them to Lonsdale in London, but that they missed each other, and only the duplicate copies reached Copenhagen.

LOOKING FOR COOK.

New York, Dec. 23.—A Copenhagen cable despatch to The World this morning says that Captain Roald Amundsen, discoverer of the northwest passage, who has planned a four year's voyage in Fritof Nansen's Arctic steamer, Fram to prove that a current runs from the Behring Straits over the North Pole, has begun a systematic search for Dr. Cook. The mysterious disappearance of Cook at a time when he expected to keep in close touch with the University of Copenhagen, which was testing his claim, was the first cause of the doubt of his story, which now the university regards as false.

The despatch says the captain, who was one of Dr. Cook's most ardent supporters, does not expect to start on his Arctic voyage until next July, and will devote the intervening months, if necessary, to finding Cook.

For the Last Day.

Finch Bros. are splendidly prepared for the last hour rush of the Christmas trade. To-day the aisles radiate with last hour suggestions—gifts in sensible things for men and women, the kind you like to receive and take pleasure in giving. Nothing trashy and useless here, only quality and sensible gifts. Remember you get best service here; avoid the rush of crowded stores and aisles—our store is large, bright and roomy, and you'll appreciate it. Try it and see for the last day. And just one thing more, we pay particular attention to telephone orders these last few rush hours; some little gift may be forgotten; let us know and we will give your order the same prompt consideration as we would if you were here yourself. Rush selling will be the order from opening time, and it is certain we can serve you best in the morning hours, so shop early at Finch Bros., 29 and 31 King street west.

B. OF E. DISCOUNT.

London, Dec. 23.—The directors of the Bank of England at their weekly meeting to-day made no change in the minimum discount rate of 4½ per cent.

A Big Last Minute "Buy" of Women's Neckwear

Nearly 200 dozen, about 2,000 Collars, silk, lace and chiffon, in every conceivable style and color; collars with jabots and collars without jabots and jabots alone; worth 25c to \$1.25; (see window), on sale at 15c, 25c, 35c and 50c

Women's Handbags Bargains

Splendid Solid Leather Hand Bags, every one of them gotten up as only first class makers can, leather lined, leather covered frames and metal frames, and all marked a quarter to one-third less than any other Hamilton store, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2, \$2.50 up to \$5.00. Neat and Handy Purses. 50, 75, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50. Sample Beaded Hand Bags about half price, at each \$1.95, \$2.50, \$2.95, \$3.50 and \$4.50.

Women's Belts—A Sale

Hundreds of the very best Belts you ever saw at 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25, in elastic and silk and gilt Dresden effects, black and colors, all on sale at one price, each. 50c.

Women's Fancy Belts

Beautiful Gilt and Silk Belts, in all the newest designs and materials, all most reasonably priced at 75c, \$1, \$1.25 up to \$3.50.

Fancy Combs on Sale

Rich Shell Back Combs, with elegant rhinestone mountings, all less than wholesale. \$1.95, \$2.50 up to \$5. Fancy Back Combs and Side Combs a third less than regular, at 25, 50, 75c and \$1. Barettes in shell and amber. 10, 15, 25c up to \$1.

Christmas Table Linens

Linens that are all flax, "the kind that have made Shea's famous," grass bleached and satin finished, Damasks that will lend richness and elegance to your Christmas festivities or give lasting pleasure if you make gifts of them. These prices are less than elsewhere.

Hemstitched Table Cloths and Napkins, set. \$4.50. Table Cloths with border all round.

\$2.00 Cloths \$1.48. \$3.50 Cloths \$2.50. \$4.00 Cloths \$2.95.

Table Damask by the yard, grass bleached and the very best designs, at special gift prices.

\$1.00 Damask for 75c. \$1.50 Damask for \$1.25. \$1.75 Damask for \$1.50.

Table Napkins—Special Values

Union Damask Table Napkins. \$1.00 and \$1.25. Pure Linen Table Napkins. \$1.95 up to \$3.00.

What a Splendid Gift to the Old Folks Blankets

Keep them warm for the rest of the winter, and more winters than this, we hope.

Beautiful Pure Canadian Wool Blankets, per pair. \$3.95 and \$5.00. Elegant Pure Wool English Blankets, very wide and very lofty finish and thoroughly seamed.

68x78 size, \$6.50. 72x90 size, \$7.50.

80x100 size, \$8.50.

Beautiful Satin Quilts, full double bed size, special at \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.00.

FOR MA'AM.

Illness of Servant Girl Doesn't Stop Wages.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—Judge Morson will hereafter be declared the emancipator of the servant girl.

This morning he decided in court that when a domestic is too ill to work, but her wages go on just the same.

The case before him was brought by Mabel Callaghan against Mrs. Charles Stone. She sued for \$12 wages due her, which Mrs. Stone refused to pay because she left before the end of the month.

"No domestic is bound to stay when she is too ill to work, and she has stated that she was in that condition. The law is clear on the point," said his Honor. "The girl has stated that the reason she left is because she was too ill to work."

OLD LONDON.

A District Which is the World's Commercial Centre.

But the city of London proper, which lies in the heart of Greater London, has a living population of but 35,000 by night, although 300,000 people do business there by day, while all of the currents of British life pass through its portals. Here is the soul of the empire, with its population of 4,000,000, and its area of 11,400,000 square miles, or more than one-fifth of the population and area of the globe. Here, too, is the heart of the trade, commerce, and financial transactions of the world. From this little spot "the nation of shopkeepers" sends forth its administrators and its soldiers, its men-of-war and its merchant marine to every nook and cranny of the globe, at the command of Lombard, Gracechurch, Threadneedle and Fenchurch streets and Bartholomew lane. It was at the behest of the city that Clive and Warren Hastings subjugated India; that the opium trade was imposed on China; that Gordon went to his death at Khartoum, and the flower of England went to South Africa.

Out from this pulmonary centre the commercial life of Christendom radiates. London is the counter of the world. And the oil city corporation, with its banks, its brokers, its offices and machinery for exchanging the products of India with Africa, and of China with America, is the clearing-house of us all. England is the only great nation which opens its doors to the trade of the world, unhampered and unrestrained by taxes, tariffs, impost or octroi. White, black, yellow and red, the followers of Christ, of Buddha, of Mohammed and Confucius, all send their wares in, in consequence, to the ports which invite them. For trade hates barriers. It will go around the world to avoid a tariff wall. And because of this fact Great Britain is the counter across which the wealth of the world is exchanged. Here the products of every clime are freely swapped. From "Old Country" by Frederic C. Howe in the January Scribner.

Women are always braver than men when it comes to taking chances with marriage.

FORTY HURT.

St. Paul Train Ditched by Spreading Rails.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 23.—St. Paul passenger train No. 43, running north at 35 miles an hour, spread the rails one-half mile east of Good Thunder, Minn., near Mankato, and plunged into the ditch last night. Forty passengers were hurt, none fatally, it is believed. The mail car rolled down a thirty-foot embankment and caught fire. The injured were taken to Mankato.

AN ONTARIO MAN.

Capt. C. H. Nicholson, whose appointment as manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific steamship lines on the Pacific coast, with headquarters at Vancouver, B. C. has been referred to, was born at Belleville, Ont. He entered the steamboat business in 1881 as cabin boy on the old steamer Magnet, of the Richelieu A. Ontario line. In 1882 he secured the position of purser on the steamer Hero, operated by the late Mr. C. F. Gildersleeve on the Bay of Quinte and River St. Lawrence, which position he occupied for three years, when he was promoted to the captaincy of that steamer, and served as captain of the steamers Hero, Hastings, Norseman and North King on Lake Ontario and River St. Lawrence from 1885 to 1893. During this period he undertook a college course during the winters, taking one year at Queen's University, Kingston, and completing his course at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md.

When Mr. C. F. Gildersleeve organized the Lake Ontario & Bay of Quinte Steamboat Company, Captain Nicholson was appointed general passenger and freight agent, and later was appointed as representative of the company in the United States, with headquarters at Rochester, up to the year 1902, which service was terminated to accept the position of general manager of transportation of the Muskoka Lakes Navigation Company in the spring of the year 1903. This position he resigned in 1904 to accept the position of traffic manager of the Northern Navigation Company of Ontario, Limited, having charge of traffic and operation of the Lake Superior division with headquarters at Sarnia.

FLYING MEET.

Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—Entries in the three divisions of aeronautic and aviation events for the aviation meeting to be held in this city from January 10 to 20 closed last night and a total of 28 airships of various kinds which will compete for the prizes aggregating \$50,000 was announced to-day.

TO STOP SCANDAL.

Paris, Dec. 23.—A special from Brussels says that to avoid future scandals Prince Albert will settle with the creditors of his cousin, Louise, and also take steps to prevent the proposed litigation of the other princesses over the estate of the late King Leopold.

ENGINES BURNED.

Athens, Greece, Dec. 23.—The Military League, whose members were the authors of the recent revolutionary movement in Greece has announced its intention to overthrow the Ministry of its own choosing.