

The Chatham Daily Planet.

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NO. 103

Butterick Patterns

THOMAS STONE & SON

Fashion Sheets Free

New Black Dress Goods

Let Black Dress Goods be the test of our Dress Goods Selling. Compare our fabrics stocks and values with what you may see outside this store. We are perfectly willing to abide by your verdict, for we feel confident that you'll decide to buy here. For your own good make the comparison.

Dress Goods

AT 50c—Colored Cashmeres, in all the popular shades, old rose, sky blue, etc., 44 in. wide, superior quality.

AT \$1.00—Black Silk and wool, fancies, newest and most select, very stylish and rich effects.

AT \$1.25—Black Crepe and Tricotine Cord, in all-wool, one of the newest weaves, also similar weaves at smaller prices.

AT \$1.00—Black Satin and Sate Cloths, in good heavy weight and excellent wearing qualities, and every other new weave in the market. It will pay you to buy Black Dress Goods here.

Silks

AT 75c—Black Taffeta Silk, French make, extra heavy weight, suitable for dress foundations and waists.

AT \$1.25—Extra heavy Black Taffeta, guaranteed not to cut. This is just the thing for Silk Etons or waists, will wear as long as you want it.

AT \$1.39—Heavy Taffeta Silk, full yard wide (note the width), superior quality. This is just what you want for skirt, will cut to better advantage than any other width.

AT \$1.50—Heavy Black Satin, full yard wide, rich, soft finish, excellent wearing quality, suitable for skirts and waists.

Black Silk and Wool Grenadines, latest design in checks, stripes and scroll patterns, at from \$1.00 to \$3.50.

THOMAS STONE & SON, Direct Importers

The Woolen Mills

Ordered Clothing Department

NOW is the opportune time to place your order for a SPRING SUIT. Do not leave it until the Rush—

Be The First

We are now in a better position to serve you in every way. You will have FIRST CHOICE of our NEW SPRING GOODS of which we carry the LARGEST and BEST selected Stock of any in the City. OUR CUTTER, Mr. Williston, is a thorough mechanic and has none but first-class Men Coat-Makers under his direction. We guarantee to SAVE YOU money on Ordered Clothing and make them First-class and Up-to-date. We also carry a small stock of READY-MADE CLOTHING. We have the best \$1.50 and \$2.00 Ready-made Pants in Canada. Try US FOR A PAIR and at the same time LEAVE YOUR MEASURE FOR A SPRING SUIT.

The T. H. Taylor Co. Limited

Phone 1.
Beaver Flour the Best.

Our Specialty Just Now is...

Carpets

And we have some of the best and cheapest in the city. We make and lay them for you—examine our patterns.

Hugh McDonald

The House Furnisher and Upholster Opp. Garner House

Say Papa

Where is my savings bank key? What do you want it for, I hope you are not going to spend your money foolishly? No papa, but then at Jordan's Jewelry Store they are selling

Solid Gold 10k Set Rings for 75c and \$1.00

and only for 30 DAYS, just the same as you paid \$2.50 for

A. A. Jordan,

Sign of The Big Clock

COALOR WOOD

Stein's Wood Yard

MINARD'S LINIMENT Cures Burns, etc.

Kent Children's Aid Society.

The Society wants a home for a girl five years old, healthy, fair complexion, kind disposition. Apply by letter or in person to R. A. Sims, President, or R. V. Bray, Exec. Officer.

First class farm land wanted to work on a farm 35 miles from Chatham. Young married man preferred to whom good wages will be paid by the year. Free house, fuel and other privileges will be granted. Apply to F. F. Quinn, Chatham.

A NEW STEEL RAIL SCANDAL

Mr. Blair Enters into a Four Million Dollar Contract

Without Consulting Parliament—One-Sided Deal in Favor of Mr. Clergue.

Yesterday, when the House went into committee of supply, and Mr. Blair's railway estimates were taken up, Mr. Haggart sprung a sensation by producing the contract with President Clergue, of the Sault Ste. Marie Steel Works. It showed that instead of an agreement for 25,000 tons of steel rails for the coming summer's delivery, as Mr. Blair stated on Tuesday, the Minister of Railways has contracted with the company for 25,000 tons a year for five years—a total of 125,000 tons. Although the contract involves payment of over \$4,000,000, it was made without Parliament being consulted, the deal being ratified by an order-in-council, passed on the 9th of October last. Mr. Blair feigned astonishment that any Conservative should criticize the contract. He challenged comparison with contracts of the late Government. The negotiations with Mr. Clergue, he said, were entered into before Parliament prorogued last year, and was it any reason for not entering into a contract that an election was at hand?

Mr. W. F. McLean—The Liberal party has often said so. Mr. Blair replied that he did not care what the Liberal party said. The price paid for rails was a fair price. Mr. Osler—It was not. Mr. Blair—Does the hon. gentleman know that?

Mr. Osler—I do. Mr. Blair bowed to the hon. member's superior knowledge, and concluded with a general defence of the contract.

Dr. Sprague likened the job to the Yukon deal. Mr. Blair, he said, had not dealt frankly with the House yesterday when he said the contract was only for 25,000 tons.

Mr. Blair quoted from the contract to show that the explicit contract was only for one year, with a proviso for extension over five years, provided the company would supply rails at current English prices.

"That," said Mr. MacLean, "is a contract for five years."

"There is no explicit contract," Mr. Blair persisted.

Mr. Osler said:—The contract is all one-sided. The five years is made responsible for a five-year term, but the company is not bound to proceed unless it pleases to do so.

Dr. Sprague pointed out that this contract was made on the eve of the

Continued on Eighth Page.

BOTHA NOW WISHES TO SURRENDER HIS FORCES

Has Discovered That De Wet's Intellect is Weakening and His Influence Diminishing Leaving Botha Solely Responsible.

Cape Town, April 11.—General Botha has reopened negotiations with the British for peace. As explained here, this action was determined, in part, by General Botha's discovery, at a recent meeting, that Gen. De Wet's intellect had weakened, and that his influence with his followers was diminishing, and that a continuance of the campaign, in view of Gen. De Wet's irresponsibility, rested with General Botha alone. It is understood here that although Gen. De Wet at his recent interview with General Botha, refused to surrender, General Botha, regarding him as irresponsible, undertakes to negotiate in behalf of the entire Boer forces. The British authorities here consider that if Gen. Botha surrenders, De Wet's following can be easily taken.

KITCHENER AND BOTHA. London, April 11.—"It is semi-officially asserted here," says the Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, "that General Botha has had another interview with Lord Kitchener, in which he informed him that he had seen General De Wet, who still refused to entertain the idea of surrender on any terms. General Botha, however, regards De Wet as no longer

responsible for his actions, and seeks a modus vivendi on behalf of all the burgher forces."

CREDITED IN LONDON. London, April 11.—The report that General Botha has renewed the negotiations with Lord Kitchener is not yet officially confirmed, but it is generally credited and received with satisfaction, except by the ultra-lingoes, who fear that the government will renew the terms recently rejected. Regarding Gen. De Wet's mental condition reports have been very conflicting for some time. His recent inactivity points to there being some truth in the rumors which allege that long-continued hardships, under the harassing British pursuit, have unhinged his mind. On the other hand, a correspondent of the Times quite recently acknowledged the "wonderful foresight and fertility of resources" which characterized Gen. De Wet's retreat from Cape Colony. As during the previous abortive negotiations, the British press again loudly insists upon "unconditional surrender," but with the budgetary necessities staring the country in the face, if negotiations are reopened, the Boers, as the Daily Chronicle remarks, editorially, may reckon on fair treatment at the hands of the British.

DEAD MEN CANNOT BE CALLED FREEHOLDERS

Hence the Dowsley By-law is Declared on Eminent Legal Advice to Have Been Carried.

At two o'clock this afternoon city City Clerk Merritt made the following declaration on the polling on the Dowsley by-law. He also read the following statement:—

This is to certify that having received the ballot papers and the statements of the number of votes given at each polling place for and against the by-law to authorize aid by the City of Chatham to the Dowsley Spring and Axle Co., Limited, and to provide for the issue of debentures of the said city to the amount of \$20,000 and to raise the sum required therefor, and having ascertained the summing up of the said votes until this day, I have this day at the time and place appointed in the presence of persons authorized to attend or such of them as were present, and without opening any of the sealed packets of ballot papers summed up from such statements, the number of votes for and against the said by-law and do declare the result to be 937 votes have been cast for, and 94 votes against the said by-law, and that the majority of the electors voting on the by-law have approved of the same.

And I do further certify that as far as shown by the voters' lists and assessment roll such majority appears to be less than two-thirds of all the ratepayers who are entitled to vote on the said by-law.

And I do further certify that as far as shown by the voters' list and assessment roll without deducting the names of the ratepayers who have died prior to the polling day, such majority appears to be less than three-fifths of all ratepayers who, according to such voters' list and assessment roll appear to be entitled to vote upon the said by-law.

Given under my hand and seal this 11th day of April, at the hour of 2 p. m.

W. G. MERRITT,

City Clerk.

DEAD MEN NOT FREEHOLDERS.

Upon the result of the vote the other day becoming known City Solicitor M.

Wilson, K. C., was consulted by the council and after looking carefully into the statutes upon the matter, recommended the council to proceed to pass the by-law providing the Dowsley Company would indemnify the city against any motion to quash.

This the Dowsley Company declined to do. Further consultation, however, revealed the fact that the main question which would arise would be that of the sale of debentures, and as a large majority of these debenture sales were submitted to Bruce, K. C., of Bruce, Brown & Bruce, of Hamilton, it was suggested by the Mayor and endorsed by his colleagues and the solicitor that the city clerk should visit Hamilton and submit the matter to Mr. Bruce.

This Mr. Merritt did yesterday and returned last evening with the written opinion of the Hamilton counsel, which will not be made public until this evening's council session.

It is understood, however, that the by-law has been approved by the rate-payers and takes the ground that a dead man is not a freeholder and not a person legally entitled to cast his vote, and that consequently the deceased voters on the list cannot be included in the summary of the result.

He consequently holds that the by-law has been adopted and the council be recommended to proceed with the passing of the enactment.

GENERAL PARADE OF THE REGIMENT

Ordered by Col. Rankin for Next Monday Night.

Lt. Col. Rankin has ordered a parade of all companies and the band of the 24th Regiment for Monday evening next, at 7.35 o'clock, at the drill shed. It is essential that every member of the regiment should be on hand, as the Drill Instructor from the Infantry School at London will be present, and arrangements will then be made for the formation of classes. Recruits who fail to attend the drills next week are liable to have their names struck off the list, unless they report the cause of their absence to the captain of their company. Several names of men who have not been attending regularly have already been struck off. Col. Rankin is determined that no man shall receive a uniform who has not been regular in his attendance. The uniforms will be issued next week.

OVER THE BACK FENCE.

First woman—You've got to retract what you said about me. Second woman—I won't; I never take anything back. First woman—Indeed, you don't, but you'll borrow everything your neighbors have if you get a chance.

A TELEPHONE SYSTEM

to be of value must be universal. If limited to a City the service is restricted, entailing loss of Time and Money when prompt communication is required with outside centres.

THE BELL TELEPHONE has no limitations. It will reach by Long Distance Lines every subscriber in Canada and many thousands in the United States. They can likewise reach you.

Bell Telephone Company OF CANADA

Heavy Soled Shoes for Ladies

Are becoming more popular every day. Even in Oxford Ties they are very largely worn.

We have a splendid range of these goods, two of the best sellers are our Oxford Tie Extension Soles, sizes 2½ to 7, at \$1.50, and a better line at \$2.00.

Our range of Turb Sole Oxfords, Southern Ties and Trilly Button Shoes is very complete.

Peaces' New Store

The first Shoe Store West of The Market.

TRUNKS AND VALISES.

INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY

Rev. Canon Richardson, of London, Accused of Trying to Defeat the Ends of Justice

In the Sifton Murder Case—His Wife is an Important Witness but Cannot be Found.

London, April 11.—Gerald Sifton was placed on trial at Spring Assizes here yesterday, charged with murder. The young farmer is alleged, with the aid of a hired man, to have done to death his father, the late Joseph Sifton, a London township farmer.

But the trial did not proceed. Because of the absence of a witness a whole day was wasted.

The missing witness was, however, productive of a sensational incident. As a result of failure on the part of both the Crown and the defense to learn the whereabouts of Mrs. J. B. Richardson, wife of the rector of St. John's Church, London township, Rev. Canon Richardson stands indicted with the serious offence of conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice. The Grand Jury have found a true bill against the clergyman, and it looks as though he will have to tell the court how it happens.

His Lordship—Do you desire an indictment against the doctor and clergyman for conspiring to defeat the ends of justice?

Mr. Riddle—Yes, my Lord. His Lordship—Well, I will give you leave. Mr. Riddle—Very well, I will do so. The Crown counsel said the daughters of the missing witness had been applied to with the same indefinite result.

His Lordship remarked that something must be done to prevent this kind of game.

Mr. Riddle formally applied for a bill of indictment against Canon Richardson, and stated he would lay the bill before the Grand Jury at once. An affidavit was put in from Crown Attorney Magee, stating the result of his endeavor to ascertain the whereabouts of Mrs. Richardson, and the bill against Canon Richardson was presented to the Grand Jury. In an hour they returned with a true bill.

Notice was served on the defendant's counsel, Mr. T. H. Luscombe, and more of the matter will probably be heard when court meets to-day.

Intending passengers for any Pacific Coast Points, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Victoria or Vancouver, will consult their interests by calling on W. E. Rispin, general passenger and ticket agent, 115 King street, who will issue tickets to any of the above points on any Thursday from now until the end of April at \$85.70 each.

Tell your stories to the plumber. He enjoys them.