

The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XII

CHATHAM ONT., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1903

NO. 272

Specials For Friday.

Dress Goods, 23c.—40 in. wide union twill dress goods, extra heavy weight, suitable for children's dresses, ladies' suits and skirts, in all good dark shades, regular prices, 25c and 30c yd, Friday **23c.**

Ladies' Capes at \$4.00.—36 in. long, made of fine heavy curl cloth, black, lined with fine black sateen, warm and dressy, extremely suitable for elderly ladies, reg. price \$5.00, Friday for **\$4.00.**

Ladies' Skirts at \$3.85.—20 only ladies' walking skirts, made of fine quality freize, in black and Oxford, handsomely trimmed with satana bands and cording, see display in east window, \$5 value, Friday **\$3.85.**

Ready-to-Wears.—Ladies' New York ready-to-wear felt hats, most correct styles of the season, in good shades of navy, brown, castor, etc., regular prices \$2.75 and \$3.00, Friday for **\$1.75.**

Lace Curtain Special.—3 yds long, pretty lace design, plain effect with elegant floral border, only 25 pairs for the days' selling, a curtain suitable for almost any room, specially priced at \$1.00, Friday for **78c.**

Cashmere Hose at 14c.—Ladies' fast black, fashioned cashmere hose, not heavy enough for extreme cold weather, but good weight for immediate wear, specially priced for Friday at per pair **14c.**

White Spreads at 84c.—Full eleven-quarter double bed size, white honey comb spreads, soft finish, regular value \$1.00 each, special Friday for **84c.**

THOS. STONE & SON.

10 Per Cent. Off. 10 Per Cent. Off.

More Popular Than Ever.

Our stove sales are larger than ever, evidencing the still increasing popularity of the two lines we carry. Every stove sold makes a circle of friends. 20 to 30 years do the stoves and the friendships last. We now offer 10% reduction on all Souvenirs and Garlands.

Geo. Stephens & Co.

10 Per Cent. Off. 10 Per Cent. Off.

BEST SCRANTON COAL
AT LOWEST PRICES.
Prompt delivery can be made now.
Telephone 54.
Office—Opposite G. T. Ry. Hotel, Queen Street.

J. G. STEEN

Chatham's Millinery Store
When you think about buying
Millinery
You naturally think of where to get the best. Something different, new and stylish, we have it.
O. A. COOKSLEY,
Next to Big Clock.

DON'T MISS IT!

If you are going to purchase Fancy China or Lamps call and see our large assortment of very pretty goods at prices that will surprise you and save you money. A reduction of 10 per cent off these goods, bought for the Xmas trade.
Dinner, Tea and Chamber Sets at the usual low prices for good ware.

GROCERIES

New Cooking Figs, 5 cts. per lb.
7 lb. Pail, Jam, 50c.
2 cans best Salmon, 25c.
Fresh Mackerel, 10c per can.
6 lb. Cream Wheat Germ, 25c.
7 lb. best Rolled Oats 25 cts.
3 lb. Raisins, 25 cents
3 lb. Currants, 25 cents
Boda Blueberries, 10c. per lb.

John McConnell,
Phone 190, - Park St.

CECIL AND CHAMBERLAIN.

ATTACK ON CHAMBERLAIN IN HIS OWN STRONGHOLD.

The Free Food Meeting at Birmingham Was Largely Attended—The Speakers Were Cheered.

London, Nov. 12.—The storm signals which have been flying over Birmingham during the past few days were pulled down before the meeting addressed by Lord Hugh Cecil and Mr. Churchill. The crowds outside the hall chanted the police and raised Chamberlain cries, and once or twice small bands made rushes, but were easily quelled by the police. Two of the lower windows were smashed by missiles. At the close of Mr. Churchill's speech a long storm of cheers greeted him. Mrs. Cornwallis West, who looked the picture of happiness, patted her son affectionately on the shoulder. Mr. Churchill said the trade of Britain was not bad. He believed that Mr. Chamberlain was doing what he thought was best for the empire, but what about the motives of some of those who were supporting him, and what about the manufacturers and company promoters, who poured their checks, in strict secrecy, into the offices of Mr. Vinces, who is managing Mr. Chamberlain's campaign? The gossamer threads of empire were pliant, elastic, and at the same time as tense as steel. We were told those children and States who came to aid us in our need would fall away forever unless Canadian loyalty was purchased at two shillings a quarter, and Australian allegiance at one penny a pound. He deemed that to increase the happiness of the people took more social reform than fiscal, more temperance than tariffs, more schoolmasters than tax-gatherers and custom houses. Lord Cecil said:—Do not let us think that our empire is merely a great cake in possession of a greedy though affectionate family; something to be cut up into slices and divided for the benefit of the whole. The result of that would be that unity and co-operation would be endangered. If we divert the corn trade from the United States to Canada our exports to the United States will have to be given up. There will be an increase in exports of manufactured goods to Canada. The Canadian manufacturer will not like trade coming in and spoiling his home market. If German imports are evil to Britain, why will not British imports be evil to Canada? Is it fair to impose on Canada our imports or to coax her into taking larger quantities of our imports, and, at the same time, saying we won't have foreign imports ourselves, because they are harmful to us? If I had the tongue of a great orator I would draw a picture of the Canadian artisan, laboring for the manufacturers of the eastern parts of Canada, driven out of his employment by the incoming flood of British manufactured goods. Have not the colonies grown closer to us without a preference? (Cries of "Thanks to Joe.") Lord Cecil said Mr. Chamberlain had done much, but this was due to appeals to Imperial sentiment, and not to appeals to motives of gain.

A resolution was then carried, that this meeting, while recognizing the right of the British Government to propose Parliamentary retaliatory duties in special cases, believes the establishment of a general tariff, including a protective taxation of foodstuffs, would be disastrous to the empire, a burden on some of the poor, and harmful to the welfare and prosperity of the country.

REGALIA SEIZED.

A Masonic Scandal at St. John, New Brunswick.

St. John, N. B., Nov. 12.—A sensation is on here in Masonic and customs circles over the seizure of a whole outfit of regalia. At a meeting of Hibernia Lodge, A.F. & A.M., on Tuesday evening, during a discussion of accounts, the price of this regalia was brought up, and some member asked for the invoice of the goods. It was intimated that there was no such paper, the regalia having been imported from the United States. Customs Officer Dearness, a visiting Mason, was present at this meeting, and, despite his fraternal affiliations, thought it his duty to seize the regalia. A report has been made to the collector of the port. The fine is \$400.

BURGARS USED GUNS.

Postmaster Gleeson of Brougham Fired Upon.

Brougham, Nov. 12.—A daring robbery and shooting affray occurred here early in the store of Gleeson Bros., where the postoffice is located. Mr. Frank Gleeson, postmaster, who lives above the store, heard noises, and upon going downstairs saw three men run from the premises. When called upon to stop they immediately opened fire, and, firing at Mr. Gleeson as they ran, they made good their escape. About a dozen shots were fired. Mr. Gleeson is to be congratulated upon his escape, as some of the bullets lodged in the woodwork near where he was standing. A small amount of cash was secured from the postoffice and all the letters for delivery. Some goods were also taken. The Attorney-General's department have been asked to look into the case.

TERRIBLE ACETYLENE EXPLOSION WRECKS RIDGETOWN HOTEL

Two Men Meet Almost Instant Death While Many Others are Very Seriously Injured—Lozar House Rended by Terrific Outburst—An Appalling Fatality.

Ridgetown, Ont., Nov. 11.—By the explosion of an acetylene gas plant in the cellar of the Lozar House shortly after five o'clock this afternoon, the hotel was badly wrecked, two men were killed, and half a dozen others injured—one or two so severely that they are not expected to survive.

The killed are:—
G. W. Atkinson, of London, Ont.
A. B. Weir, of Ridgetown, Ont.
The injured:—
Captain Thos. Watson, Ridgetown.
Colonel William Barclay, Ridgetown.
John W. McKenzie, Howard Township.
Miss Adamson, Ridgetown.
Michael Doherty, Ridgetown.
H. W. Pursell, Ridgetown.
John Beddard, aged seven, Ridgetown.

As to the cause of the explosion there is nothing but mystery. The acetylene machine had been passed by the Underwriters' Association, according to the statement of the hotel proprietor, H. W. Pursell, who adds that it was cleaned out only this morning. People in the vicinity of the hotel smelled escaping gas for some little time before the explosion occurred, but no one in the building itself seems to have noticed that anything was wrong until the light suddenly went out. Within a minute afterwards the floor of the hotel burst asunder with a roar that was heard for miles away.

At the time there was quite a little company in the office to the west of the main entrance. It consisted of the proprietor, the ill-fated Messrs. Atkinson and Weir, and Messrs. Watson, Barclay and McKenzie. All were chatting away in the free-and-easy style of such assemblage. Pursell and Atkinson were a little apart from the others, and were engaged in conversation together, when the lights overhead flickered and went out. The place was in absolute darkness, for a heavy rain was beating on the windows and the skies were already black with the clouds of the evening.

"What's the matter with the lights?" queried Atkinson, and the words were probably his last. "I'll go down and see," answered the hotel man.

He opened the door and proceeded into the hall. As he did so, a thunder Gray, the wine clerk, opened the bar-room door and also came into the hall to see what had caused the sudden darkness. Pursell saw his shadow in the gloom and groped his way to the cellar door just in the rear of the front stairs. He opened the door, and on the instant there was a FERRIFIC PUFF OF FLAME.

In his face and a mighty roar. The floors heaved upwards, the glass in the windows smashed into atoms, the walls quivered from top to bottom, and the two top floors came crashing down into the cellar. The powdered plaster from the walls filled the air with a thick, grayish, choking mist, and from the midst of the darkness that hung over all like a pall came the groans of the dying and the injured.

Promptly as those near by could rush to the assistance the work of rescue was commenced. The firemen were among the first to the scene, and by their quick work prevented the incipient flames from spreading into an additional horror.

Among the first to be removed was the London man. He was found in the cellar below the office, and was carried into a near-by store. There he was attended by Dr. Marr, and all that was possible done to alleviate his sufferings, but it was evident that he could not survive in three-quarters of an hour the end came, and life was only preserved for that length of time by stimulants and artificial respiration. Atkinson was terribly injured, several ribs being fractured, and his whole body a mass of bruises. The injuries that caused death were to the head and the spine.

One by one the victims were removed from the debris, the work being carried on with admirable promptitude and bravery, for it was by no means safe to approach the tottering building, to say nothing of burrowing into the tangled mass of wreckage beneath which several of the injured were pinned. The more severely injured were taken to near-by hotels and stores. Weir was removed to the Queen's Hotel, a few rods away, and was there placed under the care of a physician. His mangled form was a horrible witness.

To the force of the explosion, for the lower portion of his right leg was completely crushed. There was also an injury to the spine and to the head, concussion of the brain supervening. The whole surface of the body was bruised and lacerated. He suffered greatly, but never regained consciousness, and at 9.30 in the evening, he, too, died.

The hotel presents a remarkable appearance. The windows and doors and every piece of woodwork facing the front have been blown into atoms. A fine three-story brick structure, the brick is still largely in place, but has slid forward and assumed a bulging

appearance that threatens hourly collapse. A great hole is torn through the first and second floors, and the debris is piled in a mass of splinters in the cellar. The plaster, as nearly as can be made out in the darkness, is stripped from the walls. The hotel is apparently wrecked beyond hope of repair, and to-night it is said to be a total loss.

OTHER PLACES DAMAGED.
The near-by business places also suffered. Every window in the opera house block is shattered, and across the street the plate glass is in nearly every instance smashed or cracked.

Following are among the business places thus damaged: Beattie, hardware; Porter, harness; Nelson, jewelry; Miss Shaw, millinery; McFarlane, general store; E. A. Taylor, tailor; Bowman, hardware; The Molsons Bank building, occupied by the Ruth Acetylene Gas Company; Gammage, bicycle dealer, and a number of others.

For some time it was not definitely known as to the fate of Atkinson, as Pursell, the only man who knew him personally, was himself badly injured, and it was not until his wounds were bound up that he viewed the body and positively identified it as that of the Londoner, with whom he was conversing just before the explosion.

Atkinson had been spending the day here canvassing for the London Advertiser.

Weir, the other victim, was a well known photographer of this town. He is a man of about fifty-five years of age, and George Weir, barrister, of Dresden, is a brother. He was formally a grain merchant in Springfield and Aylmer. A son lives in Walkerville.

THE INJURED.

Following is a list showing the nature of the injuries sustained by those who were taken from the ruins of the hotel:

John W. McKenzie, farmer, Howard Township, severe scalp wounds, skull fractured, injury to chest, is unconscious and may recover.

Capt. Thomas Watson, lumber and grain merchant, Ridgetown, slight concussion of the brain, slight bruises, will recover.

Col. Barclay, auctioneer, Ridgetown, very large scalp wound, half of scalp torn away from bone, concussion of the brain, may not recover.

Miss Adamson, dressmaker, Ridgetown, bad scalp wound, severe cut on the wrist, will recover.

H. W. Pursell, proprietor of the hotel, scalp injuries, slight.

Michael Doherty, bus driver, Ridgetown, slight scalp wound.

John Beddard, cut by flying glass. Some remarkable escapes are recorded.

Miss Minnie Wigent was ill in bed in a room in the second story with her nurse, Mrs. Marshall, sitting by her side. The force of the explosion tore the wall from one side of the room, as cleanly as though cut with a knife, but the occupants of the room were not injured, and were subsequently removed to a place of safety.

Town Treasurer Rushton was among a party of several men at the bar. The heavy counter was thrown over by the explosion and pinned him to the floor, but he was able to pull himself away uninjured, as did all the men in the bar room.

Miss Adamson, the injured dressmaker, was passing the hotel at the time. She was hurled against a telephone pole.

It is thought that the gas must have been escaping for some considerable time, as it seems to have collected in various rooms in the hotel. In places where the windows and doors were open the explosion had comparatively little effect, while where it was confined the explosion seems to have worked with double force.

Pursell stated that the machine was a comparatively new one, and was in good working order. It was manufactured by Isidore & White, a firm of this town, and was the first machine they turned out. It had been in operation for about four months.

Coroner Young's list ordered an inquest, the first session of which will take place to-morrow.

The late George Wilson Atkinson was for the past year circulation solicitor for the London Advertiser, and was well known. He resided at 81 Briscoe street. Seven years ago deceased married Miss Lily White, of South London, by whom he is survived; also three children, the oldest of whom is five years of age. He is also survived by his father, Mr. George Atkinson, of 450 King street, his mother and two brothers—Harry, of this city, and Frederick, of Pittsburg, Pa. Mr. Atkinson was born in Lucan. He was in the tailoring business at Gleeson for five years, and was a member of the Masonic Order in that place.

Continued on 8th Page.

AMES' STATEMENT.

AGREEMENT AS TO LOSSES OF ATLAS LOAN CO.

Carried Stocks With Fourteen Different Brokers—Mr. Ames' Examination Throws New Light on the Company's Operations.

Toronto, Nov. 12.—The other side of the shield was shown at the examination before the Master in Ordinary of Mr. A. E. Ames in regard to the transactions of his firm with the unfortunate Atlas Loan Company. At the opening of the examination a statement was put in, signed by the manager of the National Trust Company, and Mr. Ames. The document admitted that Ames & Company's statement of the profit and loss of the dealings between the firm and the Atlas Loan Company was "substantially correct." The statement which the firm had presented, showed a loss of \$50,463.88, not including \$13,453 lost on Consolidated Lake Superior not yet charged up. Whereas the statement presented by the liquidator had placed the company's loss through dealings with the firm at \$406,979.90.

After Mr. W. H. Hunter, for the liquidator, had completed his examination, Mr. D. E. Thomson carried Mr. Ames through a number of the transactions which had been referred to in the examination of Mr. A. E. Wallace, the one-time President of the Atlas Loan, and in the examination of Mr. Ames himself by Mr. Hunter. Perhaps the most startling fact brought out was in the production of a statement of the Atlas Loan first handed Mr. Ames by Mr. Wallace about two months before the suspension, in which it appeared that the Atlas Loan and Mr. Wallace, outside of their dealings in Twin City through Ames & Company, were dealing through no less than fourteen other firms of brokers, and through twelve of these they had purchased considerably over 6,000 shares of Twin City stock, and at the date when the statement was presented they were carrying 3,400 shares, of a par value of \$100, through these outside brokers. Mr. Ames appears to have been entirely ignorant of these outside transactions, while at the same time he was advising Mr. Wallace to reduce the load of Twin City he was carrying with Ames & Company. Had his advice been followed, Mr. Ames stated, the dealings of the Atlas Loan with Ames & Company would have shown a profit instead of a loss.

Mr. Thomson's examination of Mr. Ames occupied an hour and a half yesterday afternoon, and when it was concluded the Master declared the examination closed. It is still open to the counsel for Mr. Ames to recall Mr. Wallace, as the examination of the latter gentleman was merely adjourned, not closed.

Mr. Thomson finished his examination by remarking that Mr. Hunter had dramatically wound up his examination of Mr. Wallace by a reference to what he was likely to lose of the capital he had put into Ames & Co.

"What about the \$60,000 you put in, Mr. Ames?" asked Mr. Thomson. "I can simply state that if Mr. Wallace or anyone else will take over the assets of the company and agree to pay all the liabilities, I will cheerfully step out and will devote my energies to assisting him for a reasonable period. That \$60,000 has been lost."

THE NEW

DOROTHY DODDS ARE HERE

Are here in all their brightness.

Many new lasts and styles have been added to our stock.

We can fit any ladies' foot with a Dorothy Dodd Shoe.

Prices { \$3.75. \$4.00

Peace & Co.

SOLE AGENTS

PARBOTT & BOWTHWELL.

Are selling Real Estate right along. They mean business.

Owners of property who desire to sell are quick to make a note of this. They are agents for The Monarch Fire Insurance Company; and they have houses to rent.