

**Brass and Black Iron
ANDIRONS.
Spark Guards
In Brass and Iron Wire.**

**This Makes
An Appropriate
And Useful . . .**

Christmas Present.

W. H. THORNE & Co. Limited
Market Square, St. John.

XMAS GIFTS.

**CRUMB BRUSHES AND TRAYS!
CRUMB SCRAPERS AND TRAYS!**

An excellent assortment in Japanned, brass, nickel and solid oak, prices 35c, 50c, 65c, 75c, 90c, \$1.00, 1.25, 1.75 and 1.90.

**NICKEL, TEA AND
COFFEE POTS!**

Serviceable and useful, nice enough to serve on any table, yet will stand the heat of the stove. Fifty different patterns, at \$1.00, 1.25, 1.35, 1.60, 1.75, 2.00, 2.25, 2.50, 2.75, 3.25, 3.75, 4.00 and 4.50.

CARPET SWEEPERS!

Blessell's "Standard," known the world over, price \$2.50.

**EMERSON & FISHER,
75 Prince William St.,
ST. JOHN, N. B.**

HUTCHINGS & CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF AND DEALERS IN
First Class Bedding, Wire Mattresses.
Iron Bedsteads and Cribs,
Invalid Wheel Chairs, Etc.
101 to 107 GERMAIN STREET.

**BLACK
CLOTH
LEGGINGS.**

**Read
Our
Prices:**

Women's,	\$.70
Misses',	.80
Child's,	1.00
	1.15
	1.25
	1.75

Warm and Comfortable.

WATERBURY & RISING.

XMAS FURS.

We have the largest and best assorted stock in the City. We would be pleased to show you our stock in

Grey Lamb Capes, \$2.50.
Grey Lamb Collars, \$3.50, \$4.50 and \$6.
Grey Lamb Ripple Collars, \$9.00 and \$10.
Grey Lamb Mitts, \$4.
Grey Tams, \$4.
Grey Lamb Gloves, \$5.

F. S. THOMAS,
555 MAIN ST. NORTH END
St. John, N. B., Dec. 17, 1903.

PRESENTS FOR BOYS.

How happy you could make some boy by giving him a good warm OVERCOAT, REEFER or SUIT. You will find them here in abundance marked at very low prices.

Overcoat, age 4 to 11 years, a BEAUTY for \$3.50.
Boys' Overcoats, age 12 to 16, from \$4.50 up.
Boys' 3-Piece Suits, \$2.50 to \$7.50.
Boys' 2-Piece Suits, \$1.10 to \$4.50.
Boys' Reefers, \$2.25 to \$3.95.
Boys' Sailor Suits, 75c to \$3.50.

J. N. HARVEY, TAILORING AND CLOTHING,
199 and 201 Union St.

GOURLEY, M. P., SAYS VICTORY.

From West to N. S., the Tide is Turning

Prospects for Conservatives in Every Province Brighter than for Many Years.

Seymour Gourley, M. P. for Colchester, came to the city today from Montreal, where he has been during the past eight days.

Mr. Gourley is full of bright hopes for the result of the coming election and believes the conservative party will go into power with a good majority. He says, "In the Montreal district there is feeling that the government is going out. Public opinion favors the conservatives, and this is due to a certain extent to the feeling that Montreal is being sidetracked by the G. T. P. scheme. Throughout the whole province of Quebec, I am told, that feeling is now, for the first time in six or seven years, turning towards the conservatives."

"In conversation with N. W. Boyd, of McDonald, Man., and Hon. M. Hall, of Calgary, I was informed that the west is solid and that the conservatives will sweep it from the coast to Lake Superior."

"Mr. Barker, M. P. for Hamilton, assured me that the prospects in Ontario were never brighter. In my own county of Colchester it is conceded that the result is only a question of size of margin. In Nova Scotia, as a whole, the tide is setting strongly with us. In Cape Breton and Pictou and Cumberland counties the labor difficulties will give the conservatives all the seats; Mr. Borden and his colleagues will carry Halifax, and the shore counties, heretofore liberal, will probably go against the present government."

"During the past day or two the impression has been gaining ground in Montreal that the election will be postponed until after another session has been held, but in any event it will come quite early in the spring, and the work of organization should not be allowed to lag. My own personal opinion is that the election will be brought on at once."

TO DETECT CRIMINALS.

Bertillon the Famous Criminalologist, Has Organized a New System of Identification.

PARIS, Dec. 17.—M. Bertillon, the expert criminalist, has organized a new system for the detection of criminals. Heretofore photographs have been employed solely in the search for malefactors. Detectives will now be taught to search the physiognomy for three or four striking features, each of which has a mathematical value. Photographs, accompanied by measurements taken under this new system, will, it is claimed, make it practically impossible for well instructed detectives to make any mistake in the classification or detection of criminals. Heretofore the errors made were as high as seventy per cent, while a trial of M. Bertillon's new system has reduced the errors to one per cent.

NOTED NOVA SCOTIAN DEAD.

Col. Oxley, Founder of Oxford Woolen Mills, Dies in Hospital—Lightship's Crew Desert.

(Special to the Star.)
HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 17.—Lieut. Col. Wm. Oxley, of the 3rd Cumberland Regiment, died at the Victoria General Hospital today after an operation for stomach trouble. The deceased lived in Oxford. He was the founder of the Oxford woolen mills and one of the most prominent men in the province. He was sixty-four years of age.

The crew of the lightship Lurcher left her here today, on account, they claim of hardship endured coming from Quebec.

FOSTER FOR TORONTO

Reported to Have Declined Seat in Montreal—Quebec Shoe Factories Open Again.

(Special to the Star.)
MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 17.—Le Journal, the French conservative paper, again this morning says that Hon. Geo. E. Foster was offered the nomination for St. Antoine division, Montreal, but declined because he says he has previously accepted the nomination for a Toronto city constituency.

Quebec shoe factories which locked out their men a month ago opened again this morning upon conditions the same as before the lockout.

LORIER DENIES.

(Special to Star.)
MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 17.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier denies the statement that he is going to California to spend some months.

BURIED TODAY.

The funeral of the late M. Burwell Vall was held at half-past two o'clock this afternoon from his late home, 39 Stanley street. Rev. W. C. Matthews officiated at the house and grave and the body was interred in Fernhill.

The Furness liner Dalton Hall sailed this morning in ballast. This steamer is not of the regular boats of the Furness line, but brought some cargo and was to have loaded coal at West Bay. As the season was so far advanced this charter was not accepted and the Dalton Hall has gone to Brunswick, Georgia, where she will load cotton.

NEW FIRE ALARM WELL TESTED.

Apparatus Proved Thoroughly Satisfactory.

Each Circuit Was Tested Separately—Civic Representatives Well Pleased With the Result

The testing of the new fire alarm system, previously to its being taken over by the city, took place this morning, under the direction of expert Rogers. The work of testing was begun about ten o'clock, and was completed before eleven, without anything in the nature of a mishap occurring. The test proved thoroughly satisfactory both to the Gamewell representative and to the city officials, who were present.

The testing of the new system, being unique in its way, naturally attracted a large throng of spectators, and before the round of the first signal box pulled in had finished striking, the space in front of No. 3 engine house was crowded with interested citizens. Within the engine house were the few whose special privilege it was to watch the working of the intricate mechanism of the new system.

Deputy Mayor McGoldrick was present as the representative of the city government, and manifested a close interest in all that took place. Expert Rogers was assiduous in explaining to the deputy mayor the mechanical working of the system.

Shortly after ten o'clock a slight ticking sound on the repeater indicated that an alarm was coming. The number 6 dropped to view and it was known at once that the alarm coming in was on the sixth circuit. The signal box which was pulled was No. 143, on the North End police station. When the round was finished a telephone message came from Chief Engineer Kerr, who was looking after the pulling in of the boxes, that the bells in North End had responded perfectly.

At No. 3 engine house Expert Rogers, with Superintendent Leonard, carefully watched the switchboard and the repeater. The spacing of the strokes was faultless, rendering the possibility of a miscount almost out of question. When the round had finished striking Mr. Rogers scanned the ammeters on the switchboard and found that the sixth circuit was free.

Not five minutes had elapsed from the sounding of the first alarm till the second one was sent in. The alarm this time came from box 231, at No. 4 engine house, and, like the first one, worked admirably.

After leaving No. 4 engine house Chief Kerr drove rapidly to No. 1 engine house, Charlotte street, and within a very few minutes after an alarm was sent in from box 85. A telephone message from Chief Kerr apprised those at No. 3 engine house that the bells in all parts of the city had responded satisfactorily and were giving the greatest satisfaction.

A delay of about half an hour now occurred, in order to allow the rewinding of the big bells. When this had been done an alarm was sent in from box 18, on Jones' brewery, on the first circuit. Shortly after box 23 on Pond street was sounded, giving a satisfactory test of the second circuit. The sounding of box 34 on Centenary church, completed this morning's test, and showed that the last of the circuits was reliable.

"I am thoroughly satisfied with the efficiency of the new system," said Mayor McGoldrick. "St. John now can boast of adequate protection in the way of a reliable alarm telegraph."

Before Mr. Rogers leaves he intends to give everything a personal over-look. He will test a number of the old boxes and see that the water motor and appliances are in good working order.

TRADE GROWING.

American Export Business Through St. John is on the Increase.

The volume of American trade through this port is steady on the increase. Manifests received at the customs yesterday afternoon and today show that at present one hundred and forty-five cars of American goods are in transit, or in other words, about seven train loads. These goods are all from the Northwestern States, and indicate a growing preference for Canadian transportation.

The manifests received last night were for thirty cars of pork products, five cars hogs and one car of lumber. Today's manifests are for the following: Ninety-four cars of flour, twenty-four cars of meats, seven cars of lard, two cars grapefruit, three cars of poultry, one car of heaters and two cars provisions.

CANADA NO GOOD.

William Lawrence is an Irishman, who does not think much of Canada. He arrived here a day or two ago and was found wandering about the Market Square late last night. After telling Officer Finley several different stories Lawrence decided that he would go to Fairville and got on a street car. He changed his mind and left the car before it started, thinking Carleton a better place. He describes Carleton as a half starved country and includes the whole of Canada under the head "no good." The man was arrested for vagrancy and this morning, being unable to offer satisfactory explanation of his conduct, was remanded to jail.

DAHOMÉ ARRIVES.

The West Indian steamer Dahomé, Capt. Lenken, arrived this morning from Demarara. She brought a considerable quantity of freight, the most of which was for outside points. The following composed her passenger list: B. Macpherson, of Barbadoes, for Toronto; L. E. Lunt, of Bermuda, for Boston; Lieut. Taught and Geary, of Bermuda, for Halifax; and Miss F. W. Musgrove, of Bermuda, for Auburn, N. S.

WHY HEAD LINE LEAVES ST. JOHN

Freight for Ireland Is Not Plenty.

And Rates to Liverpool are so Low that Irish Freight is Sent Around That Way.

William Thomson & Co. announced yesterday that the Head line steamers will be withdrawn from St. John ahead of the sailing of the Bengore Head, now in port, and the Dunmore Head, due tomorrow. This will mean only two sailings of this line from this port instead of ten. Messrs. Thomson say that the detestment in waiting for berths, the low freights and the small quantity of traffic presents a dismal outlook for the lines operating from this port.

The C. P. R. officials say that business was never better. More freight has been brought up to the present time than ever before, and Supt. Downie is of the opinion that the loading of three lines of C. P. R. boats is not interfering with the business of any other lines.

In connection with this, the winter port statements for the past two years show that in 1901-1902 the Head line had ten sailings to Belfast, out of a total of sixty-three from St. John. These steamers brought no winter port freight. They carried away 13,780 tons to Belfast out of a total of 137,673 tons, the total export for that season. That is with sixteen per cent. of the sailings, the Head line carried thirteen and a half per cent. of the export. This is accounted for by the fact that the Head line boats are not large and that the steamers of other lines had not full cargoes.

Last year the Head line had five sailings, three to Belfast and two to Dublin. The steamers brought no import stuff, but carried away 5,128 tons to Belfast and 2,058 tons to Dublin, an average of 1,437 tons per boat. The total exports last year were 323,538 tons for 99 steamers, or an average of 2,340 tons per steamer, or, exclusive of the Head line, an average for the others of 2,395 per sailing, almost double that taken by the Head line. Last year the Head line boats had, roughly, five per cent. of the sailings and carried three per cent. of the export business, while they had none of the import stuff.

This season there have already been twelve or fourteen sailings. The Head line have not had any. By the end of the present week, there will have been twenty-three arrivals, and of these the Head line will claim two. The Bengore Head has been in port since the afternoon of Dec. 8. Supt. Downie said today that all the freight consigned to the Head line has been brought down as it offered, and that there has been no delay on the part of the railway. The Bengore Head arrived in St. John on the afternoon of Dec. 9th and remained in the stream until 2 p. m. on Dec. 12th. She could have been docked previous to that time, but Robert Thomson said today there was no use in docking the steamer and occupying a berth which might otherwise be employed when there was no freight on hand for the Bengore Head. The steamer came here in ballast.

Boats of the Head line sail from St. John to Belfast and Dublin. There is not at any time a very large load of freight for Ireland, and in the business of handling it there is sharp competition. The freight rates to Liverpool are very low and it is not unusual for persons to send their stuff to Liverpool and from there have it carried to Ireland. This may account for some of the lack of business for the Head line steamers.

THISTLE CURLERS EAGER.

Planning For Big Winnipeg Bonspiel.

Members of the Thistle Curling Club are becoming more and more excited over the prospect of an uncertainty as to whether they are going to the Winnipeg bonspiel. They have received word that a competition is to be held between the east and west, five rinks to enter from east and west to Toronto. For this competition Lord Strathcona has presented a Royal Canadian tankard, valued at \$250, and some of the Thistles think that this might be brought to St. John.

The club offers the C. P. R. one thousand dollars for transportation of twenty men by tourist car to Winnipeg and return, but this offer has not been accepted. Even under the rates now obtainable there are some of the Thistles who are seriously considering the trip. These are Alex. Holly, Fred Shaw and J. A. Sinclair. It is possible that either John Malcolm or John Thomson may form the fourth man.

St. Andrew's Club is not taking so much interest in the affair.

The three rinks at the Thistle rink are now in fine condition and will be used this evening. It is not probable that any matches will be played until January 9th, when the annual game between the two city clubs begins.

EQUITY COURT.

In the equity court of this morning, the case of Burden vs. Howard came up for hearing. This case, the parties to which reside in Westmorland county, arises out of a tailoring partnership business alleged to have existed between the plaintiff and defendant. The plaintiff claims that the defendant is possessed of certain moneys, of which he should render an accounting, as being part of the alleged partnership. The defendant, of course, denies that there ever existed anything like a partnership between him and the plaintiff. Not long ago an injunction was obtained restraining the defendant from using the money in his possession. All the witnesses, of whom there are some twenty, reside in Westmorland county, and the most of these were in court this morning. C. Lionel Hamilton and M. G. Teed, K. C., appeared for the plaintiff and Daniel Jordan, K. C., for the defendant.

COLOMBIANS READY FOR WAR.

Armed Troops Moving Toward Panama.

American Warship Ordered from Colombian Waters—Presence of Americans Resented.

COLON, Dec. 17.—The U. S. cruiser Atlanta returned here last night from the Gulf of Darien. She discovered Dec. 15, a detachment of Colombian troops numbering visually about 500 men, but according to their statements totalling 1,500 or 2,000 men at Titumati, on the western side of the Gulf just north of the mouth of the Atrato River and due east from Yaviza. The commander of the Atlanta sent ashore an officer, who conferred with the Colombian commander.

The latter protested energetically against the presence of American warships in Colombian waters, inasmuch as war between Colombia and the U. S. had not been declared, and politely requested the Atlanta to leave the Gulf because it belonged to Colombia. Commander Turner of the Atlanta ignored the request and the Atlanta returned to Colon to report to Rear Admiral Coghlan.

The Colombians are clearly busy with protective and strengthening measures. Although they treated the Americans courteously they decidedly resented the presence of the Atlanta's landing party. The Colombian force was composed partly of the men landed recently at the Atrato River by the Colombian cruisers Cartagena and Gen. Pinzon.

The Colombian camp appeared to be permanent, was well provisioned and probably destined to be used as a base of operations.

Gen. Ortis and others freely expressed the determination of Colombia to fight to the bitter end in case Gen. Reyes' visit to Washington is not successful, and Panama is not returned to Colombia.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

LOST—A long Black Throat Bull on Tuesday evening somewhere near corner of Gilbert's Lane and City Road. Finder please leave at 545 City Road.

WANTED—A second class teacher for District No. 4, Parish of Simonds, St. John Co. Address J. G. LAKE, Secretary of Trustees, St. John, N. B., care Frosse Bros, 55 King Square.



A CHRISTMAS CAKE

From the Hygienic Bakery is sure to be the centre of attraction, not only because it looks good, but because it will taste as good as it looks. And so it is with all our pies, pastry and Christmas puddings—delicious and wholesome. Send in your Christmas orders early to ensure fulfillment.

HYGIENIC BAKERY,
134 to 138 Mill street.

Yes

There are other places where you can buy Xmas Presents.

But

It is always well to get the best you can get for your Money.

Therefore

You should bear in mind that

A. & J. HAY

are showing

Locket, Chains, Rings, Brooches, Gun Metal Goods, Ebony Toilet Articles; also, Novelties in Silverware, Etc.

76 King Street.

Henery Eggs.

BONE MEAL

FOR HEN FEED.

S. Z. DICKSON

Country Market.

Christmas Sale

By the Guild of St. Monica of the Mission Church, Church of England Institute Room, SATURDAY NEXT, from 11 a. m. to 4 p. m. Xmas Filling Puddings, Home Made Candy, Cakes, Dolls, Toys. See the Mysterious Goods.

THE WEATHER.

Thursday, Dec. 17.
Highest temperature 18° over the city; lowest 8°; barometer at noon 30.1 inches; wind, north-west; velocity, 20 miles per hour. Fine.
Forecast—Strong westerly winds; mostly fair and cold with a few flurries Friday, westerly winds; rain and cold. Synopsis—Weather has turned much milder over the North-west States and Territories, but continues cold in Ontario and Quebec. Winds are strong westerly near the American coast. To Banks and American ports strong westerly winds.

FURS!



Black Marten Collar/Fur . . . \$10.00
Black Marten Scarf . . . \$12.50
Black Marten Storm Collar . . . \$25.00
Black Marten Boots . . . \$12.50
No. 2 Marten Boots . . . \$1.00
No. 2 Marten Mitts . . . \$1.50
Mink Scarf 4 skins . . . \$25.00
Mink Scarf 4 skins . . . \$35.00
Mink Scarf 4 skins . . . \$25.00
Mink Scarf 4 skins . . . \$25.00
Mink Scarf 4 skins . . . \$25.00
Sable Ties . . . \$15.00
Sable Mitts . . . \$15.00

Anderson's,

Manufacturers, 17 Charlotte St.

ACME SKATES,

39 cts. up.

SKIDS AND FRAMERS,
80 cts. up.
PERFORATED SKATS, all sizes.

DUVAL'S

Umbrella, Repairing and Chair
Caning Shop,
17 WATERLOO STREET.

SPORTSMEN'S

SUPPLIES!

Shot Guns, Rifles, Loaded
and Empty Shells, Powder,
Shot, Wads, Decoys, Calls,
etc.

J.W. ADDISON,

44 German St. Phone 1074.

DON'T FORGET TO

CALL ON US

For your Holiday Goods.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVER
GOODS, CUT GLASS, OPERA
GLASSES, CANES, UMBRELLAS,
CLOCKS, BRONZES, ETC.

A great variety.

FERGUSON & PAGE

At 41 King St.

Broad Cove Coal,

\$7.00 a Chaldron.

Delivered. Tel. 1033.

E. RILEY, 254 City Road

POTTS

GREAT BANKRUPT SALE.

Having closed the sale corner of Mill and Main street for two evenings, so as to assort our large stock for Grand Sale on Saturday evening, commencing at 7.30 o'clock, we would invite all those wishing to buy Xmas presents to attend. Watches and Jewelry of all kinds, Clocks, Silverware, Boys' and Men's Pants and Underclothes, Rain Coats, Rubbers and a large assortment of other goods.

F. L. POTTS, Auctioneer.

POTTS

FURNITURE, FURNITURE

At 88 Germain street, THURSDAY MORNING, at 10 o'clock, one very nice Oak B. R. Set, Bed Room Chair, Chairs, etc., M. T. H. Room Suit, and a large assortment of House hold Effects.