

London Advertiser

FOUNDED IN 1863.

TWO EDITIONS DAILY - WEEKLY
TELEPHONE CALLS.
Business Office107
Job Department175
Editorial Departments134 and 136
The London Advertiser Company,
Limited, 191-193 Dundas street, Lon-
don, Ont.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Readers of The Advertiser are re-
quested to favor the management by
reporting any irregularities in deliv-
ery. Communicate with the Circu-
lation Department, or 'phone 107.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 21.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE POWER QUESTION.

When the power companies at Ni-
agara Falls secured franchises some
years ago, no one fully realized the
value of this unique public asset, ex-
cept, perhaps, a few shrewd promoters
and capitalists. There had been a
great development across the line, and
the Government was reproached be-
cause of the absence of any work of
the same nature on the Canadian side,
when capital was ready to undertake
it.

Mr. Whitney tried to make party
capital of this condition of things dur-
ing a by-election in Welland County
in 1900. He declared, in a public ad-
dress at Niagara Falls, Ont., that Ni-
agara power should be "as free as air,"
a popular sentiment in a locality
which would directly profit by the ex-
penditure of money on power plants.
Mr. Whitney, if he meant what he
said, would have given the Canadian
Falls away to any and all who would
have converted them into industrial
uses. This reckless course had been
pursued by the state of New York, but
the Ontario Government, when it
eventually granted charters to power
companies, imposed conditions which
insured a permanent revenue to the
Province. Later on, it authorized the
municipalities of Ontario to combine
for the purpose of developing and
transmitting Niagara energy, a site
being reserved at the Falls for their
use.

It was provided in the charters of
the power companies that they should
not charge a higher price per horse-
power on the Canadian side than on
the American. Later on the Govern-
ment took advantage of an opportu-
nity to exercise a more effective con-
trol over rates. The Electrical Devel-
opment Company found that at com-
paratively little additional expense it
could increase its development from
125,000 to 225,000 horsepower, and
asked permission to do so. The Govern-
ment granted the privilege, with
the proviso that one-half of this ex-
tra development, a block of 50,000
horsepower, be set apart for the use
of the municipalities at a rate to be
fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-
Council. The Whitney Government, in
its anxiety to discredit the Ross
administration, withdrew this conces-
sion, which might have resulted in the
municipalities getting power at a
lower rate than the hydro-electric
commission has agreed to pay the On-
tario Power Company. The latter
concern has built many miles of
transmission lines in New York state,
but not a mile in Ontario, while the
Electrical Development Company has
carried power to Toronto, and spent
all its money in this Province.

The problem in its present shape
naturally falls into two parts. One of
these relates to the transmission of
Niagara energy to the doors of the
municipality; the other to its distribu-
tion within the municipal limits. The
plans of the hydro-electric commis-
sion are, no doubt, honestly designed
to enable people within the power
zone to purchase electrical energy
generated at the great cataraet, with-
out paying excessive profits to mid-
dlemen. With this general policy there
can be no quarrel, though it would be
preferable if the same object could be
attained by leaving the work to private
enterprise, under strict public
regulation, thus eliminating all finan-
cial risks to the Province or the
municipalities. The Government, how-
ever, has decided on public ownership
of the transmission lines, so that the
municipalities may regard that part
of the problem as settled; but they
still have the say as to the second
part, the matter of local distribution.

In Toronto, London, and other cities
people have invested their money in
electrical plants in good faith, and it
is now proposed to virtually confiscate
their property by confronting them
with public competition. Public
competition is not ordinary business
competition, since a public utility may
be carried on indefinitely at a loss,
which must be made up by dipping
into the pockets of the taxpayers. The
Toronto News, an advocate of public
ownership, describes these proposals
as mean and unscrupulous. It
points out the wastefulness of dupli-
cating the existing plant in Toronto,
and says the case for the purchase of
the Toronto Electric Light Company
is overwhelming. If the company re-
fused to offer reasonable terms, then
a municipal competing plant would be
justifiable as a war measure.

The same arguments apply to this
city. For some unknown reason Mr.
Beck is wholly opposed to negotiations
with the London Electric Company.

He callously told the board of trade
that the shareholders of that concern
were entitled to no consideration. Ap-
parently he would refuse them even
an opportunity to bargain with the
city. The Advertiser would hold up
both hands for the bylaw if there
were some assurance that it would be
used as an instrument of negotiation
with the local company, so as to as-
certain whether Niagara power could
be distributed at a reasonable cost
without burdening the city with the
maintenance of two plants to do the
work of one. This would be the only
honorable course, and it might prove
to be the most economical one. If the
London Electric Company were un-
compromising, or if its terms were un-
satisfactory, the citizens would know
what to do. Now they are not in pos-
session of information which they need
if they are to vote intelligently.

THE KOMOKA SCHEME.

There is no more reason why the
Komoka scheme should be endorsed
now than a year ago.

The present bylaw calls for an ex-
penditure of nearly \$400,000 to collect
water in a region covering several
square miles, which has not been sur-
veyed for this purpose. It presents
great engineering difficulties, and it is
evident that the estimate of the cost
of impounding the various springs
is only approximate. There have not
been sufficient data upon which to
base exact calculations.

This bylaw does almost nothing to
improve the city's fire-fighting facili-
ties. If it were adopted the commis-
sioners would come back to the citi-
zens for another \$200,000—the esti-
mate is \$185,000—to construct a reser-
voir and hydraulic works at Komoka,
which would raise the water pressure
to 75 or 80 pounds. The whole scheme
when completed would cost nearly
\$800,000 even if the commissioners'
estimates were within the mark. For
this expenditure the city would in-
crease its water supply by only 2,000-
3,000 gallons, and would get no relief
in insurance rates.

An expenditure of \$300,000 upon an
independent system would give a water
pressure of 200 pounds throughout the
business and manufacturing districts
of the city; it would cut at least 25
per cent off the insurance rates in the
area covered by the high-pressure ser-
vice; and it would conserve the spring
water supply by substituting river
water for street sprinkling, sewer-
flushing, and industrial purposes. In
combination with the meter system to
a limited extent, or with the addition
of the Kilworth or north branch springs
it would solve the water problem for
as long a period as the Komoka
scheme, at far less expense to the tax-
payers.

The first installment of The Adver-
tiser's new story is published on
page 12.

There are few cities of the size that
could duplicate London's Christmas
market.

The Komoka scheme is a wild goose
chase for water. The independent
system is the only practicable spring
water scheme and the cheapest.

Dr. Amyot, provincial bacteriologist,
told a public meeting in Toronto that
efficient filtration costs \$10 for a million
gallons. This is something Lon-
dons have not been told by Engineer
Maury and his local disciples.

If the power bylaw should be de-
feated it would not necessarily retard
the introduction of Niagara power. It
would be a hint to the city fathers to
find out if a second plant is really
needed before asking for money to
build it.

At a public meeting in Toronto a
resolution favorable to the power by-
law was adopted, with the stipulation
that if possible the duplication of
plants should be avoided. Anyone
who suggests that duplication should
be avoided if possible in London, is
bullied and abused.

An apology and retraction is pub-
lished in the London Advertiser in
response to a demand made upon
that newspaper by Mr. Wm. Gray.
Free Press.

Our neighbor has a curious idea of
a retraction and apology. If Mr. Gray
chooses to say that he has been libeled
by a report that he attended a Con-
servative pow-wow, it is his own busi-
ness, but we don't think so hardly as
that of London Conservatives. We
rather think Mr. Gray owes an apology
to the local managers of his party.

A MILD HINT.

[Megendorfer Blatter.]
Husband—Have you heard that they're
going to start a museum of antiquities
here?
Wife—So? Then I can give them this
hat of mine.

STATUS/QUE FEMINITY.

[P. T. O.]
The Juno type of woman seems primar-
ily to think of her own importance; hus-
band and children are only used as props
to her glory. Her husband must be al-
ways in attendance; her children must
have as their warmest feeling her regard
and respect. Altogether the Juno woman is
a creature of such cold perfection that
she may be taken as better to look at
than live with.

GOLF.

[Liverpool Courier.]
Golf as a recreation appeals to practi-
cally all ages. Impetuous youth, staid
middle age and the man in the evening
walk of life alike feel its fascination and

enjoy its manifold pleasures. Golf en-
tails walking, the best of exercises for
the average man; it trains the eye and
the arm, and while it tries, it ought also
to train the temper.

DOUBT.

[Puck.]
"Before we were married you told me
you were well off."
"So I did. I remember distinctly tell-
ing you that."
"You lied, then?"
"That would be a question in casuistry.
I was well off, all right, but I didn't
know it."

"JEST LIKE A WOMAN."

[Cleveland Leader.]
Pa Twaddles-Tommy, I am not at all
pleased with the report your mother gives
me of your conduct today.
Tommy Twaddles—I knowed you wouldn't
be, an' I told her so. But she went right
ahead an' made th' report. Jest like a
woman, ain't it?

A NEW YORK "SACRED CON- CERT."

[Town and Country.]
Deacon—You never told me, Maria, that
when you was in New York you went to
a Sunday night concert.
Maria—It was a sacred concert, Joshua.
Deacon—Too sacred to mention, I sup-
pose.

JUST A DIG.

[Catholic Standard.]
Nell—I don't see why you call her spite-
ful. I thought she was paying you a
compliment.
Belle—Oh, you don't know her.
Nell—Why, didn't she tell you in your
looking glass you were again?
Belle—She said quite my "old self,"
with the accent on the adjective.

PATIENT WOMAN.

[Westminster Gazette.]
Woman, as the uninitiated say, has to
wait for the vote; but she waits with sur-
prising patience for many things more
easily attainable in twentieth century
London. Why is it that at all our great
railway stations but two who must wash
her hands in cold water, while men have
hot, as a matter of course? Why is it that
she cannot get her boots cleaned when
she comes to town on a wet day unless
she goes to a large draper's shop, which
may be a mile out of her way?

NO HURRY.

[Philadelphia Press.]
"Mr. Handhead," began the new clerk,
preparing to ask for a raise in pay, "I
think I understand the business pretty
well now."
"Yes?" interrupted his employer. "Well,
keep at it, and perhaps in a few years
you'll understand it as well as you think
you do now."

DIFFERENT WEIGHT.

[Life.]
Glady's—Father will be so pleased to
hear that you are a poet.
Algernon—Ah, like you, he adores
poetry?
Glady's—No, it isn't that. The last one
of my lovers he tried to lick was a foot-
ball player.

NOT A LEGAL BULLY.

[Toronto Star.]
A tablet to Christopher Robinson has
been placed in Ossonge Hall. To the in-
scription might be added, by way of con-
gratulation, "He never found it necessary
to bully a witness."

City and District

—Today is the shortest day in the
year. Henceforth the days will be
growing longer.

—Mrs. Butler, 242 St. James street,
will not receive again until the sec-
ond Monday in January.

—Rev. Dr. McCrae, who last Sab-
bath conducted memorial services at
Fingal in connection with the death of
the Rev. Dr. Sutherland, will conduct
special Christmas services in his own
church on Sunday.

—The Friar's Cough Balm, word
contest, prize of \$25 offered by the
National Drug and Chemical Company
was won by F. N. Mann, son of G. T.
Mann, 281 Princess avenue. The num-
ber of words secured by the winner
was 1,844. The National Drug Com-
pany have already forwarded the
check for \$25.

—A quiet wedding took place at the
parsonage of Wellington Street Meth-
odist Church recently, when Miss
Maud Clime, of Westminster, was
married to Mr. Lewis H. C. Craig, of
North Dorchester. The ceremony was
performed by Rev. James Livingstone.

—A painful accident.
Mr. Robert Fox, of 298 Central ave-
nue, met with a painful accident on
Thursday afternoon, which will con-
fine him to the house for several
weeks. Mr. Fox was leaving his home
to take a walk, when he slipped and
fell on the steps, fracturing his leg.
Dr. Drake attended him.

—Name Omitted.
In the report of the Collegiate ex-
aminations Albert Murphy's name was
inadvertently omitted. He is a pupil
in Lower VI, and took first-class
standing. His average percentage in
all subjects during the terms was
82.4.

Welcome Home.

A "welcome home" in the shape of
a concert was tendered to Miss Isabel
Dudley, daughter of Mr. Joseph Dud-
ley, of Grand avenue, last night by
the members of Christ Church. Miss
Dudley has been studying in England
and in Paris for some time. The pro-
gramme included numbers by Miss
Dudley, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Percy and the
Young Men's Quartet.

Officers Elected for 1908.

Camp Flower of Dunblane, No. 166,
Sons of Scotland, elected the follow-
ing officers for 1908: Chief, Jas. Gray;
chieftain, P. J. Watt; chaplain, James
Patterson; past chief, Jos. Saunders;
financial secretary, John McLaren;
secretary, John P. Nicol (re-elected);
marshal, Bro. Campbell; standard-bear-
er, Bro. McCombie; guard, James
Hamilton; pipe major, James Hamil-
ton.

Chosen Friends.

At the annual meeting of London
Council, No. 75, C. O. C. F., the fol-
lowing officers were elected for the en-
suing year: Past chief counselor, Mr.
W. J. Smith; chief counselor, H. Win-
dery; vice-chief counselor, Jas. Wil-
kins; prelate counselor, E. E. Sanders;
marshal, E. Wingett; warden, W. J.
Mitchell; guard, H. Sanders; treasurer
J. H. McFarry; recorder, A. Mills; as-
sistant recorder, John Tanton; trust-
ees, Mrs. J. W. Thorpe, H. Sanders,

Jas. Wilkins; medical examiner, Drs.
Drake, Roome, McArthur and Alice
Jamieson.

Surprised the Principal.

Principal Alex. MacQueen, of Vic-
toria school, was pleasantly surprised
yesterday afternoon by his pupils when
they presented him with a solid gold
Masonic charm. A neatly-worded ad-
dress was read by Master Floyd Mayne
and the presentation was made by
Miss Olive Parker. Shortly afterwards
Miss Helen Weid was presented by
Secretary McElheran, on behalf of In-
spector Edwards, with a beautiful vol-
ume of Tennyson's poems.

Court Defence Officers.

Court Defence, No. 7, Canadian Or-
der of Foresters, at the regular meet-
ing, elected officers for the coming
year as follows: P. C. R. A. E. Wy-
att; C. R. Dr. Shoebottom; V. C. R.
M. Wilson; financial secretary, F. C.
Toon; recording secretary, W. A.
Reid; treasurer, N. H. Fleming; chap-
lain, E. Reid; S. W. W. Talling; J. W.
C. Chelley; J. E. Moore; J. E. R.
Jackson; court physician, Dr. C. W.
Belton; hall trustee, A. R. Galpin.

Cigarmakers' Dance.

The second dance of the cigarmak-
ers was held in the city hall last night,
when over a hundred couples were
present. The music for the occasion
was furnished by Messrs. Dayton &
McCormick's orchestra. The following
composed the committee in charge of
the dance: President, J. Kelly; sec-
retary-treasurer, C. L. Meaden; record-
ing secretary, W. Hyslop, and Messrs.
Walter Jones, E. Bowry, W. Gregory,
R. A. Schreiber, and W. Hevey. It is
the intention to hold a dance every
month throughout the winter.

Mr. Brown Injured.

A painful accident happened to Mr.
J. Brown, of Adelaide street, yester-
day afternoon, while putting up double
windows at the residence of a well-
known citizen on Queen's avenue. Mr.
Brown lost his balance, and fell from
the ladder, a distance of about twenty
feet. He fell on his side, and Dr. Rea-
son, who was called, found upon ex-
amination that several ribs had been
fractured. Mr. Brown was removed to
Victoria Hospital, where he is at pres-
ent progressing favorably.

"Watched" Their Foreman.

A very pleasant surprise happened
last evening at the residence of Mr.
Edward F. Housen, 131 Marmalou
street, when a party of his fellow-em-
ployes called, and Mr. S. Merrett, in
behalf of the members of his
department and a few others,
presented him with a gold watch. Mr.
Housen was taken completely by sur-
prise, but made a suitable reply. After
spending the evening in games and
refreshment, a packet of a sumptuous
repast, provided by the hostess, and
broke up in the early hours of the
morning.

A Presentation.

The employees in the structural and
ornamental iron shop of the Dennis
Wire and Iron Works Company, Lim-
ited, gave the foreman of their de-
partment, Mr. R. E. Jury, a pleasant
surprise last evening, by assembling
in the shipping room and presenting
him with a very cordial address, and
a handsome Morris chair. Bob, who is
usually biased and prepared for any
emergency, was completely taken off
his feet this time, but on recovering
something of his usual self-assurance,
replied feelingly and to the point, "The
men sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Fel-
low,' and wished him many years of
happiness."

Concert at Glenworth.

The concert held in St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church, South Westmin-
ster, on Monday evening, was one of
the best and most successful ever held
in that place. The church was filled
to overflowing and many could not
find accommodation. The programme
was a splendid one. Mr. James Fax,
of Toronto, charmed everybody. Mr.
Bowling, sang very sweetly. The
men sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fel-
low," and wished him many years of
happiness.

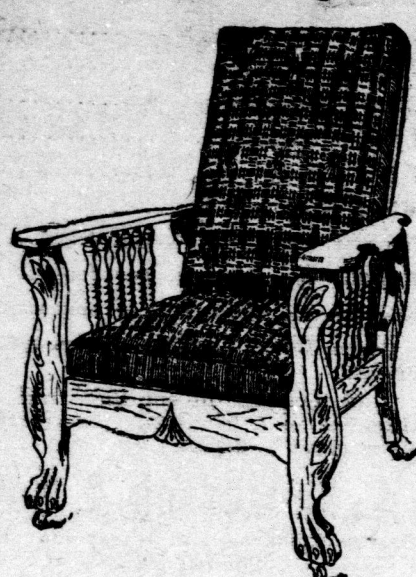
Funeral of Mrs. Lillywhite.

The funeral of the late Mrs. James
Lillywhite, 497 Ontario street, took
place Wednesday afternoon. The ser-
vice was conducted by Rev. W. G. H.
McAlister, assisted by Rev. J. W.
Wickett. Mr. McAlister referred to the
ties which were sundered in the de-
cease of the departed wife, sister,
friend. Each sorrow of the human
heart has its own peculiar bitterness.
He admonished the mourning assem-
bly to take as their guide for life the
mysterious journey the only guide
available, the sure word of God. Friends
found the deceased's Bible in its
familiar place. It was the last
book she had consulted before retiring
for the last sleep on earth. The
pallbearers were Fred W. Waters, In-
gersoll; John K. Cooper, Detroit; Alex.
Reach, city; Andrew and Fred Haines,
St. Marys, and Walter Thomas, city.
The floral tributes were very many,
and each one particularly beautiful. A
husband and three daughters survive.
Mrs. Alice James, Winnipeg; Mrs. J.
K. Cooper, Detroit, and Miss Addie
Lillywhite, at home.

The Late Mrs. Scholz.

The Stratford Herald says: Another
of this city's oldest and most esteemed
residents passed away yesterday. The
lady mourned is Mrs. F. F. Scholz, of
the familiar "Stone House," at the
corner of St. Patrick and Church
streets, the oldest stone or brick res-
idence in Stratford. She had attained
the age of 73 years. Mrs. Scholz,
whose maiden name was Miss Jane Hill,
was born in Londonderry, Ireland, and
came to Canada in 1847 in company
with the Millers and Henrys who set-
tled in the township of Ellice. In 1860
she married the late John Frederick
Scholz, who, a native of Prussia, had
been in the Prussian Province of Silesia,
and just come out to Canada. Their long
and respected life has commended
them and the family whom they
raised, to the sincere respect of the
community. Mrs. Scholz died on Dec.
12, 1902. Mrs. Scholz has for a long
time been in failing health, and grad-
ually as a flickering light her life went
out yesterday. Four daughters sur-
vive, being Miss Elizabeth, resident at
home, Mrs. (Dr.) J. A. Craig, of Ho-
boken, N. J.; Mrs. J. J. Radcliffe, wife
of the assistant-principal of the Nor-
mal School, London, Ont.; Mrs. S. M.
Loghrin, of this city, and one little
grandson, Fritz Loghrin.

Money! Money! Money!

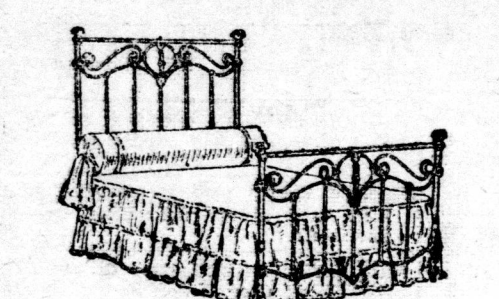


MORRIS CHAIRS
Galore from.....\$4.00 up

PARLOR CABINET
\$8.00 up

JARDINIERE
STANDS, 45c up

BRASS BEDS
\$21.00 up



IRON BEDS
Going at.....\$2.50 and up

W. M. PATTEN

233 DUNDAS STREET
Two Doors East of Bennett's. * * Don't Forget the Place.

McClarys Give Prizes To Essay Writers

Some time ago Principal McRob-
erts, of the Aberdeen school, asked
permission of the McClary Manu-
facturing Company to allow his pupils to
visit the works in order that they
might become interested in industrial
affairs, and write essays thereon. The
plan proved most successful, and Mr.
McRoberts communicated with a
number of other principals of city
schools, who were also granted the
same permission by the firm.

Some splendid essays have resulted,
and the members of the McClary firm
were so pleased that they sent each
boy and girl who wrote what the prin-
ciples deemed was the best essay a
handsome gift.

Each girl received a beautiful little
brooch, and each boy a valuable stick-
pin.

The presentations were made yester-
day afternoon by the principals of
the various schools, as follows:
Aberdeen School—Caroline Vroom-
an, Magrue Pollock.

Colborne Street School—Elizabeth
Harwood, Merlyn Pococke.
Chesley Avenue School—Howard
McDonald, Zella Kew.
Empress Avenue School—William
Wallwin, Marie Horby.
Lorne Avenue School—Basil Brem-
ner, Vida Isaac.
Princess Avenue School, Grade VIII.
Princess Avenue School, Grade VII.
Marjorie McDougall, Floyd Jones.
Rectory Street School—Glady's
Steele, Wilmer Denney.
Shincoe Street School—Agnes Booth,
W. Pavlatzke.
St. George's School (Mr. C. Brown's
room)—Gertrude Cole, Wilson Wright-
ton.
St. George's School (Principal Wy-
att's room)—Helen Stafford, George
Winterbottom.
Tabbot Street School—Myrtle Beam-
ish, Cecil Major.
Victoria School—Tillie Moore,
Floyd Maine.

Discovered a Burnt Fuse In Petrolea Wreckage

Company Believes Their Maga- zine Was Deliberately Blown Up.

Petrolea, Dec. 20.—The inquiry into
the nitro-glycerin explosion was con-
tinued this morning at 9:30 before In-
spector Rogers. Mr. David Barr, pres-
ident of Petrolea Torpedoes, Limited,
was the first witness, but his testi-
mony only corroborated that of pre-
vious witnesses, regarding the condi-
tion of the magazine.
Ernest Stokes, a shooter and manu-
facturer of nitro-glycerin for the firm
of Porter & Stokes, was then called,
and was still on the stand when the
sitting adjourned for lunch. The com-
pany submitted a large piece of burnt
fuse and also a piece of a can which
was used for carrying the fluid in
which they claimed was found among
the debris after the explosion, and with
the ownership of which they tried to
connect the witness.

There are several other important
witnesses to be examined this after-
noon, and it is apparent the Petrolea
Torpedoes, Limited, are trying to es-
tablish the fact that the magazine was
deliberately blown up.

SPECULATOR SHOOTS HIS BANKER

New York, Dec. 20.—J. H. Oliphant,
head of the prominent broking firm of
J. H. Oliphant & Co., was shot today
in front of 20 Broadway street by G.
M. Geiger, a former surgeon in the
British army, who committed suicide
immediately after.

Geiger was probably insane.
The Oliphant firm has been carrying
Geiger along for some time, and he
was in debt to them for margins. A
few days ago he had been called upon
to make good this indebtedness, and
he went to the office by appointment
today.

Mr. Oliphant was not present, and
he was asked to return at 2 p.m. to-
day. When he returned at that time
he was shown to Mr. Oliphant's pri-
vate office, and the two men had a
long conference. The first known of

the trouble was when the clerks in
the outer office heard the sound of
shots. Rushing into the room they
found both men lying on the floor.
Oliphant with a bullet wound in the
pit of his stomach, and Geiger dead
with a bullet in his head.
Mr. Oliphant was conscious, and in
response to questions as to what
caused the trouble, he said, "he owed
us money." That was all he was able
to say.
It is said Geiger was about \$2,000
behind in his accounts to the firm.
Mr. Oliphant, who is in a serious
condition, was a well-known figure in
financial circles. His firm did a large
business on the stock exchange. Mr.
Oliphant is also a director of the La-
fayette Fire Insurance Company and
of the St. Lawrence Real Estate Associa-
tion.

of Ross and Louest streets, and about 11
o'clock was preparing to go down into a
sewer, having come to the surface for a
few minutes. He went to place his hand
on the edge of the opening, prior to low-
ering himself, and as he did so he shipped



ROCKERS
A large assortment from
.....\$1.00 up

MUSIC CABINETS
\$4.00 and up

FANCY TABLES
\$1.00 up



COUCHES
\$4.00 and up.

W. M. PATTEN

233 DUNDAS STREET
Two Doors East of Bennett's. * * Don't Forget the Place.

McClarys Give Prizes To Essay Writers

and fell head foremost into the twelve-foot
hole. His head struck the hard ground,
and when his fellow-employees went to his
rescue they found him unconscious. Dr.
Curtis was hastily summoned, and had
Mr. Taylor removed to the hospital, where
it was found that he had sustained what
appears to be a broken neck or a badly
injured spine. It will be impossible to tell
just how serious his injury