

MANY TOWNS FACE A FUEL FAMINE

Imminent in Western State,
While in North West
It Exists.

In Many Places Not Even a Pound Can be
Bought—Fuel Trains to be
Given Preference.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 18.—With coal selling in Tonopah at sixty dollars a ton, and the Northwest unable to get fuel at any price, because railroads may there is a shortage of cars, there are more than four thousand empty cars standing on side tracks in Kansas City alone. Reports from various railroad division points in Missouri and Kansas indicate that cars are plentiful in both states. The heaviest snowstorm of the winter is general over Southwestern Missouri, Southeastern Kansas, and parts of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. Much suffering will result and the snow is from two to six feet deep. The Northwest no longer faces a fuel famine, it experiences one. Careful inquiry in the northern half of North Dakota shows there is not a town in which coal can be had except in small quantities and to supply immediate needs and in some places there is not a pound to be bought, dealers having been out of fuel for days and in some cases for a week or more.

In the face of the serious conditions the people are giving no attention to the lack of cars for wheat shipments, and great piles of wheat that lie loose on the ground are buried under the snow. Individuals, commercial and civic bodies and newspapers demand that fuel have right of way over everything.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18.—Senator Hanchborough, of North Dakota, consulted the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission in reference to the coal famine. He declared the situation, resulting from the shortage of coal in his state was most deplorable, and that the public schools in some localities were closing on account of lack of fuel to keep the children warm. It is said that for a number of years past at this season, and earlier in the year, there have been complaints of lack of equipment to properly transport coal, but the situation in this respect was never so acute as now.

MAXIMUM, Oila, Dec. 18.—A coal famine is now prevailing in this part of Oklahoma. There is no timber for fuel, and many farmers are burning fences and outbuildings. The weather is cold. Coal in transit is being hoarded by the railroads, and apparently there is no relief in sight. Fifty farmers went to the Rock Island station today and took charge of the only car of coal. Unless relief comes shortly, all public works will be closed and many families will suffer.

THE HINDU AS A RAILROAD LABORER

Contractors Think He Will Turn Out
Good Work on the Contract
System.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 18.—Pleas for work to test the possibilities of the Hindu as a railroad laborer. About seventy-five of the race are now employed on that line by Ironsides, Rhinie & Campbell, contractors for the construction of the Great Northern cutoff between New Westminster and Blaine. By this contract system, the Hindus will have to work to make money, though with a fair amount of effort they can make a fair day's wage. "We tried some of the Hindus some time ago on the construction of about two miles of railway between the Burnette and Fraser river mills," said Mr. D. K. Campbell, "but they only stayed long enough to draw down one pay. The work was in swampy ground, and where they did not show to advantage, because they were poorly clad, and in no condition to work in water over their heads. When they got paid they never came back. Had they taken some of their money and bought gun boots for themselves they might have continued the work without discomfort."

"On the Great Northern cutoff, we are trying them on the contract system, and to make anything they will have to work. It is possible that in this country they may make good laborers. I find that many farmers are employing them with good results."



OTTAWA, Ont.

Architectural Competition for Departmental and Justice Buildings

COMPETITIVE drawings are invited for Departmental and Justice Buildings to be erected for the Dominion Government at Ottawa, Ont.

The author of the best design will be awarded a premium of \$3,000, the second best \$4,000, the third best \$2,000, and the fourth best \$1,000.

Drawings will be received not later than April 15th, 1907, and are to be addressed to the Secretary of the Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

This competition is open to Canadian Architects who have been resident in Canada for one year or more.

Conditions of competitive stating requirements of buildings and maps showing site, etc., may be had on application to the undersigned.

By order,

FRED. GELINAS, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, December 12, 1906.

Newspapers will not be paid for this advertisement if they insert it without authority from this Department.

Lest You Forget Something
In the Hurry Nowadays
Allow us to Offer a Few

REMINDERS.

M. R. A., Limited.

ON THE SECOND FLOOR
In the Costume Section you will find Toilet Requisites in large number of varieties, also Papeteries and Holiday Tissue Paper Novelties. This is the section for ladies' Comfort Wraps, etc. also.

THE MILLINERY DEPT.
offers many good holiday suggestions: for instance, what's the matter with having a new Feather Hat, Plume Hat, New Tam, and then there are Children's Hoods and Bonnets.

HUNDREDS OF ART CHINA
novelties, Cut Glass pieces, Busts, Statuettes, Fancy Glassware, etc., etc. To be seen in the Art Room, Second Floor, along with an endless array of Christmas Goods in general.

PARISIAN NECKWEAR
is invariably acceptable, and a great source of comfort to the man who is worried about what to get for a lady friend. We have the largest supply east of Montreal. Everything in Gloves as well.

PURSES, HANDBAGS, ETC., in every kind of leather and in all shapes. A collection of New York's most modish styles in reliable qualities. Belts in this dept. also. The Front Store.

COMFORT CUSHIONS
ARE GOOD at all times for gift purposes. We are selling some at special prices this week, and have a comprehensive supply for presentation to either lady or gentleman. Cushion materials also. Housefurnishings Department.

SENSIBLE GIFTS FOR MEN always include Shirts. Nothing pleases the sterner sex more than to receive furnishings of this kind, or Neckties, Braces, Gloves, Mittens and so forth. We are stocked sky-high with them.

CLOTHING IS NOT PROSY for presentation purposes; quite the opposite. We can supply Fur Coats, Fancy Winter Vests Boys' Fancy Overcoats, Dress Suits, Smoking Jackets, Dressing Gowns, Bath Robes, etc. All prices

BRUSH & COMB SETS
Shaving Sets, Smoking Sets, Manicuring Sets and other requisites for ladies and gentlemen in Silver, Brass, Ebony and various materials. Lots to select from in this line of goods.

FURSHAVE A LASTING VALUE and are therefore prime gifts; no matter if it be but the inexpensive Mongolian Muff and Collar for the baby, or a rich set of Real Mink for mother. Scores of moderately-priced pieces from which to choose.

HANDKERCHIEFS NEVER DISAPPOINT a recipient at Christmas; they are always acceptable. We are selling them for men, women and children by the thousands this week. Any quantity or price you like. Boxed ready for presentation.

PICTURES IN ART ROOM. Lovers of pretty pictures will enjoy seeing our large stock for Christmas time. Numerous subjects, and nice framing. Pictures for parlor, dining room, hallway, library, boudoir or den.

At M. R. A.'s Limited

DRAMATIC CRISES IN THREE NATIONS

Kaiser's Subjects on Point of
Revolt Against Taxation.

Situation in France Rivals That in Germany
—Britain's Controversy Over
Education Question.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Rarely have Europe's affairs presented pictures of such intense dramatic interest as at the present moment. An Emperor is fighting his people upon a grave issue of policy, a religious war has begun between a republic and the greatest Christian church, and Great Britain is at a deadlock in the first stages of another religious controversy, its present real issue being the question of the separation of Church and State.

An outside observer who studies impartially great popular movements is able usually to see situations in a truer perspective than those in the thick of the fray. It is in this spirit that the following brief observations upon the German, French and English crises now pending are offered.

STRUGGLE IN GERMANY.

The struggle in Germany is not based on a mere question of colonial policy. It is the culmination of the German people's protest against the financial burdens which the Emperor's vast ambitions in world politics have imposed upon the nation. Added to that is the almost rebellious opposition of the generous populace to the heavy increase in the cost of food, brought about by the prohibition of imports for the benefit of the agrarian class.

FRANCE TOO RAPID.

The Germans fully sympathize with the Kaiser's ambitions for national greatness, but they protest that his pace is so rapid it is exhausting the vitality of the Empire. They are shocked and appalled by the revelation of scandal and cruel atrocities in connection with colonial administration and especially in South-West Africa. The military spirit has gone mad in certain directions and the Germans resent it, as the world at large resents the horror of the Congo.

The average patriotic German argues: "If all my sacrifices for the glory of the Fatherland bring disgrace in the eyes of Christendom as one of the consequences then the price is too great to pay." It does not follow that the next Reichstag will follow the Government's colonial budget, as the Reichstag has done in the past. The representative national legislatures in the world. It is impossible to be otherwise, unless 40 years of distribution system which the Government refuses to alter. One district in Berlin with two hundred thousand inhabitants, for example, has the same representative in the Reichstag as a district of twenty thousand in Saxony. There would be a great increase in the Socialist membership and a diminution of the Clericals of the united vote of one value per capita.

KAISER MUST MODERATE PROGRAMME.

It is impossible yet to forecast the result of the impending campaign. There will be much beating of drums and appeals for support of the Kaiser in creating a world empire, and it is not all impossible that the Emperor will carry his point once more.

This is certain, however: The imperial programme will have to be moderated. The burden is greater than the people are willing to bear, and they will find means, one or another, to lighten it.

No outsider is called upon to express an opinion upon the merits of the French religious controversy. One may, perhaps, be permitted to say that, looking at the situation from alternate points of view, each side has made the best possible move under the present circumstances.

The Pope certainly has consulted the best interests of the church in his action upon the merits of the French religious controversy. One may, perhaps, be permitted to say that, looking at the situation from alternate points of view, each side has made the best possible move under the present circumstances.

CHANGE IN FRENCH PEOPLE.

It is not that the French people are developing antagonism to religion. The have acted accordingly. The Government, on the other hand, had no option but to meet the challenge with unwavering insistence that the law of the land must be obeyed.

It is true that the law of 1881, requiring notification of all public meetings had not in contemplation religious services in its application. It is equally true that the Government would not dream of passing such a law as a new piece of legislation. It cannot, however, repeal it under the foreign threat which this week came from Rome. If it did, the Pope probably would realize, and rightly, from his point of view, some new controversial issues. In other words, a long and bitter struggle between the Roman Catholic Church and the French Government seems hardly war if the present directors of the French Republic can make it so.

They are not honest Republicans who believe that there should be no connection between the civil Government and any church. But bitterness probably will develop on both sides and the progress of the struggle will be the spectacle of most absorbing interest which the world will have to watch during the coming year.

Are You In Doubt About... ...That Christmas Present?

A VISIT to our establishment will solve the difficulty. After all a Xmas Gift need not necessarily be expensive. You will find our stock replete with useful as well as beautiful articles. For over eighty years our label has stood for quality, and has represented the very best, both in our own productions and in the many lines of goods which we handle. Our stock for this season is very complete, and we wish to draw special attention to the following list.

XMAS STATIONERY: Great variety; Standard makes; Beautiful Gift Boxes with handsome Gibson and Gilbert designs. Pictures can be framed with passepartout when Paper is used.

FOUNTAIN PENS: Waterman's "IDEAL" and "STERLING." Ladies' Hand Bags, Writing Cases, Card Cases, Finger Purses, &c. Ask to see the "Muff" Purse—The Latest.

Gentlemen's Bill Cases, Letter Cases and Card Cases. Lettering in gold free.

OLD HOME CALENDARS. With beautiful reproductions of Saint John photos, tied with ribbon and neatly boxed. Just the thing to send to friends abroad.

POST CARD ALBUMS. Great assortment, Flexible Leather with Maple Leaf Designs, and a number of other attractive bindings.

Sole Agents for Webster's "International" Dictionary, Standard of the World.

Bibles and Prayer Books in beautiful bindings.

Xmas Post Cards and an immense assortment of Local and other Views, &c.

Ink Stands, Sealing Wax Cabinets, Bridge and Cribbage Sets, and our usual superior assortment of Playing Cards.

Mail Orders Have Our Special Attention.

McMILLANS' J. & A. McMillan, 98 and 100 Prince William St.
Saint John, N. B.

England's religious controversy has now reached its most acute Parliamentary stage. There is small chance of the question coming immediately before the country, even if the deadlock between the two houses on the education bill continues.

TAX ON REAL TITLES
Funny Paradox of French Legislation is a Revenue Raiser.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—Would any people but the French, with their refreshing habit of being ever ready to provide a new sensation, think of putting the stamp of State on a recognition of the titles of nobility after declaring that such titles are non-existent? The Chamber has assented to such a proposal for the sake of providing further revenue.

Titles are not to be re-established or made legal, but the bearers and users of them are to be compelled to pay a tax, as well as those inheriting them. The law might be reversed action extinguish titles, if human vanity were not equal to any strain, through causing relinquishment of titles in preference to payment for the privilege of continuing them. The joke is that the tax is to be levied only on titles known to be authentic so take titles may flourish untaxed and without being interfered with. All mayors are to be requested to send in a list of persons bearing titles, whether they are real or false.

**HE CONDEMNS
CHRISTMAS FEEDS**
Vicar of Burtonwood Thinks Spiritual Aspects of the Day are Ignored.



Holiday Clothes!

In all the Christmas and New Year's festivities there is nothing more important and necessary than good clothes. Without good clothes we cannot enter heartily into the many merriments and social affairs that mark the season. Are you ready for the fun? If not we can make you ready.

20th CENTURY BRAND CLOTHES

Are holiday clothes because there is no occasion or no assemblage too good for them. Every wearer of a 20th Century Brand Suit or Overcoat feels at home in any company. He is always as well dressed as the best. Let us fit you out for the holidays with clothes that will be proud of for many a month.

Suits, S. B. and D. B. Sack, \$10 to \$25.

Overcoats, S. B. and D. B., \$10 to \$25.

Evening Dress Suits, extra fine finish, \$25.

A. GILMOUR, - - 68 King St.,
Men's Clothing: Ready-to-Wear and to Order

DATES FIXED FOR HALIFAX EXHIBITION

HALIFAX, Dec. 18.—At the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission, held tonight, matters in connection with the recent Dominion exhibition held in this city were dealt with. The exhibition shows a surplus of \$115,754. The revenue was \$148,235.06, and the expenditure \$147,081.52. Judge Longley was re-elected chairman and Sept. 25th was the date fixed for opening, and Oct. 2nd for closing of next year's show.

RECENT DEATHS.

MRS. CATHERINE KIRBY.

The remains of the late Mrs. Catherine Kirby, widow of the late John Kirby, who died at Portland, Me., on Monday morning, arrived in the city yesterday by the Boston express. The deceased was 44 years of age, and a daughter of the late John Donohue of Carleton. Mrs. Kirby is survived by two sons and a sister, Mrs. William J. Redmond, of 11 Winslow street, Carleton, from whose residence the funeral will take place at half-past eight o'clock, on Wednesday morning.

JOHN WESLEY TURNER.

The death of John Wesley Turner, one of the most highly respected and prosperous persons of Westmorland county, occurred on Sunday morning at half-past four o'clock. The deceased had been ill for about a month, but was only confined to the house for two weeks. Previous to this illness he had always enjoyed good health. Mr. Turner was a son of the late Barker Turner. One brother, Botsford, of Port Elgin, and two sisters, Mrs. Wesley Wood and Mrs. Thomas Wood of Bale Verte, survive.

The children are Morley of Bale Verte; William D., law student, of St. John, and Ellen and Eva, at home. The late Mr. Turner had a very large circle of friends, who will deeply regret to hear of his death. When quite young he joined the Baptist Church, and was a consistent member and generous supporter throughout his life. Mr. Turner was 75 years of age.

REV. WM. GRANT.

ST. PETERS, C. B., Dec. 18.—Rev. William Grant, who for ten years ministered to the Presbyterian congregation at Grand River, died there at four o'clock this morning. He suffered for several months from a disorder of the stomach and for some days his death was not unexpected. Deceased was a native of Pictou county and was 70 years of age. He was exceedingly zealous and enthusiastic in the work of his ministry, and his death is deeply regretted, not only among his own people, but as well among all who were privileged to enjoy his acquaintance. He leaves a widow, who is a sister of Rev. Dr. Falconer, Pictou one son Melville, who was with him when he died, and one daughter, lately a student at Dalhousie and now studying in Boston. The funeral takes place at Grand River on Friday.

Advertising has come to be an absolute necessity in most walks of life.—Hance Bros. & Write, Philadelphia.



NOTICE TO MARINERS

The combined Gas and Whistling Buoy anchored off Old Proprietor Ledge, in the Bay of Fundy, is reported adrift. It will be replaced in position as soon as practicable.

F. J. HARDING, Agent,
Dept. Marine & Fisheries, St. John, N.B.
15-12-2