

MILD WINTER HIT BUSINESS HARD

Furs, Winter Suits, Overcoats, and Heavy Footwear in Very Little Demand

RESULT IS BARGAINS Merchants Must Have Money for Spring Stocks, and Goods Will Never Be Lower

TORONTO, Feb. 26.—At first the merchants of Toronto merely hoped for a seasonable winter.

Before Christmas they were beginning to be anxious over the weather.

By mid-January, they were praying for a blizzard; and furriers and boot and shoe merchants were holding literary evenings to read Kipling's "Our Lady of the Snows" and Service's Yukon ballads.

This last week you could see them on Yonge street and all its tributaries far and near, staring at their goods, and merchants, their eyes upon the smiling signs, applying for cold, tempest, blizzard, slush and sleet.

It would not have been safe for the weather man, who ventured on Yonge street the last three weeks.

For this astonishing California winter that Toronto has enjoyed has been a very serious calamity to slow to merchants and to industry.

Three Hostile Factors "We have had to contend," says a fur manufacturer, "with three factors: one, the luxury tax; two, the rumours of a slump in prices; three, a mild winter."

The luxury tax undoubtedly slowed up sales unless it were priced as. The rumored slump in prices all the way from Mexico to Hudson Bay, actually came, but in less degree than was predicted; and prices are again slowly recovering. But the weather has been the one constant damper. Governments can't revoke it, as they did the luxury tax.

Weather is not amenable to economic law, at least for the moment. Merchants can not sue the government, or the agitators or the public or the newspapers, for the fine weather.

The result is, fur dealers have not sold furs, tailors have not sold men's winter overcoats, shoe merchants have not sold heavy shoes, ladies' houses have not sold winter cloaks and suits.

Shabby Day Makes Business Bleak With the money he receives for his winter goods, the merchant buys spring goods.

And with spring sales opening in the middle of the month, what is the merchant going to do?

Even at this date, two or three weeks of real winter weather would rescue many merchants from a predicament which has not yet been reached.

The first week in February, we had three days of snow and slush. It was a sign of the weather to come.

The first day, one of the large departmental stores sold ten thousand pairs of rubbers.

Into that one day was jammed the purchasing that ordinarily would have been spread over several winter weeks.

In those three days, business picked up marvellously all over the city. The psychology of weather was this: Jim, who had been wearing his fall overcoat into winter, saw day pass after day without the absolute necessity of buying that promised winter ulster.

Several times a cold spell gave a false alarm, but the next day broke balmy. He began to think he was going to get by without a winter overcoat.

Because They Have To Then came three days of snow and slush. Ah, the real winter had come at last, and the absolute necessity of buying the winter overcoat. And his Oxford or light shoes got soaked. So he bought winter boots. And a pair of rubbers while he was at it.

Genevieve, who had been at her father all winter for a fur coat, and who had him all but wheedled, except for the business of the season, won her case, as soon as the city was smothered in slush. She got her fur coat.

A Yonge street merchant in furs and fine clothing said: "There have been sales, of course. Those who have been in the position to buy fine clothes have done so, have been seriously affected, because there are more people who buy because they have to buy than those who buy as a matter of form. On the other hand, people who buy fur coats usually have to save up to do so. And a girl cannot be deterred from buying a fur coat merely by a little mild weather."

Another downtown merchant of men's clothes said: "Our cabinets are full of winter overcoats and heavy quality suits. Men can always use \$50 or so; if there is no pressing need for a heavy garment, they just put it off until the need arises."

Thousand Jews Slain LONDON, Feb. 26.—More than 1,000 Jews slain in the pogroms carried out by the troops of General Balakovich, former anti-Bolshevik leader, in the regions of Minsk and Hamel, according to the Federation of Ukrainian Jews here. The pogroms were of a terrible character.

Ask \$4000 Bail Against Two Men

Four thousand dollars bail each was the arrangement made by Magistrate Masson in the case of Inspector Collision against Hayden Akey and Ernest Akey of Bogart on charges of keeping liquor for sale. The case was enlarged for a week. The men themselves gave their own recognizance of \$2,000 each and each one had to find two securities of \$1,000 in his case.

Boy Who Stole \$65 Sent Off to Mimico

In Trenton on Friday afternoon, a boy of tender years convicted of the theft of \$65 from a lady on Tuesday, was committed by Magistrate O'Rourke to the Mimico Industrial School at Toronto. He had several previous convictions against him. Crown Attorney Carr and Inspector Raston were in attendance at the court.

Canadian Vessel's Struggle at Sea

Disabled Signaller Crawled Into Port Week Overdue, Without Food or Fuel

BOSTON, February 26.—Every scrap of food on board was gone and the coal bunkers were virtually empty when the steamer Canadian Signaller arrived yesterday from New York. The vessel was in a bad way, having been blown down and for hours after storm on the Atlantic. Officers and crew were exhausted.

The last three days of the ship's voyage were by dead reckoning and only yesterday was her position made known to her by heavy wireless after her Boston agent had sought word of her. In mid-ocean her engine broke down and for hours the vessel was tossed about at the mercy of the seas.

The last of the Canadian Signaller's food supply was consumed yesterday. There was no breakfast aboard this morning. The vessel, one of the Canadian merchant marine fleet, brought a cargo of China goods.

"HUMAN FLY" KILLED FORT WORTH, Texas, Feb. 26.—Harry Thompson, of Toronto, better known as the "human fly" was killed here by falling six stories.

MILLIONS IN GOLD REACH NEW YORK FROM INDIA New York, Feb. 26.—Between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 in gold, \$3,500,000 of which is consigned to the Equitable Trust Company of this city, arrived here today from India on the United States Shipping Board's "Sancha."

INVENTION TO OVERCOME HUMIDITY IN VULCANIZING IS SHOWN HERE

Tiger Tires and Rubber Works Scene on Friday of Interesting Set of Experiments—Invention of W. M. Mackintosh Interests the Experts.

An interesting invention which overcomes humidity in the vulcanization of India rubber goods was demonstrated on Friday afternoon at the Tiger Tires and Rubber Company's works, by the inventor, Mr. W. M. Mackintosh.

The process was witnessed by experts in the rubber business—R. F. Foote of the Independent Rubber Company, Merritt; S. P. Langdon, of the Gutta Percha Company, Toronto; and W. E. Campbell, chief chemist of the Gutta Percha Rubber Company.

Mayor Hanna, Industrial Commissioner Hertz and newspaper men were also present. The new process will, it is claimed, vulcanize any class of rubber goods made up from suitable compound, such as boots, shoes, surgical and accessories, tires and tubes.

Present Method To understand the value of Mr. Mackintosh's invention, it will be necessary to refer to the present method of vulcanization and their drawbacks. Boots and shoes after being made up and varnished are placed in a dry heat oven at a temperature of about 140° Fah. The temperature is raised gradually to 270° Fah. over a period from 6 1/2 to 7 hours, according to quality.

In this heater or oven there may be from 1,000 to 2,000 pairs of shoes. In the event of a sudden change of humidity, the result is more or less the whole of the shoes would become cracked and turn out useless and unfit for sale.

The average loss to the manufacturer in this respect throughout the year is 6 per cent. of the output, and in some countries as high as 8 per cent.

The rubber and other materials used in the manufacture of the goods must be kept bone-dry, and the departments where the goods are made must be kept at a temperature of not less than 75° Fah. all the year round.

In the case of rubber tubes and hoses, before they are vulcanized, they must be wrapped in cloth, bound down on mandrels; the cloth which costs much, and is of short duration, through perpetual use, making the goods more expensive.

The Mackintosh Invention The inventor claims for the process an apparatus similar to that already in use by the dry heat method with certain modifications, and this difference, that boots and shoes with a high glossed varnish, are vulcanized in from 1 1/2 to 2 hours, instead of from 6 to 7 hours, as in the present method, according to the quality of the boot and shoe. This is her business for over forty years.

PHYSICALLY FIT OR GET NO OIL

New Regulations Respecting Oil Fields Are Definite and Binding

WEAKLINGS BARRIED OUT Mounted Police Will Keep Out Units and Those Improperly Equipped

EDMONTON, Feb. 26.—Canada's far northwest is supposed to be a land for a rush, more or less mad, of soldiers of fortune in the spring. The new oil discoveries in the district of Mackenzie are far from the best.

That the oil wells may be carefully recorded and the owner properly catalogued it is required that every applicant for a lease, make his application in person to the agent, the agent for transmission to the government. The maximum area of a claim is 640 acres, of which one-half is to be held by the Canadian government as a reserve.

The regulations state that the machinery and equipment must be placed on the ground within one year from the date of lease and boring operations will be commenced within fifteen months. In the report issued by the department of interior particular stress is laid on the necessity for all prospectors to read the rules and regulations governing the new fields.

Two Years Ago It is two years since oil was first discovered in this far north district. Some time during the summer the Imperial Oil Company transported a drilling outfit to the Mackenzie and set it up on the right bank of the river about forty-five miles below Norman. A drilling crew spent the winter of 1919-20 in the district and early in 1920 commenced operations.

During the summer of 1920 small flows of high grade oil were found at a depth of approximately 200 and 400 feet. Toward the close of the season came the report that a gusher had been struck at 300 feet. While there have been many exaggerated accounts regarding this gusher, the government official report contains the following:

"Well is very encouraging and while somewhat overrated by the press, renders hope that prospecting of the area will result in sufficient production, being obtained in a few years to warrant the development of some transportation systems whereby the production can be utilized."

How to File Claims The department of interior for Canada has just issued a concise report from the oil field which has been prepared.

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Home Rule Bill Dividing Emerald Isle Does Not Divide It Enough

DO LIKE SWITZERLAND There They Have 22 States Each All Powerful and Get Along Well

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Briefly, the scheme calls for an Irish confederation, and according to Professor O'Rahilly, who discussed it at the University of Cork, Ireland should be divided into two but into 40 regions. By tradition, instinct, faith and circumstances we ought to aim at decentralization and regionalism and uphold the sovereignty of the people.

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"It's a mistake to think there is merely an Ulster problem. There are about 40 problems. We are a heterogeneous people and to remain united we must have far more local liberty and regional autonomy than is allowed in the ideal of a central parliament or two assemblies in Belfast and Dublin."

In Switzerland, he pointed out, there are 22 sovereign states differing in religion, language, size and economic position although Switzerland is only half the size of Ireland.

"Every Irish county," he went on, "has as much right to partition as County Down or Belfast. The real objection to the Partition Act is that it doesn't give Belfast and Ulster equal local liberty and power. It's an Irish confederation they ought to get far more."

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But the most striking development of international Constantinople cannot be called a city of gayety. There are only a few motion picture houses, badly equipped, two medicine theatres and several brilliantly illuminated Russian restaurants, which try to stir up enthusiasm. Everywhere the crushing of the Turkish Empire has left an atmosphere of heavy melancholy which even the Russian violinists and dancers and titled Russian women who have been abandoned as waitresses cannot destroy.

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THE STANDARD BANK OF CANADA

A dividend at the rate of Three and One Half per cent (3 1/2%) for the three months ending 31st January 1921, has been declared payable on the 1st of February, 1921, to Shareholders of record as at the 17th of January 1921.

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Toronto, on Wednesday, the 23rd of February next, at 12 o'clock noon.

By order of the Board, C. H. EASEMAN, General Manager.

Toronto, December 15th, 1920. Belleville Branch, John Elliott, Manager.

One Account for Two People