

TO ONE AND ALL
We extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Bright, Happy New Year.
O. B. GRAVES
LIMITED.
203 Dundas Street.

HIGHEST GRADES OF
BURNING OIL,
LUBRICATING OIL
AND ALL OTHER
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
The Queen City Oil Co
Limited.
HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO.
London Branch, York St. East.

R. K. COWAN
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC.
County Bldgs., next Court House, London.

A Few Christmas Suggestions

Pearl-Handled Knives and Forks, Pearl Fruit Knives, Case Carvers, Carpet Sweepers, Berry Spoons, Gillette Safety Razors, Strops, Brushes, Skates, Sleighs, and many other useful articles.

McMURTRY'S
Hardware and Stoves
111 DUNDAS STREET.

EXCELLENT WEEK FOR RETAIL TRADE

Holiday Business Is Better Than This Time Last Year—Money Firmer.

New York, Dec. 24.—Bradstreet's state of trade-tomorrow will say:—Retail trade expanded further and reached its maximum this week, with a majority of cities reporting this class of business larger than a year ago.

In wholesale and jobbing lines, the week has been a quiet one, with the possible exception of staple goods, which have been sold well at the highest prices of the year. While business in the latter months of the year helped to swell the turnover, there is a perceptible decrease, ranging from 5 to 20 per cent from the volume or value of business done in 1907 and 1906.

Money Firmer.
Money is slightly firmer and demand expands steadily. A small amount of gold has been exported.

Industry is, if anything, rather quiet, because of annual stoppages for inventory; but there are a notable number of announcements that many plants idle for some time, or running only part of their machinery, will proceed to run full after the holidays.

Business failures for the week, ending Dec. 23 (five days) number 139, against 311 last week, 248 in the like week of 1907, 161 in 1906, 212 in 1905, and 218 in 1904.

Dun's Review.
R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade tomorrow will say:

Retail sales have been large, both of holiday goods and staples, but considerable dullness is noted in jobbing and wholesale lines. Fall River mills and some other manufacturing plants closed from Thursday night to Monday morning, but other 24 shops had no many orders on hand for an extended holiday, and inventories promise much pressure for delivery after Jan. 1.

Returns of lake traffic for the season, as measured by the freight movement through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, shows a loss of 29 per cent in comparison with 1907. Railway earnings thus far reported for December were 8.6 per cent larger than last year, but 1 per cent less than in 1906.

Money is circulating freely, and mercantile collections are more prompt.

Commercial failures this week in the United States are 240 against 228 last week, 312 the preceding week, and 280 the corresponding week last year.

Failures in Canada were 19 against 34 last week, 42 the preceding week, and 24 last year.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

is so good for children, for growing boys and girls, it's a pity to keep it from them.

All Druggists

D. L. & W. SCRANTON COAL
If you are not satisfied with the COAL you are getting, call 312 and you will get 2,000 lbs. of SATISFACTION.

WM. HEAANM & SON
Office and yard, G.T.R. and Burwell Streets. Phone 312.

Butternut Bread
Will be in great demand now. Be sure you order sufficient, for the more Butternut Bread you eat the more you want. Made by
MILLER
Phones 2173 or 2616.

To all my customers and friends a merry Christmas.
"THORO"
Frank C. Hooper

WITH THE
SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO OUR MANY CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS.
HARRY RANAHAN
515 Richmond Street.

OUR WISH

If among your Christmas gifts you find one or more bearing the Diamond Hall Stamp, we hope it was just the piece or pieces of jewelry you most appreciate and desired. We are certain the results, as to quality and service will decide for you where your future purchasing of jewelry will be made.

DIAMOND HALL STORES
W. G. YOUNG
214 and 674 DUNDAS STREET

City and District

—Mr. J. F. Power, formerly separate school inspector for Ontario is in the city, accompanied by Mrs. Power. They are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Pocock.

—Verne L. Hewer, baritone, and his wonderful boy sopranos, Masters Adair and Selby, sang in Ingersoll at the Charles Street Methodist Church Christmas tree, Wednesday evening. They also, assisted by Miss Vera B. Hewer, reader and entertainer, furnished the entire programme at the Brynston Presbyterian Church last night.

Holiday Hop.
The closing hop of the year will be given by Messrs. Dayton and McCormick at the Palace Auditorium Monday evening next. A large number of guests and a pleasant evening are assured.

Christmas Tree.
The Sunday school of the York Street Mission Hall held their annual Christmas tree and entertainment the other night. A large Christmas tree decorated and loaded down with presents, stood on the platform, and after a lengthy programme rendered by the scholars and friends of the mission the tree was relieved of its good things and all were made happy.

Another for London L. O. L. District.
The Orangemen of the city of London are getting busy, and there is every evidence that all members are taking a keen interest in the association, having installed a new lodge at Pottersburg two weeks ago, and this coming Saturday night are installing a lodge at Byron. Great interest is taken in this lodge at Byron and arousing time is expected to be a very successful one. Mr. Birmingham will officiate.

Presentation to Mr. Oram.
About twenty members of the First Methodist League called at the home of Mr. Charles Oram, Wortley road, Wednesday night, and in view of his marriage, which is to take place this afternoon, presented him with a very handsome carving set. Mr. Wm. Boyd, president of the league, read the address, and Miss May Foster made the presentation. Mr. Oram thanked his friends with a few appropriate remarks, and a very pleasant evening was spent in games, after which refreshments were served.

Home and Home Concerns.
A really large undertaking, so far as choir concerns are concerned, has been arranged by Mr. Parnell Morris. It is an exchange of dates with that of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto. This choir was made famous under the direction of Dr. Vogt, who two years ago was succeeded by Dr. Edward Broome. Dr. Vogt finding the direction of the Mendelssohn choir all he could manage. The work to be given here on Monday evening, Jan. 18, in Dundas

WE WISH ONE AND ALL
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
C. F. EEDY
Cash Grocer,
879 WATERLOO STREET.

Furs For Christmas
Muffs and Neckpieces
BELTZ
Practical Furrier

Centre Church, will be Sir Edward Elgar's "Light of Life" (first performance in London), by a choir of over fifty voices. Mr. Joseph E. P. Martin, organist of Edinburgh Cathedral, organist; Miss Lewetta Cairns, at the piano. The soloists will be Miss Bernice Van Horn, soprano; Miss Georgina Knight, contralto; Mr. Ralph Green, tenor, and Mr. A. L. E. Davies, bass.

Funeral of Mr. George W. Young.
The funeral of George W. Young was held from the family residence, 86 Kent street, on Wednesday afternoon to Mount Pleasant Cemetery and was of private nature. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Redmond. The pallbearers were Messrs. C. Talbot, T. E. Pond, J. Wood, B. Wood, J. Dale and J. Lane.

The Late Mrs. Waugh.
The funeral of Mrs. Ella Waugh was held yesterday afternoon from the residence of her father, Mr. Geo. T. Hiscox, 199 Queen's avenue, and was largely attended. Funeral services of the most impressive nature were conducted by Canon Dyson Hague, of the Memorial Church. The pallbearers were Messrs. H. Thompson, E. Reid, A. Brown, B. Scream, Fred. White and Fred. Beltz. The floral offerings were very beautiful, and included wreaths from friends throughout the city.

Personal Mention
Mr. George C. Phelps and wife, of Belleville, are in the city spending the holidays with friends.

Dr. Charles A. Fisher, of Detroit, is spending the holidays with his parents, Col. and Mrs. Fisher, Waterloo street north.

Sarnia Observer: W. J. Costello, local manager for the Bell Telephone Company, will spend Christmas at his home in London.

Mr. Alex. MacLennan, formerly of this city, but now of Ottawa, arrived in the city last night, and will spend the holidays with friends.

L. F. Banghart and wife, of Grand Rapids, are spending their holidays with Mr. Banghart's father, W. A. Banghart, of South London.

Mr. Jack Lush, formerly a well-known resident of London, but now in Winnipeg, is spending a few days in the city visiting friends.

Miss Madeline Wagstaff has returned to her home in Toronto after spending a pleasant holiday with her cousin, Miss Bertie Norris, Byron avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hutchins, of 20 Argyle street, left yesterday for Port Elgin, where they will spend the holidays with Mrs. Hutchins' sister, Mrs. J. Eaton.

Robert M. Hannon, of Edmonton, Alberta, son of Rev. Dr. Hannon, of this city, is the guest of Herbert S. Webb, Pearl and Curtis street, St. Thomas.

Mr. Percy Carson has arrived home from the Yukon after an absence of several years. Mr. Carson is an old London boy, and a brother of Librarian Carson.

Mr. W. Lawson, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Lawson, of this city, who is a student at Queen's, and who played on the university Rugby team of Kingston, is in this city visiting his parents.

Mr. Roy Mann, of Glanworth, left last night for a two months' trip to the west. He intends going by way of Chicago, where he will spend Christmas with his brother. He will be accompanied by Mr. Wesley Hunt, of Scottsville, as far as Chicago.

TROUBLE BREWING
In Affairs of Co-operative Association, Says the Toronto Star.

Toronto, Dec. 24.—The Star this evening says trouble is brewing among the shareholders of the Dominion Co-operative Association, a concern with a provincial charter, and with six or seven hundred shareholders, mostly of the working class. It has two stores in Toronto, and its establishment along the lines of similar enterprises in England was warmly received at the time of its incorporation. It has been in operation for some months ago. Certain members charge improprieties in the organization of the company, but by that the directors and officers were improperly elected, and that the privilege of selling stock has been given to a company which is inexperienced in such matters, a lively time is looked for.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over THIRTY YEARS by MILLIONS OF MOTHERS FOR CHILDREN WHILE TEething, FOR COLIC, FOR SOOTHING THE GUMS, FOR LAXATIVE, FOR CURE OF THE LARYNX, FOR ALL PAIN, CURES WIND COLIC, AND IS THE BEST REMEDY FOR DIARRHOEA. Sold by druggists in every part of the world.

CUTTING DOWN NEW BUSINESS

New York Life Insurance Putting on the Brakes.

New York, Dec. 24.—In order that they may be certain not to exceed the limitations of new business prescribed by the new insurance laws in this state, the New York Life Insurance Company announces today that it would write no more policies, the insurance under which can be consummated in the present year.

An official statement issued by the company declares that this step is necessary in view of the large amount of business that already has been written. The statement as given out by the company says:

"The New York Life Insurance Company has today refused to write any more policies, the insurance under which can be consummated in the year 1908. The company has already in the year 1908, received the first year's premium on a large amount of insurance, and has, in addition to this, so much insurance outstanding in the hundreds of agents all over the world, as to make this step necessary, in order to be certain not to exceed in the year 1908 the limitations of new business prescribed by section 96 of the insurance law."

Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—More sensational testimony was brought out in the United States supreme court here today in the suit of John M. Carroll, owner of the Fries-Breslin Company carpet plant in Camden, N. J., which was destroyed by fire some years ago, against John W. Snyder and William D. Bergen, insurance brokers, to recover \$110,000 on policies of insurance. It was testified yesterday for the defense by James A. Carroll, a nephew of John M. Carroll, that his uncle and others had entered into a conspiracy to burn the place. Among others, he implicated John Graeff, a watchman. Graeff took the stand today, and testified that he was not only implicated in the burning of the plant, but for the last few years he had made several attempts to blackmail John M. Carroll, and had succeeded in securing several thousand dollars. He had sent Carroll a letter, he said, demanding \$10,000 under a threat to expose him, but he added he did not get the money.

"Old man Carroll was bleeding the insurance companies," the witness declared, "and I thought I might as well get my share."

The witness said that he did not think he was blackmailing Carroll, but was "only borrowing the money he had received."

SENTENCED LABOR LEADERS
(Continued From Page 1.)

Judge-made law, which is wholly unconstitutional, it should be carried to the highest court and contested to the bitter end, and we pledge you the united support of our association to this end."

The declaration is made by John R. Alpine, president of the United Association of Plumbers, at Chicago, that the decision will bring organized labor closer together.

On behalf of the International Steamfitters' Association, J. J. Sullivan, of that association, expresses "indignation on verdict, and conveys sympathy to defendants."

John W. Leonard, treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, says in reply, that Messrs. Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison received "a most glorious Christmas present," Maurice Mikel, of New York city, declares that those who know Mr. Gompers know that he is the champion of labor.

"Victory of greed is but temporary, justice will yet prevail" is the way John McNamee, editor of the Locomotive Engineer and Engineer's Magazine, in a telegram from Indianapolis, expresses himself.

J. A. Franklin, president, Wm. G. Milthorpe, international secretary, and A. Hinzman, of the International Brotherhood of Boiler-makers at Kansas City, sent a message declaring that Judge Wright's decision is "unjust."

On behalf of the entire membership of the Switchmen's Union, F. T. Hawley, president, extends "sympathy and support."

Many other telegrams of the same import were received today.

COMING TO CANADA
Big American Concern to Establish a Plant in Toronto.

Toronto, Dec. 24.—The proposition of the Otis-Pensom Elevator Company, of Yonkers, New York, and Hamilton, Ont., to purchase from the city about twenty-two acres for the purpose of establishing the Canadian branch factory thereon has been sent to the council by the board of control and may be dealt with at the council's next meeting. The twenty-two acres are at the south of the Don outlet and about seventeen acres thereof are under water. The company offers to pay \$27,500 for the site, instead of obtaining only a leasehold. It is understood that if the company make a deal with the city, they will erect a \$50,000 factory the first year, and will add largely to it later on. According to Mr. J. E. Thompson, commissioner of industries, who has been negotiating with the company on behalf of the city for some time, the company intend to erect an office building in Toronto at a cost of \$100,000. Hamilton has offered concessions to the company with a view to retaining the factory in that city, but the indications are that the removal to Toronto will be consummated.

A FINE GIFT.
Kingston, Dec. 24.—A young woman with the Pettibone Stock Company, now missing here, got a fine Christmas remembrance in the shape of a check for \$12,000, part of the bequest to her by a New York relative.

We wish all our customers and friends at both our South London and Dundas Street stores
A BRIGHT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS
T. A. Rowat & Co.

CROOKED WORK STARTLING EXPOSE
A Conspiracy to Commit Arson—Charged Against Insurance Brokers.

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Merry Christmas
"At Christmas, Play and Make Good Cheer, For Christmas Comes But Once a Year."
Today we "Play and Make Good Cheer" and in the spirit of good fellowship that animates all mankind, we extend to the good people of London and vicinity a hearty "Merry Christmas." In addition we embrace this opportunity to acknowledge the favor of liberal and increased trade that our friends the buying public have bestowed upon us, and to testify that it shall be our constant effort to merit a continuance of their steadfast patronage and good will.
Cairncross & Lawrence

THE SATISFACTORY HARDWARE
The Purdom Hardware Company
Wishing You All a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
The Purdom Hardware Company
124 Dundas St. Phone 461. 123 Carling St.

A. SCREATION & CO.
Extend to their many Customers and friends in London and throughout Ontario
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES

CASTRO PLAYS OPERA BOUFFE
Recent Coup d'Etat Arranged Before He Left for Europe.

London, Dec. 24.—Despite dispatches from Caracas announcing the downfall of President Castro and the usurpation of the Federal power by General Gomez, vice-president, the correspondent is assured by a Venezuelan who is intimately associated with the political destinies of that country that the coup d'etat carried out by Gomez is nothing but a clever piece of opera bouffe conceived by Castro and Gomez before the former's departure for Europe, by which they hoped to conciliate the public mind, and with a change of Government get rid of a certain faction of refractory politicians in the capital and thus persuade Holland to discontinue her blockade of the Venezuelan coasts, the Dutch cabinet having contended that its action is not directed against the Venezuelan nation, but merely against Castro's government. By this ruse Venezuela's dictator hoped to ward off the crisis which he knew to be inevitable. It was this which prompted him to leave the country on the plausible pretext of having to undergo an operation in Europe, which, after all, has now been declared wholly unnecessary by the German doctor. Whether, in name or not, Castro remains head of the government, so long as Gomez is master of the situation he is confident of not being ousted from the real power. My informant declares a serious, well-organized revolution will explode in Venezuela during the first weeks of the new year as a last final effort to wipe out the predatory system of government which has existed in Venezuela for the last ten years. A large cargo, consisting of 15,000 Mausers, Maxim guns and a consignment of revolvers, was secretly shipped with in the last few days from South America to the West Indies, destined for two revolutionary chiefs who are at present in Trinidad and Curacao to take the field. If the present plans mature the revolution will break out on the western coast of the country. The coast towns, which have but feeble garrisons, can be easily beaten, and the Government has been incapacitated from mobilizing troops by sea through the seizure of their fleet by the Dutch.

CONSPIRACY CHARGE.
Toronto, Dec. 24.—G. A. Snelder, and his son, B. K. Snelder, were today arrested, charged with having conspired to defraud the public, and more particularly Francis Swallow and Jas. E. Gilbank. The prisoners are said to have started the North American Mercantile Company, a commission concern with a Dominion charter. They explained they bought for cash, and at a cheap price, and that they could sell at high prices," said Mr. Purcell, of Stiff Bros., chartered accountants, who are looking after the case for the complainants.

"They should have paid over \$416 cash to each of these men last May, and they have not done so."

While operating in Ottawa, they had their offices in the Bank of Ottawa building, and in the Manning Chambers here.

Feather Beds, Pillows and Mattresses renovated and sterilized; also manufacturers of Mattresses, Feather Pillows, and Spring Beds. Brass and Iron Beds, Stoves, Furniture, Camp Beds, at the Feather Bed, Pillow and Mattress Cleaning Factory, J. F. HUNT & SONS, 593 Richmond street. Phone 597.

Only One "Bromo Quinine."
That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of E. W. GROVE. Used the world over to Cure a Cold in One Day.

Buy your Christmas and New Year's liquors from P. J. Watt, 13 Market Square. Then you will know you are getting the best goods in the market.

By the invention of machines to bleach and spin the wild silk of Manchuria, great quantities of which are exported each year, threatens to compete seriously with that grown in more civilized lands.