

**Christmas 1925**

THE President, Directors and Officers extend to the Customers and Friends of the Bank their Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

**The Royal Bank of Canada**

**SOME OLD-TIME STORIES**

By H. W. LeMESSURER, C.M.G.

Many were the curious stories that our forefathers used to tell of the old times in St. John's. Being wholly a fishing town in its earlier days, and the resort of fishermen and sailors from all parts of the Kingdom, it was not strange that many yarns, as public houses were then so called, were located along Water Street or the "Lower Path" as then known. In these taverns there congregated Captains waiting for ships to load, Planters who had come from Outposts and thirsty people of the town. One tavern in particular situated near to where the shop of F. Smallwood stands was noted for its Devonshire Cider and Ale, and was the principal resort of Devonshire men—Captains and Planters falling from the famed county of Devon looked upon it as their Club, their home. Here you would find, in the fall of the year, the Winsors, Carters, Folletts, Darbys, Cookes, Tremains, etc., enjoying a pipe and some pots of cider or ale.

**A HARD FROST.**

One evening of October, about 1830, three gathered at this tavern a number of goodly Devonshire men and some captains from that country. A well known Outpost friend had brought with him an Irishman, who had successfully navigated his vessel to the waters of Placentia Bay for a number of years, although he was not a navigator and could barely write his own name. After discussing the news of the day, the latest from the old country, the fishery and the price of fish, a discussion arose as to who had met with the most curious incidents in crossing the Atlantic. This discussion was purposely started by one of the company, who was known as "The devil's darnin' needle," and was noted for his love of mischievous fun. "Come Captain Holmes," said he, "I'm sure in your experience you've seen and heard some queer things." "That I have," said Captain Holmes, "and the most remarkable event that ever I met with was last fall when we were coming to the westward. Youse all remember that I had a very long passage from Poole, and got driven off twice over the Banks in the month of November, and didn't get here with the fall's stock until the 2nd of December. My word for it, but it was the coldest voyage ever I made. We was on short commons, and our water was getting so low that I had ordered the last cask locked up and served it out with me own hands. Two nights before we reached port it froze guns, and after four o'clock in the morning, being my watch below, I turned in cold enough, just taking the precaution to put a small tot of spirits in me to liven up the temper. I couldn't have been very long asleep when I woke up with a start, and heard pistol shots near me, followed by the noise of the bullets striking the roof of the cabin. I was afraid to stir thinking I might be hit, but as the noise ceased after a time I had the courage to strike a light and look about, but I could see nothing, and at length concluded that it must have been some noise on deck, so I turned in and went to sleep again. In the morning, when I was called, and commenced to dress, I found every spar and rigging drawn out of my boots, and looking up saw them stuck in the top of the cabin roof. Gentlemen the frost had been so great that it had actually drawn them all out, and it was the noise of them coming out of the boots that sounded like pistol shots, and their striking the top of the

cabin was like the noise of pistol balls, and that was hard frost I tell you."

**RATS.**

After some good natured quizzing had taken place a Captain named Newbury said: "Gentlemen, I had a singular experience last year when coming out from Bideford. I always have a good supply of dips (tallow candles which used to be tied in bunches by the wicks, which were left long for that purpose) on board, and to keep them from being stolen, they were hung on nails overhead in the cabin. For some time I had missed a bunch now and again, and after a time I raised 'em with the crew, who I suspected had stolen them. I was certain that the cook wasn't the thief, as he called my attention to the place where had hung the last bunch which had disappeared. The mate suggested that it must be rats, and although I scouted the idea, I was determined to watch and see whether he was correct. It was my watch below at midnight and I turned in, leaving a fresh dip burning. I was so long waiting for something to happen that I must have been just dozing when a squeak attracted my attention, and without moving I cast my eyes along the floor and there sure enough was a rat sitting up just underneath a bunch of dips, as it was quite smooth, and we were going light air of wind about the beam. Presently out came a dozen rats and they made a pyramid by standing on one another's shoulders like, until the last rat reached the candles when he cut the string and down dropped rats and candles on the floor. Each rat tugged off a candle until there was only one rat left and he had none. Before you could say Jack Robinson, gentlemen, that rat had the lighted candle out of the sconce, and was away with it."

**ICEBERG A FLOATING DOCK.**

Much laughter succeeded this yarn and a new set of glasses having been ordered the Irishman was asked for his experience.

"Begor, gentlemen, I never had any rats or other things to contend with, but a curious thing happened when I was coming across the Banks two years ago in the spring of the year. It had been very foggy and we got stuck in some ice which carried away our forefoot and she was making a farish lot of water. I might have gone south of the ice, but as it would take me off me track I didn't like to do it. To make a long story short the ice opened up a bit and we made tracks for Cape St. Mary's, but before we reached the Banks down came the fog again with a spanking breeze from the south-east. I went to the fore with all the clothes on her, and she at once the watch sang out "a big iceberg on the starboard hand," and almost in the same moment he said "and another on the port hand." I jumped and took the tiller myself, and ran her right for the middle of the two which appeared to be clear, and as we passed between them, the brig rose and slid along and then stopped. I thought she was going to fall over on her side, but she didn't, and the sails pressing her, she slowly slipped along until we found she was almost high and dry on the floor which joined the two walls of ice on either side. I at once ordered all sails to be taken in and found to my astonishment that the iceberg had run into a natural ice graving dock and we were so well shored up with ice that the brig could not but stand upright. After the alarm caused by our strange position had calmed down, we began to consider what we would do, and as most of the day was before us the mate suggested that we rig out a scaffold over the bows and examine the cut-water. We did so and found the stem wanted fixing badly, so the mate being a handy man set to work and caulked it and put a temporary cut-water on it. We were on the ice for two days and had just finished the job when I noticed by the compass that the iceberg had wheeled, so that our bow was to the northward. As a good breeze of southerly wind was springing up I thought that if all the sails were set we might go out the way we came in, so ordered all hands to set the square sails. After about a half an hour the old brig commenced to slide, and with a leep like a bound after a fox she went stern first clear of the ice, and wheeling on her heel rushed off as if the old nick was after her. When we got clear I ordered the pumps to be tried, and we found she was as tight as a bottle and didn't afterwards need any repairs until we reached the Cove of Cork on our homeward voyage."

**CRYING A LOST WIFE.**

A story used to be told of an Outpost man who, when he first came to town, brought his wife with him. Neither of them had seen such a lot of houses and nothing higher than a one storied building. The man was a dealer of Baine Johnston & Co's, when Walter Griev, the founder of Walter Griev & Co., was a young man. Mr. Griev being then with the firm of Baine Johnston & Co. took an interest in Skipper Tommy and his wife and offered them some good advice as to their conduct while in town. One day Skipper Tommy came to Mr. Griev in great trouble and informed him that he had lost Betsy and couldn't find her. Mr. Griev advised him that the only way to recover his wife was to get the Town crier to advertise her. At that time the town had as town crier one Billy Freeman, who, when his services were needed, would make the round of Water Street, ringing a bell and then cry notice of the thing lost, stolen or strayed or of an auction or anything else that required public attention. When Mr. Freeman's services were enlisted a full description of the wife was given to him and he started out going west crying "lost, stolen or strayed a married woman answering to the name of Betsy. Had on a bran new petticoat, a serge dress, and peckety handkerchief on her head. Hair coal black, eyes gray or blue with a fine rosy colour in the face, anybody finding the said Betsy will return her to the Lovely Mary at Baine & Johnston's." No doubt Mr. Griev had a great deal to do with the compiling of the advertisement and purposely started Billy Freeman West instead of East. People were very much amused at this unusual notice, and Skipper Tommy added much to their merriment by his interrupting ejaculations made in a loud voice, which he kept up all the time.

Crier—"Lost, stolen or strayed."  
Tommy—"Be sure she are, uvver since ten o'clock."  
Crier—"A married woman answering to the name of Betsy."  
Tommy—"Zactly so she'm married, but she's not answering."  
Crier—"Had on a bran new flannel petticoat."  
Tommy—"Never yet washed and only put on when we left home."  
Crier—"A serge dress and a peckety handkerchief on her head."  
Tommy—"It cost fower shillings and was blue with white specks in it."  
Crier—"Hair coal black."  
Tommy—"Not a lie in it just like my eye."  
Crier—"Eyes gray or blue."  
Tommy—"I don't know about that, Mr. Griev knows best." And so went to Newman's and back.

On returning said finding she had not come back they started East, quite a few following and quizzing Tommy. When they came to a tavern and dance house which stood about where Miss Stiek's shop now is, Tommy espied Betsy coming out and rushing at her caught hold of her and ran with her to Baine Johnston's wharf shouting all the time at the top of his voice—"Mr. Grievs, Mr. Grievs, I've found Betsy."

**SHOT THE DEVIL.**

A Mr. Cook, who carried on a business at Great Paradise in the eighteenth century, had a farm at Red Head at the entrance of Paradise Sound, the remains of which are yet visible. He imported a horse to use in the winter and he put it on West Long Island for the summer. A western fisherman, who knew nothing about a horse saw this animal grazing there as he was fishing near by. Thinking it was some kind of deer he landed with his big Pooles gun, stalked the animal and shot it. When he got up to it the poor beast was not quite dead and gave several kicks. It was then that he saw the iron shoes. Terror took possession of him, he turned and fled and told his boy to get the Jack under way and leave for home in a hurry as he had shot the "Devil."

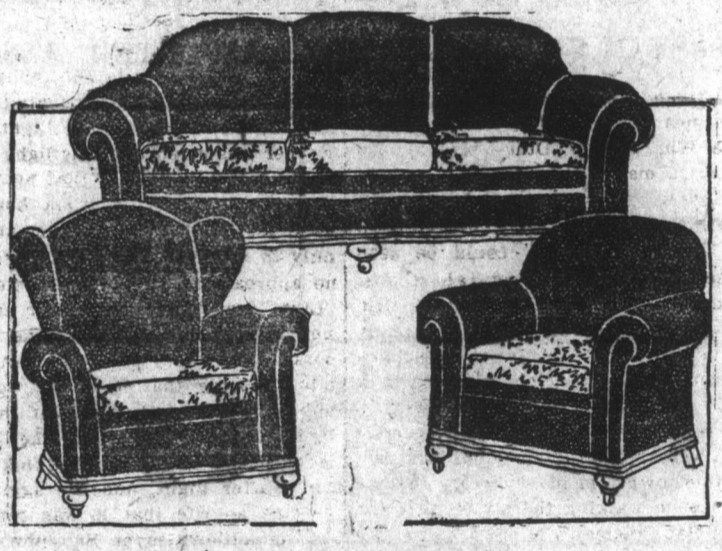
A spoonful of a dry ingredient means filling the spoon by dipping into the ingredient until more than level.

**FURNITURE FOR CHRISTMAS**

**IDEAS FOR GIFT SEEKERS**

Suggesting many suitable and interesting pieces at inexpensive prices. Christmas gifts that bring happiness are most desired by those who give, and here are numerous articles that hold a wealth of Christmas cheer for those who receive them—just the sort of articles that many a home lover has been wishing for. Don't forget that one good satisfying gift is worth half a dozen smaller articles that will be worn out and useless in a few months. Give Furniture—the gift of lasting usefulness and beauty.

- Electric Lamps**
- BEDROOM LAMPS—Assorted shades.
  - BRIDGE LAMPS—Assorted shades.
  - FLOOR LAMPS—Assorted colored silk shades.
  - READING LAMPS—Assorted shades.
  - PERFUME LAMPS—Ideal for the sick room.
  - PIANO LAMPS—Assorted.
  - DRESSING TABLE CLOCKS.
  - MANTLE CLOCKS—Ivory and Metal.
  - FRENCH AMBER DRESSING SETS.
  - RATTAN CHAIRS—Suitable for bedroom.
  - MEN'S SHAVING SETS.
  - SMOKERS' CABINETS and STANDS—Walnut and Mahogany finish.
  - CARVER'S SETS—3 piece stag handles.
- Gift Ideas**
- SILVER BREAKFAST SET—Coffee Pot, Sugar Bowl, Milk Jug, Spoon Bowl and Tray.
  - WHITE METAL CAKE STANDS—Untarnishable.
  - WHITE METAL FRUIT DISH—Untarnishable.
  - WHITE METAL CANDY DISH—Untarnishable.
  - CHINA CABINETS—Quartered Oak, English and Walnut.
  - SECTIONAL BOOKCASES—Walnut, Oak and Mahogany.
  - TRAYS—Untarnishable White Metal and Wood frames, glass bottom.
  - PIANO BENCHES, STRAW WORK BASKETS, ACCORDEONS.
  - CENTRE TABLES—Assorted shapes, Walnut, Mahogany and Oak.
  - BATHROOM CABINETS—White Ivory finish.
- Gifts for Children**
- GIFTS FOR CHILDREN—Kindergarten Sets, consisting of table and two chairs.
  - ROCKERS and RATTAN CHAIRS.
  - HIGH CHAIRS—Stationary and collapsible.
  - DOLLS' CRADLES—Wicker.
  - DOLLS' CARRIAGES—Wicker.
  - DOLLS' CHAIRS.
  - BOYS' ROCKING HORSES.
  - BOYS' COASTERS.
  - CHILD'S SLEDS.
  - CHILD'S TRICYCLES.
  - CHILD'S SILVER SET—Consisting of Cup, Spoon, Fork, Knife and Napkin Ring, in a pretty gift case.
  - BOYS' AUTO RACERS.



- Chesterfield Suites**
- 3-piece Suites, consisting of Chesterfield and two Arm Chairs, single filling of tow, moss and cotton, upholstered with beautiful Tapestry. Special per suite \$189.00 \* \$225.00
  - Chesterfield Suites. 3-piece, single filling of tow, moss and cotton, upholstered with dainty Cut Plush. Special per suite \$297.00
  - Chesterfield Suites. 3-piece Suite, upholstered with rich Cut Plush, double filling consisting of tow, moss, cotton and hair. Special per suite \$315.00 \* \$369.00
  - Chesterfield Suites. 3-piece, with plain Mohair back and Cameo cushions, double stuffed with tow, moss, hair and plush. Special per suite \$414.00
  - Chesterfield Suites. Upholstered in magnificent, rich looking Cut Mohair, 3-piece, double stuffed. Special per suite \$472.50

- Chesterfield Chairs**
- Chesterfield Suites. 3-piece, with reversible cushions, upholstered with Cut Plush in exquisite designs, double stuffed with tow, moss, hair and cotton. Special per suite \$526.50
  - Chesterfield Suites. Upholstered with plain Mohair back, and loose Cameo cushions, double stuffed, fitted with extra strong oil tempered springs. A magnificent suite. Special \$585.00
  - Chesterfield Chairs. Arm and Wing Chairs, single stuffed with tow, moss and wool, fitted with oil tempered springs, and web bottom, upholstered in very pretty Tapestry. Would make an ideal Xmas gift. Special each \$47.25
  - Chesterfield Chairs. Arm and Wing Chairs, upholstered with Cut Mohair in exceptionally good looking designs, single stuffed; very comfortable. Special each \$47.25

- Chesterfield's**
- Chesterfield Chairs. Arm and Wing Chairs, double stuffed with tow, moss, hair and cotton, upholstered with plain Mohair back and Cameo cushions. Special each \$103.50
  - Chesterfields. Tapestry covered Chesterfields, single stuffed, fitted with oil tempered springs, good looking and comfortable. Special each \$94.50
  - Chesterfields. Upholstered with pretty Cut Mohair, double stuffed with tow, moss, wool and hair, fitted with extra heavy springs. Special each \$148.50
  - Chesterfields. Double stuffed, back upholstered with plain Mohair, Cameo loose cushions. Exceptionally good looking. Special each \$207.00

**THE ROYAL STORES, Limited**

Furniture Department, Duckworth Street

**for a Cough or Cold**

Every day you leave a Cough or Cold untreated you are risking dangerous complications, and chronic ill-health. More disabling illnesses begin in the chest than in any other part. When you catch a Cold, if you have a Cough or suffer from Asthma or Bronchitis, safeguard yourself with the proven remedy, **KAY'S COMPOUND ESSENCE**.

Sold by G. Knowling Ltd., Ayre & Sons, E. McMurdo & Co.

**KAY'S COMPOUND ESSENCE**  
LINSEED ANISEED SENEGA SQUILL YOLU ETC.

**Another Eclipse**

**WHAT IT MAY TELL US.**  
(By Newton Bull.)

The total eclipse of the sun last January presented to thousands of us the opportunity of witnessing a spectacle whose awe-inspiring splendor we shall never forget. Darkness creeping over the snow, weird flickering shadows that appeared from nowhere, the dazzling sun gradually obscured until at a breathless moment the greenish gold corona leaped from the rim—these are the memories of a lifetime.

On January twenty-fourth next, early in the morning, the tremendous scene of a total solar eclipse is to be repeated, but this time for a select few. A group of scientists who await the happenings of fact off Sumatra and Borneo. But because the last eclipse was witnessed by the largest number of persons that ever observed one of these rare celestial phenomena, the coming eclipse is awaited with larger and keener interest, possibly than any previous eclipse. What new things will be learned about the sun, the moon, the earth, the universe? Scientists from all parts of the world now are gathering in Sumatra, Dutch East Indies, and Borneo, where the eclipse's path is widest and where totality will last three minutes and 10 seconds. Dr. Heber D. Curtis, of the Allegheny Observatory, and Prof. John A. Miller, director of the Sprull Observatory at Swarthmore College, set out last September on their journey half around the world to witness the event. Professor H. T. Stetson of Harvard and Dr. J. A. Anderson of Mt. Wilson Observatory also went from America.

Thousands of dollars have been spent in the transportation and setting up of scientific equipment, all on a gamble, for always there is the possibility that clouds will intervene and make all the preparations valueless. Starting at dawn, local mean time, the path of the eclipse shadow will range from a point in Central Africa, south of the Sudan and north of Lake Victoria, along the equator, across the Indian Ocean to south Sumatra, thence to Borneo and Mindanao in the Philippine Islands. Radio will keep you informed of its progress as it sweeps over these distant regions at a cannon ball speed of 1888 miles an hour. The total eclipse is due to arrive at Sumatra at approximately 2.35, local mean time. There the shadow of the moon will have a width of 89 miles. The eclipse will last two hours and two minutes.

In this brief flash of time, while the moon passes between the earth and sun, blotting the latter from view, the scientists will attempt to add a few more details to our understanding of the universe. For one thing, they will try to measure the light of the corona. An attempt to do this at Harvard University last year failed. The observers also may be able to determine the edge of the moon's shadow path on the earth. This observation involves the problem of the exact distance of the sun from the earth. If we could establish this distance, then man could measure all celestial distances.

**BLANCHE YURKA** started this past season in "Man and the Masses" writes: "For the new smooth, close-fitting style of dressing the hair, Stacomb is invaluable."

**RICHARD HUBERT'S THREE FLOWERS VANISHING CHALK**

The Best Hand before you get it. Face powder. Delicately scented with a touch of THREE FLOWERS PARFUMS.

**"RUBRITE" cleaning wool** cleans and polishes silverware in one operation, will not scratch or injure the finest surface, and gives the maximum polish with the minimum of labour. Put a shine on your silverware with RUBRITE for Xmas. Get a package to-day at TRAPNELLS.

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