

OAK HALL

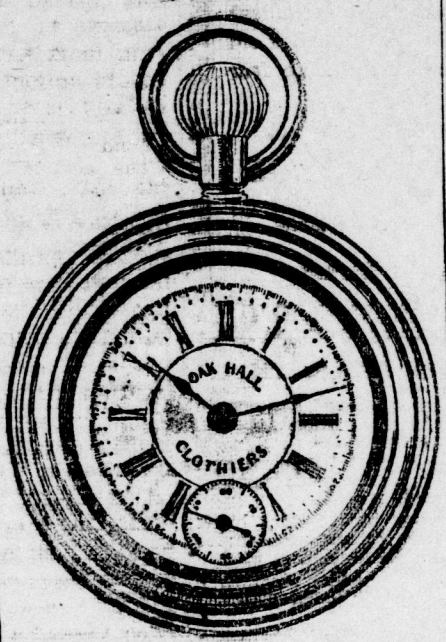
BARGAINS FOR CHRISTMAS



Men's Pants, winter weights,
\$1.00

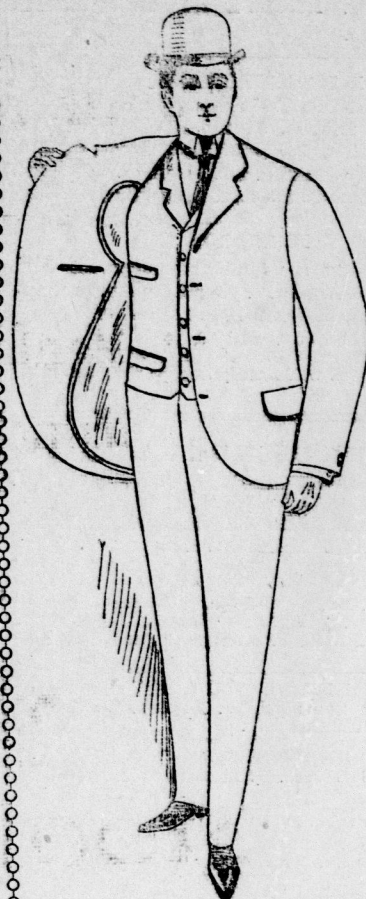
Men's Suits, special,
\$5.00

Men's Beaver Overcoats
\$3.95



Men's Blue and
Black Overcoats,
Velvet collar, **\$5.95**

Youths' Blue and
Black Frieze Overcoats,
Double breasted, deep storm
Collar, slash pockets,
\$3.75



Every purchaser of \$10 and over will be presented with an Oak Hall Nickel Case Watch, Good Timekeepers, as an Xmas gift.

No Shoddy! No Trash! Our Word Goes With Every Garment Purchased At

OAK HALL

THE GREAT ONE-PRICE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS,

ALFRED TAYLOR, Manager. 154 Dundas Street - - London.

GENERALLY VERY GOOD

Weekly Review of the State of
Trade
in Canada and the Neighboring
Republics.

New York, Dec. 24. — Bradstreet's weekly review says: Reports as to holiday trade from the Dominion of Canada are generally very good. Toronto advises that it is larger than in any recent year, though a thaw has injured the roads. In Ontario, lumbering has been helped by snow, and a larger output is looked for.

The demand from Manitoba is larger than ever before, and calls for a great part of the surplus production in adjacent districts.

Victoria reports holiday trade larger than for years, prices better and collections easier. Business failures in Canada number 24, as against 32 last week, and 30 in this week a year ago.

For the Dominion of Canada the bank clearances were as follows: Montreal, \$14,739,739—decrease, 13.9 per cent; Toronto, \$1,475,941—decrease, 21.3 per cent; Winnipeg, \$2,418,815—decrease, 12.9 per cent; Halifax, \$1,277,311—decrease, 12.9 per cent; Hamilton, \$2,414,154—decrease, 1.9 per cent; St. John, N. B., \$461,151—decrease, 1.9 per cent; Vancouver, \$501,122; Victoria, \$401,501.

Dun's weekly statement: In general the reports from Canada indicate a rather dull business, excepting in holiday lines. Otherwise there is not much activity in the market. Jobbing business is quiet at St. John, though retailers have a good holiday trade. Wholesale trade at Halifax is decreased, but Christmas business lifts retail trade. The holiday trade is good at Quebec, and at Montreal excellent, with collections good and money unchanged. Wholesale trade at Toronto is very good in groceries and hardware, but rather quiet in leather, with retail sales in fancy goods, jewelry and furs far ahead of previous years. Payments at Winnipeg are slow, and not much improvement is reported, except a good holiday trade. At Vancouver trade is less active on account of the season, but collections are satisfactory, and retailers report an average business, and in some cases not up to expectations. Wholesale trade at Victoria continues much the same, but retail is more active, with a good holiday business.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

Bradstreet's: Probably never before at this date was the course of general business so animated as it is at present. In the iron trade no signs of flagging interest are to be discerned, but rather more pronounced activity in new directions. The feature of the week has undoubtedly been the report of placing of an order of 20,000 tons of steel rails with an eastern rail mill, to go to Siberia. All the old strength of prices is maintained. In many lines the country's production seems to be heavily sold ahead. The foreign demand for cereals continues unabated, and any slight price reaction being taken advantage of by buyers. Wheat closes the week with quotations well up to the highest paid this autumn, and short

sellers of December delivery are reaping the benefit of indirect speculation. The strength of wheat has been enhanced by sympathy with the growing speculative interest in corn, for the highest prices paid for three years past, has been recorded. Cotton displays notable strength, and the market for the manufactured product is very firm at recent advances, print clothes, in fact, being higher than for a year past. The cheerful tone of the industrial situation and steady demand from abroad at the higher quotations conduce to a more cheerful tone of business at the south, and predictions of increased speculative activity in the raw products. Strength and firmness is a feature also of the lumber market, with the possible exception of yellow pine, where heavy competition tends to check the advancing tendency shown by other woods. Business failures for the week number 24, against 32 last week, and 30 in this week a year ago.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s review: It is a year beyond parallel, and goes to its close with the biggest volume of business ever seen. The building of new roads is reported by the Railway Gazette to be 2,857 miles—more than in any other year since 1892. But the car famine crowds both railroads and car works to the utmost. Shipments of wheat have been 4,285,704 bushels, four included, at Atlantic ports, against 3,693,321 last year, although western receipts for three weeks have been 25,088,581 bushels, against 10,309,929 last year—a fact which the believers in a small crop may well consider. From Pacific ports the shipments have been for the week 1,310,019 bushels, against 956,000 last year. Considering the enormous exports from July 1 to date, exceeding last year's week of 1892, the story of iron is like a dream. With 25,000 tons of Bessemer pig sold at Pittsburgh for \$10 60, and gray forge at \$9 40, and Chicago sales limited only by the capacity of the works, and eastern sales so numerous and so large as to raise the price 25 cents, there is a demand for finished products, which includes at Philadelphia 4,000 tons of plates for export to South America, 3,000 tons at Chicago, where works are crowded; 80,000 tons of steel rails by the Maryland Steel Company for Asiatic Russia, 35,000 tons for Australia, against British bids at Pittsburgh, and about 10,000 tons domestic at the east. 6,000 tons structural work at Chicago and Pittsburgh, and 8,000 for car builders at Chicago, all the works there being crowded with heavy buying of sheets and wire rods, and sharp competition at the south in cotton ties. Prices of iron and steel products have not materially changed, although the tone is everywhere stronger, and for wire nails quotations have been advanced to \$1 20 at Pittsburgh. All this business is done with full belief that the next year's demand will be greater than ever before. The range of prices is nearly 20 per cent lower than in 1892, indicating an astonishing increase in the quantity of products exchanged.

Peristaltic Plant Food enriches the soil. Use it with plants being taken indoors. At your dealer's.

AN ASYLUM PATIENT'S WILL

The Cause of a Lawsuit at Woodstock
—Thomas Wright Made Coffins
for Himself.

Woodstock, Dec. 22. — Wright vs. Wright is an action brought by Albert Wright, of South Norwich, to set aside a deed made by his father, Thomas Wright, in February, 1897, deeding a property consisting of seventeen acres of land to his other son, Newton Wright, of Woodstock, on the ground that the old man was irresponsible when he made the deed. This case is very well known in Western Ontario, and has wide newspaper notoriety. The old man, Thomas Wright, who was over 80, was committed to the lunatic asylum at Woodstock in 1895. He was discharged upon the application of his son Newton, after spending a year there. Prominent physicians had declared the old man insane, however. Then he went to live with his son Newton in Woodstock. He subsequently went back to his home in South Norwich. In October last he was found dead in the woods near there. Dr. Ellis testified yesterday that he made a post-mortem and found the deceased's brain softened and degenerated. Dr. Bucke, of the London Asylum for the Insane, testified that in his opinion the old man was insane. The defense brought witnesses to contradict this testimony to the effect that while the old man was somewhat eccentric he was perfectly rational in his mind. It came out in the evidence that the old man some years ago made two coffins for himself, one of which he gave away, as it was too small for him. He was subsequently buried in the other. After hearing the argument of counsel, his lordship gave judgment for the defendant in all points, but one. His lordship held that old Thomas Wright was in February, 1897, sufficiently in possession of his faculties, although he was somewhat eccentric in his habits to make a deed. Newton Wright, however, held power of attorney from his father, and counsel for plaintiff held that as such he could receive no benefits. His lordship reserved his decision on this point.

SANTA CLAUS SCORCHED.
Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 23.—Robert Harrington was badly burned while taking the part of Santa Claus last night in a show window. His cotton trimmed suit caught fire from a gas jet. He was rolled in the mud in the street until the flames were extinguished.

CAN STEAL HER OWN CHILD.
Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 24.—Judge Dissett, in the criminal court, sustained the demurrer made to the indictment returned against ex-Mayor F. E. Magowan, of Trenton, N. J. Mrs. Magowan and Mrs. Wynn, Mrs. Magowan's sister, upon the charge of child-stealing. The court ordered all of the defendants in the case discharged, saying that it was not a crime for a mother to steal her own child in the State of Ohio. The Magowans were not in court when the decision was rendered, and are said to be in Toronto.

When you are nervous and sleepless, take Hood's Sarsaparilla. It makes the nerves strong and gives refreshing sleep.

AMERICA'S CHANCE

To Foster Commerce—A Broader Policy
Needed.

The fostering of commerce obviously belongs to the general government, which has power not only to regulate, but to annihilate at will, the trade of its citizens with foreign countries, says President Charles W. Eliot in the January Atlantic. We have indeed seen our foreign commerce destroyed by our own national legislation. Now, commerce, foreign and domestic, is the great peace-maker and peace-keeper, and, on the whole, it is the great enricher of mankind in comforts and luxuries. It deserves on every account, the fostering care of a powerful nation, not only for the benefits it confers on that particular nation, but because it tends to bring about the confederation of all races of mankind in the pursuit of a common well-being. The war with Spain has distinctly enlarged the moral outlook of our people. It has presented to them wholly unexpected problems concerning the responsibility of a fortunate people for the welfare of the less fortunate. It has suggested to them that a policy of political seclusion and commercial isolation is not worthy of a strong, free and generous people, and that such a policy is not the way to the greatest prosperity and the most desirable influence.

Apply Peristaltic Bedbug Exterminator to all crevices in bedsteads, and it will rid them of any bugs. At all drug stores.

The present population of Bordeaux, France, is 297,000, of whom 18,864 are in receipt of assistance from charitable societies.

A DINNER PILL.—Many persons taken of is like a ball of lead upon the stomach, and instead of being a healthy nutriment, it becomes a poison to the system. Dr. Parmentier's Vegetable Pills are wonderful correctives of such troubles. They correct acidity, open the secretions and convey the food partaken of into healthy nutriment. They are just the medicine to take if troubled with indigestion.

London and Liverpool are both at the level of the sea. Glasgow is 30 feet above it. Manchester is 50 feet and Birmingham 300 feet.

Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets—A gentle tonic that increases the gastric juices, regulates the bowels, assists Nature in digesting the food, which gives the nutrient that makes good rich blood and nerve force, builds up the broken walls that disease has bombarded, forces the enemies of health to capitulate and sue for a truce. Sold by W. S. B. Barkwell.

All the classics and metaphors at the command of a woman school teacher don't prevent her jumping on a chair at sight of a mouse.

Give Holloway's Corn Cure a trial. It removed ten corns from one pair of feet without any pain. What it has done once it will do again.

Since the legislative foundation of arbitration courts there have been no strikes or lockouts in New Zealand.

Any store can sell candy; but Barkwell, the druggist, gives away one pound Pure Chocolate Creams to every \$1 purchaser, whether drugs, perfumes or Christmas presents. Go to Barkwell.



Can cure your Dyspepsia—restore your stomach to a normal state, so that it will do its work, digesting food, without you knowing it.

Then the ills associated with Dyspepsia—Constipation, Biliousness, Sick Headache, Coated Tongue, Bad Breath—Laxa-Liver Pills relieves and cures them all.

Just take a Laxa-Liver Pill before retiring, 'twill work while you sleep, without a gripe or pain, and make you feel better in the morning.

Price 25c. a bottle, or 5 for \$1.00, all druggists.

Skates

Hockey Skates,
Spring Skates

Hand Sleighs,
Coasters,
Cutters.

Carpet Sweepers.

Table and Pocket Cutlery

CARVERS—

In cases, pairs and sets, from
\$1.00 per pair up.

—AT—

REID'S HARDWARE,

118 (North Side) Dundas St.

Grows in favor
every day, because

Sweet Home
Soap

is pure soap.
It's the washer.

LONDON SOAP CO.

A few persons in England raise large numbers of guinea pigs for exportation to France, where they are highly esteemed for the table, the flavor of the meat being identical with that of the rabbit.