

Parliament's Rare Ceremony.

A ceremony which had not been performed since 1893, and will not be carried out again for another thirty years, was observed in the House of Commons a short time ago. The Speaker and a group of Government officials gathered round a box and took from it a pound weight and a yard measure, and after examining them with the greatest reverence and care put them back again. The objects were the Parliamentary copies of the Standard British Pound and British Yard, on which all our weights and measures are based. The standards were legally fixed in 1824, and placed in the House of Commons, but were destroyed when the Houses of Parliament were burned down ten years later. New standards were made and handed over to the Board of Trade, but accurate copies were placed in the Commons.

Pound That Grows.

It was the copies that were examined the other day. It was found that the Imperial Yard was shorter than it should be by a ten-thousandth part of an inch, and that the pound was heavier than it should be by 2.88 thousandths of a grain. Possibly the discrepancies were due to chemical changes in the standards themselves. The pound weight is a cylinder made of platinum. It is lifted, according to law, by inserting an ivory fork in a groove running round it. The yard is a solid oblong bar of bronze on which is marked the length of a yard.

Both measures are kept in mahogany boxes, which are sealed down, put into a leaden case, and then placed in a cavity in a stone wall of the House of Commons.

Poisons That Blind.

SOUR CREAM MAY WEAKEN SIGHT.

One of the strange effects of the poisoning called "botulism," which was the cause of the recent tragedy at a Scottish fishing resort, was the fact that all the sufferers went temporarily blind.

Why a poison takes internally should affect the eyesight is an interesting point, and rather mysterious one, yet it is well known that certain foods, drugs, and fruits have a most injurious effect upon the eyes.

Some years ago a family in the Midlands were all poisoned by eating rabbit pie, and though happily none of them died, yet all went temporarily blind.

Sour cream causes a curious weakening of the sight, technically known as "amblyopia." A similar form of blindness comes from eating tainted fish, and is not uncommon in Italy, where the peasants eat a good deal of salt and dried fish.

There are two different fruits which cause blindness. One is the so-called "finger cherry" which grows wild in Queensland. The fruit is a long red berry, not unpleasant to the taste, and is common in the Cairns and Townsville district.

This "cherry" acts by destroying certain nerves, and the blindness resulting is incurable.

The other blinding fruit is a species of melon, which appears in great quantities after the breaking of a long drought.

Horses and cattle eat it greedily, and as a result lose their sight. At one time the horse raisers of New South Wales insisted upon a Government inquiry into the matter.

The milky sap which exudes from an African tree called the Asclepias is most dangerous to the eyes. A single drop coming in contact with the eyeball causes total blindness.

This tree produces a beautiful, silky vegetable down, excellent for stuffing pillows, yet so much are its poisonous properties dreaded that the natives rarely pick or use this valuable product.

Russia Experimenting With New Currencies.

MOSCOW.—As the gold ruble has not at present been regarded as the real measure in Russia, a new ruble of goods, is to be introduced as a commercial currency. Wages will be fixed in "goods rubles." In addition to the "goods ruble" it is proposed to introduce into the market other varieties of the ruble, namely, agricultural, export, import and budget rubles. A well informed Russian business man, speaking privately to the Soviet latest financial plans, said the intention was that paper issues should in theory be backed by supplies of goods. Regarding the export and import issues, he said that the paper would be backed for face value by all the trade entering and leaving Russia. The new financial measure is probably attributable to the fact that the supply of gold rubles is nearing extinction, and to a desire on the part of the Soviet officials to deal a blow at the people who are hoarding them. An effort was made by the Bolsheviks some time ago to declare the Cash, Drama and Kerensky rubles valueless, but it did not succeed.

"K." Footwear. The all-British Shoe, at SMALLWOOD'S, dec16,17.

A Score of Good Values

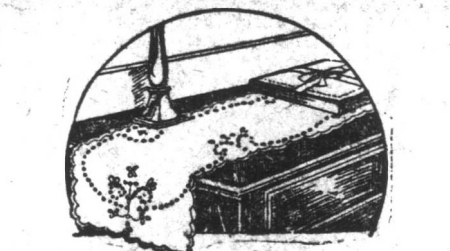
---at the Royal Stores---

To help you with your New Year preparations, we have selected an assortment of goods that are in great demand at this season. These are offered at greatly reduced prices for

Friday & Saturday

THE LAST TWO SHOPPING DAYS OF THE YEAR

Household Linens



Tea Cloths.
Made of pure Cotton, Linen finish; size 32 x 32; hemstitched borders; heavy embroidered floral designs on corners. Reg. 90c. 75c.

Sideboard Cloths.
Made of Linen finished White Cotton; hemstitched borders; size 14 x 68; beautiful floral embroidery designs on ends. Reg. 80c. 65c.

Another line of Sideboard Cloths of a superior make; White Linen finished Cotton, finished with Insertion and Torchon Lace; size 12 x 64 inch. Reg. \$1.20 each for \$1.00

Tray Cloths.
Dainty designs in drawn thread work; Linen centres and trimmed with wide Battenburg Lace. Reg. \$1.10 each for 95c.

Cushion Covers.
In White Lawn; hemstitched borders; beautiful assortment of colors. Reg. 95c. 95c.

Tea Caddy Pads.
Made of good Cotton batting, covered with good Satin in assorted pretty colors. Reg. \$1.20 each for \$1.05

American Flannelettes.
27 inches wide; heavy quality, soft finish; assorted striped designs. Reg. 27c. 24c.

Eiderdown.
For Dressing Jackets; in shades of Green, Brown, Fawn, Grey, Red and Blue; 27 inches wide. Reg. 80c. yard for 74c.

Black Astrakhan

We are now able to offer exceptional values in Black Astrakhan. Our entire stock is offered at Half Price.

Regular \$10.50 yard. Selling for \$5.25
Regular \$12.50 yard. Selling for \$6.25
Regular \$16.50 yard. Selling for \$8.25

Warm Winter Coats

at exceptionally low prices

A wide selection of plainly tailored Coats in heavy Tweeds and Blanket Cloth. These Coats come in sizes to fit small and medium figures; most of the Tweeds are Heather mixtures and the Blanket Cloth are assorted plain colors; offered at special prices.

\$8.75 and \$9.00 each

Women's Skirts.
Made of high grade Navy Serge; accordion pleated; assorted sizes; 34 to 38 length; 24 to 27 waist. Reg. \$5.30 each for \$4.65

Fancy Plaid Skirts.
Latest models; medium length; accordion pleated; assorted sizes. Reg. \$6.75 each for \$5.95

Moire Underskirts.
In colors of Saxe, Navy and Fawn; well cut and finished with neat dounce. Reg. \$6.25 each for \$4.50

WHITE LAWN APRONS—Finished with neat embroidery designs. Reg. \$1.10 each for 95c.

WHITE LAWN APRONS—Large sizes. Reg. \$1.00 each for 86c.

CHILD'S NAZARETH WAISTS—To fit girls of 2 to 12 years; buttoned up front; with attachments for suspenders. Reg. 55c. each for 48c.

WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR—Piece-lined Pants; ankle length; sizes 40 to 44. Reg. 65c. pair for 59c.

INFANTS' BIBS—White Cambric with embroidery designs. Reg. 35c. each for 29c.

INFANTS' DRESSES—First White Dresses for Infants; fine White Lawn with embroidered yoke and Val Lace trimmings. Reg. \$1.25 each for \$1.00

Can You Use a New Sweater?

Here is an opportunity to buy one at a decided bargain price. For Friday and Saturday we offer the following special lines: These who are in need of one, should make a point of coming down to the store early on Friday as the supply is limited.

All Wool Sweaters.
With smart Tuxedo collar; shades of Rose, Grey, Beaver and Saxe, finished on collar, pockets and girdle with stripes of contrasting colors. Reg. \$7.50 each for \$6.75

Another line of all wool Sweaters: Tuxedo collar, pockets and girdle, trimmed with Grey; the Coats themselves are in shades of Rose and Brown. Reg. \$4.10 each for \$3.65

Georgette Blouses.
In White and in shades of Flesh; round neck, long sleeves; front nicely worked with Silk Floss and Chenille in various pretty colorings. Reg. \$4.25 each for \$3.75

Silk Shirts.
Made of high grade striped Silk; assorted colors; two way collar, buttoned cuffs; sizes 13½ to 14½. Reg. \$9.25 each for \$8.45

Women's Scarves.
Silk knitted in colors of Putty and Grey; size 12 x 54 inch; finished with wide knotted fringe on ends. Reg. \$3.50 each for \$2.90

Wool Motor Wraps.
Finest Angora finish; assorted colorings; fancy stripes; knotted fringed ends; size 15 x 60. Reg. \$3.65 each for \$3.05

Special offers in Toilet Goods and Stationery

COLLINS, POCKET DIARY—Full page for each day. Regular 40c. 32c.

CARTER'S WRITING FLUID—Blue Black; 8-oz. bottles. Regular 50c. 50c.

CARTER'S INK—Blue Black; small bottles. Regular 11c. each for 9c.

LEDGERS—Hard cover. Reg. \$2.10 each for \$1.80

RECEIPT BOOKS—Regular 65c. each for 57c.

CALENDARS—Large sizes. Regular 50c. each for 43c.

GLASS INK WELLS—Regular 25c. 25c.

RUBBER BANDS—All sizes. Regular 20c. box for 17c.

JAP ROSE TALCUM POWDER—Special per tin 24c.

IMPERIAL TALCUM POWDER—Special per tin 12c.

PALM OLIVE TALCUM POWDER—30c.

MEN'S TALCUM POWDER—Special per tin 27c.

FRIPP'S TOILET SOAP—Special per cake 11c.

STORK CASTLE TOILET SOAP—Special per cake 18c.

LEMON OIL TOILET SOAP—Special per cake 9c.

TURKISH BATH SOAP—Reg. 20c. tin for 17c.

CAMPFIRE ICE—In tubes and tins. Reg. 20c. tin for 17c.

CAMPFIRE VASELINE—26c.

COLGATE'S MECHANIC SOAP—In tins. Special per tin 18c.

PALMOLIVE SHAMPOO—In bottles. Reg. 70c. bottle for 60c.

Everything in Men's Wear

Will be found marked at very reasonable prices in our Men's department; let us help you "look your best" for New Year Calls.

Men's Shirts.
A large assortment of fine Shirts in a variety of smart patterns; sizes 14 to 16½; soft double cuffs and starched neck bands. Reg. \$2.00 each for \$1.79

Another lot of Negligee Shirts in fine Cotton; light grounds with colored stripes; sizes 14 to 16½; soft cuffs. Regular \$1.65 each for \$1.25

Regular \$1.75 each for \$1.45

Men's Wool Socks.
In Brown shades only; seamless feet; all sizes. Reg. 75c. pair for 68c.

Men's Heavy Wool Socks.
In shades of Fawn, Grey and Canary; assorted sizes. Reg. 80c. pair for 72c.

Men's Flowing End Ties.
Silk and near Silk; all the newest designs and colors. Reg. 60c. each for 54c.

Men's String Ties.
Self colors of Brown, Navy and Crimson. Reg. 85c. each for 79c.

Men's Velour Hats.
In shades of Grey, Fawn and Mauve; best English Velour; dark Ribbon bands. Reg. \$7.75 each for \$7.90

Men's Felt Hats.
Winter weight Felt Hats in shades of Brown, Grey and Fawn, perfect fitting sizes; Leather sweat bands. Reg. \$3.75 each for \$3.15



Men's Sleeping Suits.
Made of high grade soft finish Flannelette; Military Coats; with braided Frog fasteners; assorted colors and stripes; sizes 36 to 42. Special per suit \$3.40

Sweater Coats.
All wool knit in shades of Grey only; sizes 36 to 42; shawl or military collar Special each \$3.39

Winter Gloves

Women's Driving Gloves.
Extra heavy Tan Kid; pique sewn; in all sizes. Regular \$2.30 pair for \$1.95

Dent's Kid Gloves.
Unlined Kid Gloves in shades of Tan; 2 dome fasteners; perfect fitting sizes. Reg. \$2.00 pair for \$1.65

Reg. \$2.50 pair for \$2.10

Women's Suede Gloves.
Full lined wrist and fur tops; finished with strap; wool lined; all sizes. Reg. \$6.30 pair for \$5.65

Men's Tan Kid Gloves.
Wool lined; one dome fastener; sizes 8 to 10½. Reg. \$2.00 pair for \$1.60

Reg. \$3.90 pair for \$3.20

Reg. \$3.50 pair for \$2.95

Women's Plain Cash. Hose.
Fashioned leg; spliced feet; shades of Grey, Fawn and Brown; all sizes. Reg. 95c. pair for 86c.

Reg. \$1.10 pair for 90c.

Misses' Cashmere Hose.
In Black only; high grade Black Cashmere; sizes 4, 5 and 6. Regular 85c. values for 75c.

Squandering Millions.

A "spouter" oil-well, where the petroleum spouts up naturally to above the ground level without the aid of pumping machinery, is, for its lucky owner, a veritable fountain of liquid gold.

Some men so situated invest their wealth wisely and become multi-millionaires, a typical case in point being John D. Rockefeller.

Others, however, squander it; a case of easy come, easy go. A short while back there died in a workhouse infirmary at Philadelphia a man whose name was once familiar all over the United States.

Known far and wide by the sobriquet of "Coal-Oil Johnny," his farm for which he paid originally seven hundred dollars (normally about \$140) produced in a few months petroleum worth \$1,600,000.

Johnny set to work to spend it. He built himself a beautiful house, the chief attraction of which was a private bar stocked with the choicest of wines, spirits and cigars. He also engaged two bar-tenders at a big wage to dispense refreshment to himself and his friends.

Not content with this exhibition of grotesque extravagance, he used to drive about the country in a carriage and four, preceded by outriders and a brass band, and loaded down with magnums of champagne, which he distributed right and left to those who chose to curry favour with him.

Thus he succeeded in squandering the whole of his suddenly acquired wealth in an amazingly short space of time, and eventually became a professional "hobo," or tramp.

Children And Fire Danger.

A tiny glimmer of light left burning in the married men's quarters at Stirling Castle on Saturday evening, December 30, 1911, led to a tragic and lamentable occurrence, no fewer than three little victims being claimed by suffocation. They were the children of a private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who lived with his wife at the married quarters. On Saturday, the boy aged seven, paid them a New Year visit, and about eight o'clock in the evening the elder people went into the town, leaving the three little girls, aged six years, four years, and 21 months in bed, along with their little cousin. A glimmer of gas was left and the door was locked. On the party returning at 9.20 the house was on fire, the boy alone living, the three little girls being dead in their beds. The Castle Fire Brigade was called out and the flames extinguished. From the confession of the terrified boy it transpired that the distressing affair was due to his trying to turn up the gas. While endeavouring to do he turned it out, and then went to the kitchen and lighted a piece of paper with the intention of relighting the gas in the bedroom. Finding that he could not reach the bracket, he scrambled on to the children's bed, but as the paper burnt his hand the little fellow let it drop, with the result that the bed and curtains were speedily in a blaze. The children had evidently died from suffocation, and the bodies been burnt afterwards. The features were calm and untouched by the flames. The little boy had saved himself by going from the bedroom into the lobby, where he was found when the house was entered. A good many families resided in the married quarters, but no one appeared to have noticed the outbreak. The funeral of the three little girls took place from the Military Hospital, to which the bodies had been removed. The garrison at the Castle turned out, and detachments were present from a number of military stations, the funeral being witnessed by a large and sympathetic crowd.

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Something Good from "THE LAND O'CAKES."

Real Scotch Bannocks. "Nairn's" Rutherglen. Oatcakes. "Hubbard's" Rusks. Scotch Beef Ham. Yorkshire Roll Bacon. Loch Fyne Red Herring.

Finnan Haddies.

Naples Walnuts. Soft Shell Almonds. Fresh Brazil Nuts. Eleme Figs. Tunis Dates. Dessert Raisins. Palermo Lemons.

"Savory's" Cigarettes.

Brussels Sprouts. Cauliflower. Artichokes. Fresh Tomatoes. Cucumbers. Lettuce. Ripe Bananas. Green Grapes. Red Grapes.

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LIMITED,
203 WATER STREET.

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or even health without good teeth. It is our profession and pleasure to provide you with both, through the medium of good sound teeth and good appearing teeth. Let us examine your mouth and tell you what is required.

DR. LEHR,
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Cleaning and pressing still attended to in the same reliable way by Hickey at Spurrell The Tailor, Water Street. Phone 574 and have your clothes attended to for the holiday season—dec16,17.

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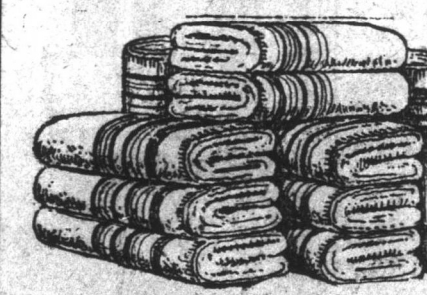
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Blankets and Comforts



Part Wool Blankets
(Part Wool)
Size 50 x 50. Price per pair \$5.00
Size 54 x 70. Price per pair \$6.25
Size 60 x 75. Price per pair \$7.50
Size 66 x 88. Price per pair \$8.75
Size 70 x 88. Price per pair \$10.00

at decided savings

Wadded Comforts

Filled with high grade Cotton batting; covered with good quality Satin; assorted colors.
Size 60 x 72. Reg. \$9.00 each for \$8.10
Size 60 x 72. Reg. \$9.70 each for \$8.72

All Wool Blankets

Size 54 x 70. Price per pair \$7.50
Size 60 x 75. Price per pair \$8.00
Size 66 x 88. Price per pair \$10.50
Size 70 x 88. Price per pair \$12.00
Size 75 x 90. Price per pair \$15.00

Special Footwear Values

Every one of these lines are items of real thrift and should be seen to be fully appreciated.

WOMEN'S SPATS—In shades of Grey, Black and Brown; made of Felt of excellent quality; stout leather straps and buckles. Regular \$2.00 pair for \$1.80