FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

HAY WAS CHIEF OFFERING ON THE LOCAL MARKET

A Very Small Supply of Oats —The Day's Quotations.

There was a very small market this morning, probably due to the fact that tomorrow is the holiday market. There were only some dozen loads of hay, despite the fact that the demand was unusually brisk. The prevailing price was $15. One load brought $15 50, while two or three loads of clover hay went as low as $11.

It is expected that there will be a big market of hay tomorrow, which, with the usual holiday market, will likely crowd the square to its capacity.

There was only a very small supply of oats offered this morning, but the demand was also very light. The prevailing price was $1 29.

Other prices remain as follows:

Grain.

Wheat, per bu	$1 00	to	$1 05
Oats, per cwt	1 16	to	1 20
Corn, per cwt	1 25	to	1 30
Buckwheat, per cwt	1 25	to	1 30
Barley, per cwt	1 15	to	1 25
Peas, per cwt	1 15	to	1 35
Beans, per bu	1 25	to	1 65
Rye, per cwt	1 05	to	1 10

Hay and Straw.

Hay, per ton	14 00	to	15 00
Straw, per ton	7 00	to	8 00

Dairy Produce.

Butter, creamery, lb	26½	to	27½
Butter, rolls, lb	24	to	25
Butter, crock, lb	22	to	24
Eggs, crate, dozen	28	to	30
Eggs, fresh-laid, dozen	33	to	35
Honey, strained, lb	10	to	12
Honey, in comb	12	to	15

Poultry, Dressed.

Turkeys, per lb	18	to	20
Ducks, spring, per lb	14	to	15
Old ducks, per lb	10	to	11
Old fowl, per lb	8	to	9
Chickens, per lb	13	to	14
Geese, per lb	12	to	14

Poultry, Alive.

Old fowl, per lb	7	to	8
Turkeys, per lb	20	to	20
Spring chicks, per lb	9	to	10
Ducks, per lb	9	to	9
Young fowl, per lb	9	to	11

Butchers' Meats.

Beef, by the carcase	7 00	to	8 00
Mutton, per cwt	7 00	to	8 00
Veal, per cwt	7 00	to	10 00
Spring lamb, per lb	10	to	12
Dressed hogs, per cwt	10 50	to	10 75

Live Stock.

Small pigs, per pair	5 50	to	5 50
Select hogs, per cwt	7 60	to	7 60
Fat sows, per cwt	5 00	to	5 00
Stags, per cwt	2 00	to	3 00
Export cattle, cwt	5 00	to	5 50
Milch cows, each	30 00	to	55 00

Hides and Wool.

Lambskins, each	75	to	85
Wool, washed, per lb	20	to	22
Wool, unwashed, per lb	12	to	14
Hides, No. 1, lb	11	to	12
Hides, No. 2, lb	10	to	10
Hides, No. 3, lb	9	to	9

Vegetables.

Potatoes, per bag	55	to	65
Turnips, per bu	25	to	35
Celery, per dozen	30	to	40
Sage, per dozen	20	to	20
Lettuce, per dozen	20	to	20
Savory, per dozen	20	to	20
Cauliflowers, each	5	to	20
Cabbage, doz n (to size)	30	to	40
Red cabbage, dozen	40	to	40
Onions, per bu	1 10	to	1 25
Beets, per bu	40	to	45
Parsnips, per bu	50	to	50
Beans, per bu	1 20	to	1 50
Spinach, per bu	50	to	60
Mangels, bu, by the load	20	to	20
Carrots, bu, by the load	20	to	25

Fruits.

Apples, per bag	40	to	90
Apples, per bu	20	to	50
Apples, per barrel	1 50	to	2 00

LIVE STOCK.

TORONTO, Dec. 28.—Cattle—Trade firm; 20 loads in today, including 344 cattle, 276 sheep and lambs, 150 hogs and 29 calves. Quotations: Export cattle, choice, cwt, $5 25 to $5 70; do, medium, $5 to $5 25; do, bulls, $4 to $4 50; do, light, $2 50 to $4; do, cows, $4 to $4 50; butchers' cattle, choice, cwt, $5 to $5 25; do, medium, $4 25 to $4 75; do, common, $3 50 to $4; do, bulls, $3 to $3 50; stockers, choice, $4 to $4 40; do, medium, $3 75 to $4; do, common, $2 50 to $3 25; do, bulls, $2 50 to $3; feeders, heavy, $4 50 to $5; do, shortkeeps, $4 50 to $5; milch cows, choice, each, $50 to $65; do, common, each, $30 to $40; springers, each, $40 to $55; export ewes, cwt, $4 25 to $4 65, steady; do, bucks, $3 to $3 25, steady; lambs, $5 50 to $7, steady; calves, $3 to $7 25, steady; hogs, selects, $8; do, fats and underweights, $7 75, off cars.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Cattle—Receipts estimated at 18,000; market steady to strong; beeves, $4 20 to $8; Texas steers, $4 10 to $9; western steers, $4 10 to $6 25; stockers and feeders, $3 10 to $5 30; cows and heifers, $2 10 to $5 60; calves, $7 25 to $9 50. Hogs—Receipts estimated at 23,000; market strong; light, $8 10 to $8 55; mixed, $8 20 to $8 70; heavy, $8 25 to $8 75; roughs, $8 25 to $8 50; good to choice heavy, $8 50 to $8 75; pigs, $7 15 to $8 15; bulk of sales at $8 40 to $8 60. Sheep—Receipts estimated at 15,000; market strong to 10c higher; natives, $3 60 to $5 75; westerns, $3 80 to $5 75; yearlings, $6 50 to $7 50; lambs, natives, $5 75 to $8 40; westerns, $5 75 to $8 35.

EAST BUFFALO, Dec. 29.—Cattle—Unchanged. Veals—Receipts, 75 head; active and 50c higher, $6 to $11. Hogs—Receipts, 1,000 head; active and steady; roughs, $8 15 to $8 25; stags, $6 50 to $7 50. Sheep and lambs—Receipts, 2,800; sheep active and steady, lambs slow and 10c to 15c higher.

PRODUCE.

CHICAGO EXCHANGE			Chicago, Dec. 29	
Wheat, Dec	118	118	117	117⅞
May	110⅞	111⅛	110⅜	111⅛
July	101⅛	101½	101¼	101⅛
Corn, Dec	62¾	62¾	62¼	62⅝
May	66½	66⅝	66¼	66⅝
July	66⅛	66½	66	66½
Oats, Dec	44½	44½	43⅞	44
May	45½	45⅝	45¼	45⅝
July	43¼	43½	43⅛	43½
Pork, Jan	21 62	21 62	21 60	21 60
May	21 62	21 72	21 62	21 72
Lard, Jan	11 27	11 27	11 27	11 87
May	11 85	11 90	11 85	11 87
Ribs, Jan	11 32	11 37	11 32	11 32
May	11 37	11 37	11 32	11 32

TORONTO, Dec. 29.—With the exception of corn, which is a little higher, there is little change in the grain markets today. Business is generally brisk throughout the country. Quotations: Ontario wheat—No. 2 mixed winter, $1 06 to $1 07; No. 2 white, $1 07 outside. Manitoba wheat—Spot, No. 1 northern, $1 16; No. 2 northern, $1 08, on track at lake ports, for early January delivery; No. 1 northern, $1 15½; No. 2 northern, $1 13, all-rail. Corn—American No. 2 yellow, 73c; new No. 3 yellow, 69c to 69½c, Toronto freights; kiln-dried No. 3 yellow, 72c. Oats—Canadian western, No. 2, 40½c; No. 3, 39½c, on track at lake ports, December shipment; all-rail, No. 2 western, 44½c; No. 3 western, 43½c; No. 2 white, 35c to 36c outside; No. 3 white, 34c outside, 37c to 38c on track at Toronto. Barley—No. 2, 58c to 59c; No. 3 extra, 57c; No. 3, 51c to 52c; feed barley, 49c to 50c outside; Manitoba No. 3, 52c; No. 4, 50c, on track at lake ports. Peas—New No. 2, 86c to 88c. Rye—No. 2, 70c outside. Buckwheat—No. 2, 52c to 53c outside. Manitoba flour—Quotations at Toronto are: First patents, $5 60; second patents, $5 10; strong bakers, $4 90; 90 per cent patents, Glasgow freights, 29s. Ontario flour—Winter wheat patents, for export, $4 20 to $4 25, in buyers' sacks outside. Millfeed—Manitoba bran, $21 per ton; shorts, $23 to $24, on track at Toronto; Ontario bran, $22; shorts, $24, on track at Toronto, bags included.

STOCKS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29	Asked	Bid
Bell Telephone	146	145
Packers A	..	76
Packers B	..	76
Canadian Converters	45	44
Canadian Pacific	189¼	184¼
Detroit Electric	65	64⅜
Dominion Coal, com	91½	90⅞
Dominion Steel, com	71¼	71¼
Dominion Steel, pfd	137	136⅞
Duluth, com	67	..
Halifax Electric	126	125
Havana Electric	..	102
Havanah Electric, pref	100	90
Illinois Traction, pref	92	91¾
Lake of the Woods, com	143½	142¼
Lake of the Woods, pref	..	127
Laurentide Paper, com	..	123¾
Laurentide Paper, pref	..	135
McKay Com	92	91
McKay, pfd	..	77
Minn. & St. Paul	..	139
Mt. L., H. & Power	134	133⅞
Montreal Telegraph	150	..
Nipissing	11	..
N. S. Steel & Coal	70¼	70⅛
Ogilvie Milling	139⅛	138
Ogilvie Milling pref	126	..
R. & O. Navigation	94½	94⅛
Rio de Janero	91	..
Toledo Electric	10	..
Toronto Railway	129¼	129⅛
Twin City	116¼	115⅞
Winnipeg	182	..
Quebec, pref	..	120
Crown Reserve	412	405
Rubber, com	..	95
Bank of Commerce	198	195
Eastern Township Bank	163	..
Hochelaga Bank	143½	..
Merchants Bank	..	170
Molsons Bank	267½	294½
Bank Montreal	..	251½
Bank of Ottawa	212	..
Royal Bank	..	223½
Bank of Toronto	219	..
Union Bank	..	133½
Rubber bonds	98	..
Converters	91	..
Porto Rico Railway	82¼	82
Canadian Colored Cotton	..	59
Dominion Textile, pref	104½	103¾
Penman, com	58½	58½
Quebec, com	6¾	6¼
Canada Colored Cotton bonds	90⅞	..
Dominion Coal bonds	99¾	98
Duluth-Superior	67¼	67¼
Kewatin Milling bonds	..	106
Ottawa Power	..	165
Lake of the Woods bonds	112½	..
Textile bonds A	..	96
Textile bonds B	..	97¼
Textile bonds C	96	94½
Textile com	71	70¼

Morning Sales: C. P. R., 125 at 180; do, rights, 2 at 10, 5 at 9¾, 60 at 9½. Textile, pref red, 25 at 104½; Power, 25, 50 and 31 at 134; Duluth-Superior, 200 at 67⅛, 50 at 67½; Montreal Railway, 50, 10 and 2 at 218, 100 at 219¼, 25, 25, 30 and 25 at 219½, 50 and 3 at 219, 25 at 219¼, 25 at 219⅝, 25 at 219¾, 25 and 35 at 219⅞, 720, 250 and 130 at 220, 70 at 220¼, 50 at 220½, 25, 25 and 25 at 221⅛, 200 and 50 at 221, 1,000, 50 and 50 at 221¼, 100 at 221¾; Illinois, 100, 30 and 10 at 92; Quebec, preferred, 11 at 120; Toronto Railway, 25 at 129⅝, 23 at 130; R. and O., 25 at 94½; Twin City, 50 at 115⅞, 5 at 115¾, 25 at 116; Quebec, 25 at 67⅞, 50 at 65½; Dom. common, 25 at 71⅛, 25 and 125 at 71¼. Dominion Cotton, 1,000 at 104; Coal, bonds, 500 at 98; Nipissing, 25 at 11; Rubber, common, 175 at 95; Reserve, 100 and 100 at 4.05, 100 at 4.04, 200 at 4.03, 500 at 4.06, 300 at 4.10. Woods, common, 10 at 144; Scotia, 25 at 70⅞, 190 at 71, 25 at 70¾, 25 at 70½; Penmans, common, 10 at 58¼, 25 at 58½, 225 at 58; Iron, common, 25 at 157; Woods, 1,000 at 112 flat; Switch, 34 at 104; Laurentide rights, 5 at 9; Quebec Bank, 3 at 123; Merchants' Bank, 1 at 170; Hochelaga Bank, 1 at 143; Ogilvie, bonds, 2,000 at 112¼; Detroit, 10 at 64½; Asbestos, common, 10 at 30.

TORONTO, Dec. 29	Asked	Bid
Packers A	85	75
Packers B	85	75
Bell Telephone	..	144¼
Canadian General Electric	..	110
Canadian Salt	..	112
Canadian Pacific Ry	180	..
City Dairy, Com	..	9
City Dairy, pref	..	97
Consumers Gas	..	204
Crow's Nest	..	77
Detroit United	..	65
Dominion Coal, com	..	90
Dominion Steel, com	..	71
Dominion Telegraph	..	109
Electric Dev., pref	47	..
Intercolonial Coal, com	..	82½
Illinois, pref	..	91¼
Lake of the Woods, com	..	143¼
Laurentide Paper com	..	120
Laurentide Paper pfd	..	128
Mackay, com	92	91¼
Mackay, pref	77¼	76
Mexican Tramway	122	..
Montreal Power	..	132
Niagara Navigation	136	..
Northern Navigation	122½	..
N. S. Steel, com	70⅝	..
Peaman	58½	58
Penman, pref	..	85
Porto Rico Railway	..	35
Rio de Janerio	89⅞	..
R. & O. Navigation	94½	94
Rogers, com	147	144
Rogers, pref	111	109
Sao Paulo	148½	147½
Shredded Wheat	..	42½
St. L. & C. Navigation	120	..
Toronto Electric	..	118
Toronto Railway	130	129¼
Tri City, pref	93	..
Twin City	116⅛	116⅛
Winnipeg Railway	182	..
Reserve	415	410
La Rose	500	480
Nipissing	..	10 75
Tretheway	141¼	..
Dominion Bank	240	244
Bank of Hamilton	207	..
Imperial Bank	232	231¼
Merchants Bank	..	170
Molsons Bank	..	200½
Bank of Montreal	..	250
Bank of Nova Scotia	277	..
Bank Ottawa	219	..
Royal Bank	224	..
Standard Bank	230	227
Bank Toronto	230	217
Traders Bank	..	146
Union Bank	..	136½
Agricultural Loan	..	120
Canada Landed	152	148
Canada Permanent	..	161
Central Canada	..	179
Colonial Investment	63	..
Dominion Savings	..	71½
Hamilton Provident	..	131
Huron & Erie	..	142
Huron & Erie 20 per cent	182	..
Landed Banking	..	150
National Trust	..	191
Ontario Loan	..	140
Ontario Loan 20 per cent	..	127½
Real Estate	..	100
Toronto Mortgage	..	128
Black Lake	80	79
Dominion Iron and Steel bonds	..	97
Electric Development	83	..
Mexican Light and Power bonds	..	83¼
Rio de Janeiro	..	95½
Porto Rico bonds	..	82¾

Morning Sales: C. P. R., 20 at 180¼, 7 at 180, 5 at 180, 25 at 180; do, rights, 20 at 9½, 1 at 9½, 1 at 9½; Canada Permanent, 60 at 161, 200 at 161, 100 at 161, 100 at 161, 1 at 160½; Trethewey, 1,000 at 1.43; Rio, 100 at 90⅝, 50 at 90⅝, 25 at 90⅝, 50 at 90½; Mackay, 20 at 91½, 50 at 91½; Illinois, preferred, 5 at 92; Crown Reserve, 500 at 4.10; Rogers, 5 at 146; Twin City, 10 at 115¾, 25 at 116, 10 at 115¾, 75 at 116, 25 at 116, 25 at 116, 25 at 116, 25 at 115, 50 at 115¾, 75 at 116; 25 at 116, 50 at 116, 5 at 115¾, 150 at 116¼, 1 at 115½; Duluth-Superior, 50 at 67½, 200 at 67¼, 50 at 67½, 5 at 67½; Toronto Railway, 25 at 129⅞, 10 at 130; Tri-City, preferred, 40 at 99¾; N. S. Steel, 25 at 70¾, 25 at 70¾, 25 at 70¾, 10 at 70½; Northern Navigation, 10 at 123½, 25 at 113½; Sao Paulo, 25 at 147½; do, bonds, 5,000 at 99⅞, 2,000 at 97⅞ and interest; F. N. Burt, preferred, 10 at 93½, 40 at 91½, 30 at 92½; Consumers' Gas, 5 at 204; Black Lake, 75 at 21, 50 at 21¼, 50 and 50 at 21⅛; do, preferred, 50 at 62½, 50 and 50 at 62¾, 50 at 62; Ogilvie, bonds, 1,000 and 1,000 at 112⅜ and interest; Traders' Bank, 3 at 145; Imperial Bank, 6 at 232; Dominion Bank, 24 and 16 at 244½.

Listed: Black Lake Consolidated Asbestos; bonds, $510,000; common, 2,999,490; preferred, 1,000,000.

WALL STREET OPENING.

New York, Dec. 29.—Opening: Amalgamated Copper, 89⅜; American Beet Sugar, 46¾; American Smelting, 104; Atchison, 121¾; Baltimore and Ohio, 117⅜; Canadian Pacific, 180⅛; Chesapeake and Ohio, 86½; Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, 157; Interboro-Metropolitan, 24⅞; Missouri, Kansas and Texas, 43⅞; New York Central, 125⅛; Northern Pacific, 144; Pennsylvania, 137; Reading, 170⅝; Rock Island, 50½; Southern Pacific, 134⅛ and 134; Southern Railway, 31¾; Union Pacific, 201⅞; United States Steel, 91; Wabash, preferred, 60⅜; Chicago and Great Western, new, 37; Pittsburg Coal, 29⅞; Anaconda, 53⅝.

By private wire to H. C. Becher, London, from Harris, Winthrop & Co.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29—Wall street, 10 a.m.—American in London are strong, ¼ to ¾ up.

London settlement concludes today.

Rock Island investigation will extend beyond Monday.

London does not expect any improvement in easily off of money.

Taft's message on the Sherman act will be presented Jan. 5, and is now in course of preparation.

The mayor of New York vetoes $10,000,000 of new outlay voted for schools, etc.

Public service railway commission of New Jersey will raise wages of 4,000 men on Jan. 1.

Interstate commerce commission allows increased rates on the Illinois Central to Louisville, saying conditions justify the advance.

Copper buying for export is large.

By private wire to H. C. Becher, London, from Harris, Winthrop & Co.

New York, Dec. 29.—Wall Street, Noon.—The Union Pacific and Southern Pacific gave out the usual statement of excellent and increasing earnings this morning. Amalgamated Copper has shown the effects of good buying, and the whole list has shown a firm undertone, with an upward tendency. Wabash has made new high records. London bought higher for Americans. Sales to noon 330,000.

Reported by C. N. Spencer, Stockbroker, Market Lane, for The Advertiser.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29—Noon.

	Open.	High.	Low.	2 p.m.
Amal. Copper	89⅜	90½	89¼	90⅜
Anaconda Copper	53⅞	53⅞	53¼	53⅜
American Sugar	123	123	122	122
Amer. Beet Sugar	46¾	..	..	..
Amer. Locomotive	59¾	60¼	59¾	60¼
American Foundry	71¼	71¼	71¼	71½
American Refining	104	104½	103¾	104½
Atchison, com	121¾	122½	121¾	122½
Baltimore & Ohio	117⅝	117¾	117⅝	117¾
Brooklyn Transit	79¾	80½	79¾	80½
Canadian Pacific	180⅛	180½	180⅛	180⅜
Chesapeake & Ohio	86½	87¼	86½	87¼
Consolidated Gas	158¼	160	158⅛	160
Col. Fuel & Iron	51	51	50½	50½
Chicago & N. W.	181½	181⅝	181½	181⅝
Erie, com	33¼	33½	33¼	33½
G. Northern, pfd	143	143¼	143	143⅛
Illinois Central	148	148¼	148	148
Inter-Metropolitan	24⅞	25	24¾	24¾
Inter-Met., pfd.	62⅝	62⅝	62½	62½
Kansas & Texas	49	49¾	49	49¼
Louisville & Nash	157	..	..	..
Mexican Central	24¾	25⅛	24¾	25⅛
Missouri Pacific	71¼	72	71¼	72
New York Central	125	126⅛	125	126
Northern Pacific	144¼	144⅞	144¼	144⅞
Norfolk & Western	99⅝	99⅝	99¼	99¼
National Lead	89¼	90⅜	89¼	89¾
Ontario & Western	49	..	..	..
Pennsylvania	137	137⅞	136¾	137¼
People's Gas	115½	115⅞	115½	115⅞
Reading	170¾	171	170⅝	170⅝
Republic Steel	45⅝	..	..	..
Rock Island	49½	50⅝	49½	50¼
Rock Island, pfd	89	91	88	90¾
Southern Railway	31¾	32	31⅝	32
Southern Ry., pfd	73½	73⅞	73½	73⅞
Southern Pacific	134⅛	134⅞	133⅞	134⅜
St. Paul	157	158¼	157	158¼
Texas Pacific	35½	35⅝	35½	35½
Union Pacific	201⅞	203½	201⅞	203⅛
U. S. Rubber	43½	43½	43¼	43¼
U. S. Steel	91	91½	90¾	91⅜
U. S. Steel, pfd	125¼	125⅜	125⅛	125⅜
Wabash, com	25⅛	26½	24¾	26½
Wabash, pfd	60¼	60⅞	60¼	60⅞

ROBERTS—GRAY

Weding of a Popular Couple This Afternoon.

The home of Mr. Wm. Gray, of Trafalgar street, was the scene of a very pretty wedding this afternoon, when his daughter, Miss Ruby, became the wife of Mr. Charles Roberts, formerly of this city, and now of Vancouver, B. C.

Rev. A. J. Bowen, of the Egerton Street Baptist Church, performed the ceremony.

Mr. Roberts, who is a son of Mr. Martin Roberts, of West street, East London, left this city five years ago.

The happy couple will reside in British Columbia.

TORONTO YARDMASTER HAS A CLOSE CALL

Knocked by Shunting Engine and Has Collar Bone Broken.

Toronto, Dec. 29.—John Langan, G. T. R. yardmaster, had as narrow an escape from death as he cared to have this morning. Riding eastward along a siding in front of his own shunting engine, he jumped off just as another shunting engine coming in the same direction was passing. The engine struck Langan on the shoulder, knocking him down and breaking his collarbone, and three bruises. Langan has a wife and two children.

MITCHELL COMPASS WHIST.

The scores of the Mitchell compass match at the Tecumseh Whist Club last evening were:

North and South—Rider and Hodgins plus 6½; Doggerell and Graydon plus 5½.

East and West—McGuire and Tucker plus 1¾; Moffatt and Evans plus ¾.

CELLULOID CALENDARS ARE BEING HELD UP

Authorities Have Their Orders and Are Afraid of Fire.

Postoffices all over the country are reporting a great deal of trouble with celluloid calendars and postcards. When spoken to regarding the matter, Postmaster Dr. McDonald said that the London postoffice had escaped any trouble in this direction, as nothing of this nature had been reported to him.

A good many people are not aware that it is contrary to the postoffice regulations to send anything made of this substance through the mails unless it is packed in a tin case. Celluloid is exceedingly inflammable, and it is necessary to protect the mails against it.

Some large mercantile firms throughout the country have issued advertising calendars of this substance, and hundreds of them have been held at the postoffices where they were posted.

It would be well for people to look up the rules governing mailing matter and so avoid annoyance and possibly legal action.

LATE LOCAL NEWS

Decision Reserved.

The case of a local drug firm charged with illegal selling of opium was heard before Judge Macbeth yesterday afternoon. After the evidence in the case had been heard his honor decided to reserve his decision till Jan. 6.

Ushers' Banquet.

The ushers of Bennett's Theatre had a banquet at a downtown cafe the other evening at which about 25 were present. After the dinner had been disposed of a programme of songs and music, and speaking was enjoyed. This is the first affair held by the boys, and it is expected it will be repeated at regular intervals during the winter.

Late Squire Nugent.

The funeral of Squire William T. Nugent was held yesterday afternoon from the family residence, 205 Queen's avenue, to Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and was of a private nature. Canon Dann, of St. Paul's Cathedral, conducted the services, and the pallbearers were Messrs. Norman Howden, W. C. Phillips, Gilbert Patton, Dr. G. A. Bentley, Harry Struthers, and Fred J. Hiscox.

Swearing Off Day.

That solemn day is close at hand when men forswear the vinous dragon; when all the sad, remorseful band, will climb upon the water wagon. A thousand vows will then be spoken: we'll all be saints, througbout the year; the trusty meerschaum will be broken, the fat cigar will disappear. We'll then eschew all vulgar sinning, forsake all malice, envy, spite, and go our ways with smiles so winning, the girls will fall in love, at sight. We'll lavish kindness on our neighbors, and pay our debts, abandon guile, and buckle to our divers labors until our smoke is seen a mile. There'll be so much of shining virtue, when first the year is ushered in, it would astonish you and hurt you, if you should stumble o'er a sin. But in a month we'll all be hedging—we are not angels, we are men; we'll find it pretty heavy sleighing; the fleshpots will look good again, O, this desire for better living is quite heroic and sublime; but we might gain more ground by giving up one habit at a time—Walt Mason in Hamliton Spectator.

Personal Mention

Mr. W. C. Ferguson, of Riverdale Collegiate Institute, Toronto, is in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Anderson, of Bowmanville, are visiting relatives in this city.

Rev. W. M. McKay, B.A., of Harriston, is visiting his mother and sister at 360 Glebe street.

Mr. Mac Omond, of Queen's University, is spending the vacation with his parents on Oxford street.

Mr. Charles Merritt and bride, of Kincardine, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hutchison, Argyle street, city.

Mr. W. J. Dromgole, of the Merchants Bank, Brandon, Man., is visiting his parents, 522 Colborne street, city.

Mr. Garfield Graham, of Calgary, formerly of the business staff of the London Advertiser, spent the holidays here. He left for Toronto yesterday and will proceed west tonight.

Rev. John Tagg, of the Northern New York Conference of the M. E. Church, is in the city for a few days, visiting his mother, 144 Colborne street.

Miss Gertrude Fletcher, of South London, has returned home from Toronto after spending the Christmas holidays with her sister, Mrs. F. J. Clarke, of Jarvis street, and Mr. and Mrs. Chester E. Clarke, of the Grand Union Hotel, of that city.

Mr. and Mrs. James J. Clarke and daughter May, of West London, have returned home from Toronto after spending their Christmas holidays with their son, Chester, manager of the Grand Union Hotel, and son, Fred, of that city.

GEORGE VALLANCE DEAD

Prominent Hamilton Hardware Merchant Died This Morning.

Hamilton, Dec. 29.—The death this morning of George Vallance, of the firm of Wood, Vallance & Co., wholesale hardware merchants, removes a man who was widely known both in Canada and the States. He was born in Hamilton in 1848, and was the fourth son of the late Hugh Vallance, of his majesty's customs. He entered the employ of Wood & Leggatt, as an office boy at 16 years of age, and worked himself up to a partnership. He was not prominently connected with many local lodges, being of a retiring disposition. He leaves a widow. The funeral will take place on Friday.

BAD KINGSTON FIRE.

Kingston, Dec. 29.—Fire which started in Crumley's drygoods store about 7 o'clock this morning resulted in a loss of $5,000. An overheated furnace blowing off the gas meter was the cause of the fire. The loss is covered by insurance.

MINISTER LEMIEUX UNDERGOES OPERATION

Postmaster-General Convalescing After Removal of Tumor From Head.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Dec. 29. — Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, postmaster-general of Canada, who has been operated upon for a tumor on the back of his head, is convalescing satisfactorily at his home. It is expected that he will be able to get out in the course of a few days.

ENGINEER DISCOVERED TIRE WAS BROKEN

Locomotive Wheel Damaged But Was Noticed in Time to Save Trouble.

That G. T. R. passenger train No. 23 was not wrecked yesterday morning through a broken tire on Engine 1334, is due to the vigilance of Engineer George Phipps, who, when examining the locomotive at the station prior to making the run to Windsor, discovered the defect.

Had the tire, which was cracked almost across the full width, given way when the train was running at high speed, a wreck would have been the inevitable result, according to local railroaders.

No. 23 leaves here each morning at 11:50 for Windsor.

No. 1334 was taken off the run yesterday and replaced by No. 437.

RAILWAYMEN INSIST UPON OLD SCHEDULE

Declare That the Eastern Wage Schedule Formerly in Force Must Be Restored.

New York, Dec. 29.—Possibility of trouble in the adjustment of the railroad wage question on eastern railroads loomed up today with positive statements by officials of the employees' organizations that they would demand restoration of the wage schedules in effect before the commercial depression of two years ago. Eastern schedules must be placed on a level with those in the west, the leaders declare. In general there has been a refusal by railroad officials to indicate their position in advance of the actual presentation of the case for the employees. The conference between H. B. Perham, chairman of the railway branch of the American Federation of Labor, with federal officials, will be closely watched in this section in view of the possible tendency of settlement of the western troubles to ease the situation in the east.

PREVENTED A TRAGEDY

Continued From Page One.

"Yes. I keep one to protect myself," said Nicholls. "I often have a lot of money."

"How many drinks did you have?" asked the court.

"I don't know," said Nicholls, "we were all drinking together."

Brooks or Johnston.

Frank Wright, the other man in the case, stated that he was there with his wife on the invitation of Mrs. Brooks.

The court wanted to know who Mrs. Brooks was and Wright said that Mrs. Johnston was known by that name. They all had a sociable drink, he said. He had seen the revolver in Mrs. Johnston's hands. She took it when someone rapped at the door about 12:30.

There was a racket at the door between Mrs. Johnston and Nicholls, and witness thought it was caused by jealousy although he didn't know why Nicholls should be jealous of him.

A Straight Denial.

Wright denied absolutely that he had had the gun or that he had pointed it at Nicholls. Mrs. Johnston said it was her revolver.

"I fine you $5 or 20 days for being drunk," said the court, and I think you are a very lucky man to get away without being charged with murder. Had the policeman not happened along Mrs. Johnston's life would probably have been sacrificed, as no one, it seems, was trying to protect her. I fine you $10 additional for carrying the revolver."

TAYLOR—CALLARD

Young Couple Made One by Rev. James Rollins.

The manse of the King Street Presbyterian Church, 718 Queen's avenue, was the scene of a very pretty wedding yesterday when Miss Alice Gertrude, daughter of Mr. Marshall F. Collard, of Westminster Township, was married to Mr. Angus Taylor, of South Dorchester, the ceremony being performed by Rev. James Rollins.

The bride was attended by Miss Maggie Johnston, while the groom was supported by Mr. Harry L. Collard, a brother of the bride.

Following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Taylor left for Toronto.

SWITCHMEN'S STRIKE

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 29.—The offer of the northwestern railroads to abide by the Chicago [illegible] conference and to re-employ the striking switchmen as fast as places could be found for them, was withdrawn today.

The strikers now are awaiting the result of the conference to be held in Washington Friday between President Perham, of the Railway Telegraphers' Union, and the members of the interstate commerce commission.

BARBER'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Toronto, Dec. 29.—Jesse Walker, a barber, had a narrow escape from death by a street car this morning. He was crossing Queen street when he was struck by the car, receiving some bruises and cuts. The quick action of the motorman saved Walker's life.

EAST LONDON

ENGINEER SAYS HALL HASN'T BEEN CONDEMNED

The People Are Unecessarily Alarmed in the East End.

A number of people throughout the city are under the impresion that the East End Hall has been condemned as unsafe. As a result plans for the meeting there this evening and for a concert by the Sunday school of the King Street Presbyterian Church on Thursday evening, threatened to be seriously interefered with.

Rev. James Rollins has received the assurances of City Engineer Grayden that the building has never been condemned and that it is perfectly safe.

Mr. Rollins has also received the following letter from City Architect Nutter:

"I have examined upon several occasions the town hall in East London, and have found beyond minor defects the building is structurally sound, and in a safe condition."

SUCCESSFULLY SURPRISED

Rev. T. T. Shields' Residence Raided—No Chance for a Repulse.

The peaceful home of the pastor of Adelaide Street Baptist Church was invaded last evening by a party numbering about thirty, who had previously met at the residence of Mr. J. K. McDermid (the church's hustling treasurer), 583 William street. Thence, provided with full baskets and folding chairs, they made a sortie on the unsuspecting minister.

Mrs. Shields may have had a wireless intimation of the pending invasion, but her spouse certainly had no inkling of the onslaught.

However, the party, which included well-known members of the Ladies' Aid, as well as the deacons and other officers and members of the church, met with a warm welcome, and without any formality soon made known the object of their visit. Mr. D. H. Gillies, acting as chairman, asked Mr. and Mrs. Shields to stand up, while Mr. Arthur E. Brown read a very brief address voicing the love and esteem felt for the pastor and his worthy wife by the members of the church, expressing appreciation