

3481 Political Prisoners Released by Irish Free State.

Venezelos Returns to Greece to Take Charge of the Government--Mexican Revolutionaries Approaching the City--Destructive Storms in the Pacific.

VENEZELOS IS CAUTIOUS.
ATHENS, Dec. 24. Former Premier Venezelos has telegraphed from Paris to Col. Platas of the Revolutionary Committee requesting information as to the relative strength of the contending parties in Greece. It was announced today.

VENEZELOS RETURNS.
PARIS, Dec. 25. Former Premier Venezelos has decided to return to Athens and is leaving Paris for Greece forthwith. The decision was taken after a delegation, which arrived from Athens last night, had delivered to him this morning a document, signed by 270 members of the Legislative Assembly elected last week, urging him to resume charge of the Government and save the country.

POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED.
DUBLIN, Dec. 24. The Free State Government today announced the release of Countess Georgiana Markiewicz, one of the leading woman Republicans, who was arrested here Nov. 20th. The Government also announced that between December 1 and December 23, political prisoners to the number of 3481 had been released.

WYOMING TOWN HAS BIG FIRE.
CASPER, Wyo., Dec. 24. A large section of the town of Lavoire lies in ruins to-day as the result of fire which broke out yesterday evening and for a time threatened to destroy the whole town. Ten of the largest buildings in this town of 1,300 inhabitants were destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$114,000.

CHINESE SITUATION CLEARING UP.
CANTON, Dec. 24. The critical situation which has prevailed here for nearly two weeks as a result of the demand of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, South China Leader, for surplus customs revenue, is believed to have passed. Negotiations for settlement of the questions are said to be progressing satisfactorily, and the sailors from the French cruiser Jules Ferry, one of the flotilla of foreign

warships concentrated in the harbor, have returned to Hong Kong.

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS.
CHICAGO, Dec. 24. Christmas this year is unique in that for the first time in 350 years, almost all christendom in theory will celebrate the day on Dec. 25. This means 125,000,000 people, connected with the Eastern Orthodox National Churches, of which Greeks and Russians are the chief, will join in the occasion with others of the Christian world.

MR. WINTER IN MONTREAL.
MONTREAL, Dec. 24. Thomas Winter, St. John's, Newfoundland, a courier of fifty years' standing was introduced to the Montreal Curling Club's luncheon on Saturday night, and gave some reminiscences of a sea fishing trip in which he took part fifty years ago. Mr. Winter skipped the team visiting Montreal from Newfoundland in 1897.

STORM ON THE PACIFIC COAST.
SEATTLE, Wn., Dec. 25. In a storm which wrecked the tug Tye with the loss of four lives in North Pacific waters, and in which the wind reached 65 miles an hour, the highest velocity in the 33 years that the Government has kept record here, two vessels were still in distress to-day. Besides these marine accidents in the Pacific Ocean and the Strait of Juan De Fuca, the steamer Dawn sank at her dock in Seattle on Lake Washington.

THE MEXICAN IMBROGLIO.
VERA CRUZ, Dec. 24. Rebel forces made their nearest approach to Mexico City so far with the capture yesterday of Guernavaca, 40 miles south of the capital. It was stated in a Revolutionary communication issued here. The general situation is unchanged except for the nearer approach to the national capital. An official Government bulletin, issued from Mexico City, states Puebla was captured Saturday and 1,000 prisoners were taken by Federal forces.

Ladies' Black Horkey Boots \$6.00 at SMALLWOOD'S. dec24.1f

Christmas Greetings Exchanged

TO WAR VETERANS.
The following cablegrams and communications exchanged between the Great War Veterans' Association of Newfoundland and friends of the Association and the late Newfoundland Forces, will be read with interest.

FROM GENERAL D. E. CAYLEY.
I write to send you and all members of your Association, who served in the 29th Division and 88th Brigade, all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Thanks to your kindness in sending me the "Veteran Magazine" I feel that I am kept in touch with all those in Newfoundland who fought so gallantly under my command. I cannot tell you how highly I appreciate receiving your magazine, and what an interest it always is to me to read it.

FROM LT-COL. T. NANGLE, C. F.
Christmas greetings with happy memories of camps in Amiens, Fribourg, and Hilden. Please transmit to Branches greetings received from General Hunter-Weston, Lieut-Col. Forbes-Robertson, V.C., with request to transmit.

FROM UNITED KINGDOM COMMAND, G. W. V. A. OF Nfld.
Best wishes Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

FROM CAPTAIN VICTOR GORDON, ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER.
Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

FROM Nfld. BRANCHES G. W. V. A.
Heartily reciprocate Christmas Greetings all Comrades, St. John's.

FROM SIR JOHN AND LADY MITCHELL, FORMER GOV'T OF AYE, SCOTLAND.

A Christmas Greeting with all good wishes for the coming year. In addition to the foregoing, Greetings have been received from Capt. M. Mackay, one time R.S.M., Past Vice-President Chesley Kearley, and Mon. E. T. De Beauregard, French Consul.

Grand Dance and Card Party. Big Prizes and good Supper at the Star Hall on St. Stephen's Night.—dec24.2f

CORRECTION.—In acknowledging the subscriptions to the Methodist Orphanage Xmas Tree, Mrs. S. H. Peet's donation should have read 4 doz. chocolate bars and not a dozen, as previously stated.

Produce and Provisions.

Codfish.—There is not much change in the European or other fish markets. The exports of codfish for the week were:—By the S.S. Enric Lindo to Spain and Italy, 6,940 casks, and 125 barrels, containing 26,311 quintals codfish; the schr. Casaria for Pernambuco, by the Monroe Export Co., 2,600 drums and 5,000 half-drums, containing 5,714 quintals; the schr. Svalen from Fogo to Lisbon with 3,000 quintals, shipped by the Newfoundland Export Co., and the Ceil Jr., from Bay Bulls, taking 5,130 qts. codfish and 1,000 qts. haddock, shipped by Lazo & Co., for Seville. The S.S. Rosalind took 280 qts. for Italy, 5,150 qts. to B. West Indies, 564 qts. for the U.S.A. and 18 for other ports. The other exports were 2,525 brls. herring by the S.S. Sable I., from Wood's Island for Halifax, and 515 barrels by S.S. Amphitrite for the same destination, the latter shipped by J. Basha & Sons, while the American schooner Pilgrim took 781 brls. and 62 qts. codfish, and the Governor Foss sailed with 1,238 brls. herring, both for Gloucester. The other exports were 54 tons cod oil, 3 tons C. L. oil, 9 tons salmon, 5 cases tobaccos, 57½ qts. fish and 421 brls. herring by the steamers Rosalind and Yankton for New York and Boston.

Cod Liver Oil.—By recent mail word has been received that the two scientists from the United States who visited Newfoundland last summer will have a very extensive report to make on our cod liver oil. The work they have been doing has been painfully tedious. Their conclusions must be exact, and facts proved scientifically before they can be published. They are perfectly satisfied that Newfoundland Oil is far superior to the very finest production put up elsewhere, but they have found a new component in the Newfoundland oil, which takes them a step further than vitamins, and will very likely cause a great sensation. Further information points to more scientists visiting Newfoundland next summer, and with this end in view it is expected that a model factory will be erected, so that every facility will be given them to study the manufacture in all its phases, and the biology of our fish to the minutest detail. If any other country had half the compliments paid it that scientists are stating about our Newfoundland oil, no expenses would be spared to welcome and assist them in this work.

Common Cod Oil.—A year ago Common Oil was selling at \$60 per ton, but owing to the very short supply this year prices have been forced up to \$150 and even \$155 per ton. There is a very dull time at present as the foreign trade cannot afford to pay this price, but there is such a small quantity remaining unsold that there will not be any decline here this year. All depends how the tanning industry starts up next year whether the price will be maintained or not. The Export Tax that the Government makes the fishermen pay should be removed as serious exception is taken to it from all quarters.

Flour.—There has been no change during the week and prices remain steady. In the city the market is slow and not much business is being done, as winter stocks have mostly been purchased and no great activity can be looked for for some time yet. Before the St. Lawrence was closed to shipping large consignments were imported from Canada, and there is plenty in stock to bring the country easily through the winter. The imports this week were 856 barrels by S.S. Yankton from Boston, 1,750 barrels by S.S. Jan from New York, and 2,028 brls. by Silvia, a total of 4,634 barrels. The quotations on the local market were, during the week, \$7.65 to \$8.15, according to the brand required.

Pork.—Though conditions in this market remain pretty nearly as they were, there is one change in the situation which will afford satisfaction to importers. For weeks past it was very difficult and often impossible to obtain fat back from the packers and the scarcity of the meat was marked in St. John's with the outcome that prices for it were pretty stiff. During the past week or ten days hogs have been offering more freely, big sales of swine have been made in Chicago, and there is more material for the abattoirs. Dealers, however, do not see any prospect of a decline in price owing to a steady demand, and most people think it will be higher later. Two years ago pork stood at \$58, nearly double the present quotation. Spare Ribs are now very high, they always are at this season of the year, when there is a good local demand for them in the U.S., when with the prevailing cold weather they are kept more easily and do not require to be so heavily packed as in the summer season. Generally this class of goods cannot be had after November, but this year seems to be an exception, and some of this meat is yet on the market. The imports of pork for the week were 200 brls. by S.S. Jan, and 185 by S.S. Silvia, a total of 485 brls.

Hay and Oats.—Though the market in both these articles is necessarily easy at this season, the demand for good baled hay and prime oats is beginning, and will be more in evidence as the winter progresses. Shipments of both are now finding their way here from Prince Edward Island, and despite the large quantity already imported and to arrive in the future, there is little if any alteration in the market quotations. The hay imported for the week amounted to 1,840 bales, by S.S. Jan from P.E. I., and the oats which were landed here were 13,828 sacks by S.S. Jan, and 2,000 by S.S. Silvia; a total of 16,828 sacks. The price of hay is \$35.50, the long ton, and oats from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per sack of four bushels, according to quality.

Tea.—Tea has not changed in its firm aspect since last report, nor do dealers look forward to any alteration of consequence until the spring. Crops during the past season have not been up to previous years and as most of our stocks have been purchased for winter consumption, the imports, which at this season are only casual, are not heavy, and the steady demand in evidence can be easily met. The only shipment of tea to arrive the past two weeks was landed by S.S. Silvia a few days ago and amounted to 16,650 lbs. Prices quoted here vary according to quality, from 34 to 80 cents the lb.

Miscellaneous.—The miscellaneous imports during the week were 475 cases canned beef, 77 boxes cheese, 945 brls. potatoes, 46 pkgs. butter, 200 brls. kerosene oil, 150 boxes soap, 46 banded cattle and 20 sheep, with considerable poultry for Christmas, including turkeys, geese, ducks and chicken. There was also landed here from North Sydney 5,328 tons coal by the steamers Erlholme, Skeilda, and Watuka, and the schooner Marion Conrad.

"K." Boots, Brogues and Pumps at SMALLWOOD'S.—dec24.1f

HOARSE
Gargle several times a day with Minard's in water. It cuts the fungus and gives relief.

MINARD'S "KING OF PAINT" LINIMENT

Complete Change of Programme STAR MOVIE TO-DAY!

PEDDRICK and DEVERE--The Whirlwind Artists

IN A CYCLE OF SONG AND DANCE.

METRO PICTURES PRESENTS ALICE LAKE, in
"A Woman's Hate"
A Thrilling Drama of a Woman's Hate and a Woman's Love. And the Star Orchestra in Catchy and Classy Selections.
ADMISSION:--Nights, 25 cents; Matinees, 10 and 15 cents
COMING--THE NINETY AND NINE, THORNS AND ORANGE BLOSSOMS and Selznick's Sensation RUPERT OF HENTZAU.

Prices vary from \$24 for Spare Ribs to \$31.50 for the prime article.
Beef.—This market still continues to be very firm, and the article is higher in price than it has been for several months past. There is not much goods in the market, the stocks held being very light, as they were for the better part of the year. This, as we some time ago noted, resulted from the fact that there was a heavy demand in Europe for dressed meat, this leaving sparse stocks for packers to process. Small consignments are coming in gradually, but dealers must pay one money for it and the present figures for Beef will be maintained for the balance of the season it is likely. This week the quantity of pickled beef imported was 82 barrels by S.S. Yankton from Boston, and 455 brls. by S.S. Silvia from New York; a total of 507 brls. Prices in the local market vary from \$24 to \$36 per barrel, wholesale.

Sugar.—The sugar market retains the firm tone it had assumed some time ago, and will in all probability remain unchanged until February and March, when much lower figures may be looked for. The Christmas season, now with us, always brings a heavy demand for sugar, and this year is no exception to the rule. The new crop which is now being harvested in Cuba will be pretty prolific, and must result in a later slump in prices. Not much sugar is held in the city at present, and the gradual consignments being received here are barely sufficient to meet the demands of the trade. The sugar imported during the week was 675 cwts. by S. S. Jan from New York, and 2,735 by S.S. Silvia, totalling 3,410 cwts. Granulated on the local market is now selling at \$10.20 per 100 lbs.

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HOARSE
Gargle several times a day with Minard's in water. It cuts the fungus and gives relief.

MINARD'S "KING OF PAINT" LINIMENT

WILLARD STORAGE BATTERY
Willard Threaded Rubber Insulation

REMEMBER!
Batteries may be starved to death. Batteries may die of thirst. Batteries may be injured by overcharging. Batteries may freeze to death in winter. Any battery will ultimately wear out. Willard Service can help you avoid all but the best.

YOUR STORAGE BATTERY.
The cold weather is the hard season on batteries; the lights are used more, the engine is cold and sometimes hard to start, and—your battery has to do the work.
If it gets weak let us charge it, if it needs repairs we can do them promptly and satisfactorily or your money back—that's our job—we do nothing else.—Batteries are our specialty.
When you put up your car for the winter phone us and we will send for your battery and you may rest assured that it will be O.K. in the spring, and ready when required.

Willard Service Station, CLIFT'S COVE.
dec21.31.cod PHONE M. MADDIGAN, MANAGER.

Furniture! Furniture! Furniture!

Suitable for the Christmas Trade

China Cabinets, Book Cases, Jardiniere Stands, Children's High Chairs, Children's Rockers, Children's Commode Chairs, Kitchen Chairs, Floor Canvas and Canvas Squares. The Latest Designs in Wall Paper. Card Tables with Folding Legs, Wicker Work Baskets.

See Our Special Dining Room Suite
BUFFET, FIVE CHAIRS and EXTENSION TABLE.
When you get our figure on this, you will wonder how we can manufacture this up-to-date Suite for the price.

White Enamel Bedsteads, Mattress and Pillows, Children's Cots in Wood and Iron. Chesterfields, Easy Chairs, Couches.

OUR UPHOLSTERING DEPARTMENT is right up to date—a beautiful assortment of English and American coverings to choose from. Our customers in St. John's and the Outports have come to rely on Pope's Upholstered Furniture.

Pope's Furniture and Mattress Factory
The largest and best equipped Furniture and Mattress Factory in Newfoundland, 60 YEARS OF QUALITY AND SERVICE.
dec19.51.cod

After you have done something particularly hard it is astonishing to note the number who assure you that they would have helped you if you had only asked them, says Buck.
NOT GOING UP. Stage Manager: "All right, run up that curtain."
Stage Hand: "Say, what do you think I am—a squirrel?"
Egles says the best kind of a banquet to go to is one where there is plenty of turkey and the other good things to eat, with no after-dinner vocal agony, to listen to.

The real holiday smoke for the man who prefers plug tobacco

BRITISH COLONEL

The "Utmost" In Plug Smoking--

Imperial Tobacco Co.