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OTTAWA. Why Laurier Trekled From Hot Springs to Florida. A Fight to the Finish Unless Sirton Chokes Off the Combatants - The Subsidy for the Algoma Central Causing Trouble for the Cabinet.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—From Washington they reached his excellency today a kindly telegram from the president of the United States, conveying to Lord and Lady Minto best wishes for the new year and expressing earnest hope for the welfare and prosperity of Canada.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—A Montreal gentleman who was here yesterday said the true reason for Sir Wilfrid's departure from Hot Springs, Va., for Florida had not been given in the press. It was not as much that the weather had set in, but that almost from the day the prime minister arrived at Hot Springs he was pestered by importunate politicians speaking in favor of and against the proposed extension of the railway.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—The high commissioner's office on the one hand, and the immigration agents in Great Britain on the other, not long ago, without consulting Lord Strathcona, were sent from Ottawa to London that they should investigate the case of the Alaska steamer which was drawn by Preston instead of the colonial secretary to the high commissioner, a duty which the latter had discharged for years.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—The Italian minister at the Hague, the Chevalier Tadini, has been ordered to supervise the procedure in the matter of the settlement of the Italian claims against Venezuela before the international peace court.

VENEZUELA. Arrive to Submit Her Case to the Hague Tribunal - Commission Will Sit in Washington. BERLIN, Dec. 29.—The German government is silent as to when the blockade will be raised or whether it will be raised at all until every question concerning arbitration is settled.

WAR IN MOROCCO. Complete Route of the Imperial Army By Rabat. LONDON, Dec. 29.—The complete route of the Moroccan imperial army by the sea under the leadership of the Sultan, which was reported Dec. 27, has been abandoned for the time being. The imperial army has been ordered to remain at Rabat and await further orders.

SIXTY LIVES LOST. By a Collision in the Straits of Malacca. VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 29.—News was brought by the steamer Tartar, which arrived today, of a disaster in the Malacca Straits, as a result of which sixty lives were lost.

THE ROBERTVILLE SMALLPOX (Moncton Times). A Moncton business firm has a letter from a business man at Rosville, N. B., regarding the smallpox epidemic there, declaring that he feared what was called a bad case in eight days and expressing the opinion that the disease is not smallpox at all.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Moscow says that the new minister named Jamburov has been named. He is a distinguished statesman and a member of the Duma. He was formerly a member of the cabinet and held several important offices.

A GREAT BLAZE. In the McLaughlin Building on Germain Street. Blaze Started About Two O'clock, and Raged Fiercely for Several Hours. Very Heavy Loss—Some of the Insurance The Fire Not Yet Extinguished, but It is Under Control.

On Tuesday an alarm of fire was sent in for a blaze in the big brick block on Germain street owned by the McLaughlin estate and occupied by several firms. The basement, where the fire started, is utilized by the London House wholesale for the storage of fancy goods and by Slocum & Farrell for the storage of potatoes.

TWO FIREMEN HURT. During the early progress of the fire, two firemen, Cook and Wm. Taylor, fell from a ladder. Taylor sustained slight injuries to an ankle, while Cook received a severe cut on the head. The fire was extinguished after several hours of fighting.

FIREMAN WAS DROWNED. HALIFAX, Dec. 29.—The temporary bridge on the Cape Breton railway at River Inhabitant broke down this morning while a construction train was passing over. The engine went into the river. The fireman Carter was drowned.

VALUABLE STAMPS. At a sale of rare stamps by Watson & Co. at the Hotel Cecil, London, England, the following valuable stamps were sold: A blue one penny postage stamp of the British Empire, 1885, imperforate, 10 cents bid, with 6 cents received.

WARM BARGAINS. You can get more than your money's worth in heavy clothing at this store just now. We have made great reductions in the prices of our stock in order to clear it out as quickly as possible.

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SKATES. Skates made by the Starr Mfg. Co always give satisfaction. See that this name is stamped on every pair and take no substitute. The Nic-Mac Skate, as shown, is a very popular pattern of double end skate, solid top plates and puck stop, beautifully nickel plated. Also in stock: ACME, LADIES BEAVER, REGAL, SKELETON, HOCKEY, CHEBUCTO. All skates are on our sporting flat, second floor. Take the elevator. W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd. 42, 44, 46, Prince Wm. Street - Market Square, St. John, N. B.

O. J. McCULLY, N. D. P. R. O. LONDON. PRACTICE LIMITED TO DISPARAGE OF EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT. 100 GERMAIN STREET. Hours - 11 to 12; 2 to 4; 7 to 9.

B. FRANK SMITH. Of East Florenceville, One of Carleton County's Best Known Men. (Hartford Advertiser). The subject of this sketch is B. Frank Smith, one of the best known business men in Carleton county. He has his chief place of business at East Florenceville, where he has been established for nearly seven years. Up to the autumn of 1901 he operated in the capacity of purchasing agent for the largest produce firms in the province. He has since then been in business and annually through him the farmers receive many thousands of dollars in return for their hay, oats, pork, butter, etc. He has a fine stock of goods in his store at East Florenceville. He has a very large trade, which is constantly increasing. Last summer Mr. Smith built a large and commodious building directly across the street from his store, to facilitate the handling of his stock. This building is of artistic design and is one of the finest on the river. It is three stories high with a front porch and five elevators. There are large and commodious sample rooms on the upper floor, easy access to which is had by means of an elevator. Large and elegant offices for the Bank of New Brunswick are fitted up in the building and there is a fine department for the display of the various products of the province. Mr. Smith is a member of the Carleton County Agricultural Society and is a very active and successful business man.