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SHOPPING IS BRISK JUST NOW

Stores Were Crowded With Many Buyers Yesterday.

There is Also a Big Rush on at the Post Office.

Believing from the number of shoppers who visited the stores yesterday, Christmas shopping has gotten under way in this city. The majority of those now shopping are not the class of citizens largely dependent upon the pay envelope for the livelihood with which to shop. The class of citizens will shop largely during the week of Sunday School teachers and purchased presents for their children. Those sending gifts for a great distance have largely made their purchases.

Notwithstanding that a campaign has been waged from all sides for Christmas shopping, it is obvious that the Christmas week of the past, with its accompaniment of tired clerks, crowds and delighted and quite frequently distressed children, who want everything they see, believing they would then be quite happy.

Nearly every woman who goes shopping at this time of the year is armed with a lengthy list, and wears an expression of deep thought, not unmixed with anxiety for her soul is tortured by mystic calculations which for the time being, render her oblivious to the rest of the universe and even lead her past attractive millinery and fascinating gowns, without a moment's pause of admiration or envy.

"The merchants have their goods arranged in neat attractive ways, says in which the eye of the shopper easily caught. Books and all varieties of fancy goods are in splendid demand."

The toy department is a most interesting place to visit. Christmas is soon over to a great extent to making the children happy. In the toy department their prattle is much in evidence. They are not at all modest in their requests and those who have youngsters in tow certainly have their hands full. "Ma, I want a ball," "Ma, I want a doll," "Ma, I want it!" These requests are typical ones and must be satisfied by a purchase being made or by a look that is as satisfying almost any child that he was nothing doing.

At the Post Office.
The post-office the Christmas mail is fairly under way. Already numbers of letters and parcels have been sent to the Old Land. A delay has been exhibited on the part of the senders on this side of the water to donate their remembrances in the form of money orders. In this regard last Monday proved the busiest day in the history of the post office. This form of remembrance is being largely used by those young friends living in the Old World. A British letter to-day in the last mail will close Saturday morning at 7 o'clock. Although little more is given for this mail to reach destination and be distributed, under favorable circumstances, delivery will be made by Christmas.

Senders should be very careful not to enclose letters in parcels, and to be charged at the letter rate and postage.
Additional employees will not be used for Christmas week. The general opinion is that this will be the quietest Christmas yet experienced on the local office.

Major R. W. Leonard Has Purchased Site

BRANTFORD, Dec. 11.—Regarding Major R. W. Leonard's gift to Queen's University, Dean W. L. Goodwin, of the School of Mining, made the following statement: "Major R. W. Leonard, chairman of the National Transcontinental Railway Commission, has bought the Caruthers property on the west street west for a large scheme of residences for the university students. The purchase included also the Blomley lots and houses on Colborne Street, and the O'Donnell property at the north-west corner, making a complete block of land about 850 feet by 350 feet. This is to be the site for residences."

THE RITCHIE FIGHT

BRANTFORD, Dec. 11.—A local affair, which necessitated an operation to-day on Willie Ritchie, lightweight champion, resulted in a full stop. The scheduled round fight last night between Ritchie and Hamilton Tommy Murphy.

Are Fire Fiends At Work Here

Is there some unknown fire fiend at work in this city?

The police are beginning to believe there is. Several fires have been reported recently, every one of which, it is believed after investigation, was due to incendiarism.

Following two fires in the Holmedale recently, the Bow Park fire and two on Mt. Pleasant street, the theory of the police and fire authorities seems to be well founded.

Last night there was another mysterious incipient blaze.

At about 8.30 o'clock the central fire department was called to extinguish a fire at 33 Mount Pleasant street. Boys playing near by saw the blaze and promptly put in an alarm and tried to extinguish the fire. They had partly succeeded when the department arrived. Mr. Wilfrid Smith is the occupant of the house, but there was no one home at the time of the fire. The blaze was under a frame kitchen at the rear of the house, which is about two feet from the ground. The firemen found some rags, which smelt strongly of coal oil, and it is thought that the fire was deliberately started. A frame barn was burned at this same property about two months ago, which was thought to have been caused by incendiarism. The police are investigating.

SHOT THREE TIMES AT HIM

Attempt to Assassinate Rich African Mine Owner.

Sir Lionel Phillips Who was Once Sentenced to Death.

[Canadian Press Despatch]

JOHANNESBURG, Union of South Africa, Dec. 11.—An attempt was made to-day to assassinate Sir Lionel Phillips, the leading gold mining magnate of South Africa. Three shots were fired at him. One bullet lodged in his neck and another in one of his thighs. His condition is declared not to be grave. The would-be assassin was arrested.

The attempt was made while he was walking on Commissioner street. It is supposed to have been the outcome of the bitterness aroused by the action of the miners in connection with the conditions of settlement of the strike movement in September. At that time a series of riots occurred in which about 100 miners were killed and many wounded when they came into armed conflict with the troops and police.

The grievances of the men were chiefly concerned with the great mortality in the mines and the refusal of the mine owners to recognize the unions. They were eventually forced to accept the owners terms.

Sir Lionel Phillips was closely identified with the late Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Beit, and he is a partner in the firm of Weraner, Beit and Company. He has lived in Johannesburg since 1889.

In 1890 Sir Lionel was sentenced to death at Pretoria for participation in the Jameson Raid, together with John Hays Hammond, George P. Farrar and Col. Frank Rhodes. The sentence was later commuted to a fine of \$125,000 and banishment.

SCHMIDT WOULD NOT SEE FATHER

The Old Man Came All The Way From Germany to See Murderer

[Canadian Press Despatch]

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The aged father of Hans Schmidt, who came from Germany to help his son now on trial for the murder of Anna Amuller, wept in the court room to-day when Hans ignored his presence. When the elder Schmidt called at the Tombs prison to-day the prisoner would not receive him. Hans, however, said he would like to talk with his sister, who accompanied the father from the family home in Germany, and it was said that she might be allowed to visit him later in the day.

The prisoner's father was in the court room when the trial was dismissed. After gazing at his son a few minutes he walked out with the tears rolling down his cheeks.

The prosecution continued the presentation of evidence to show that when Schmidt killed the girl, cut up her body and threw it in the Hudson River, he followed a carefully premeditated plan and acted in a way that proved him sane. Schmidt's counsel, against his will, it is said are trying to prove that he was mentally irresponsible for these acts, which he has confessed.

These Women Wanted Coin

Willing to Go Into Mine After the Desperado, Lopez.

[Canadian Press Despatch]

BINGHAM, Utah, Dec. 11.—Two women sought permission at the Utah-Apex Mine late last night to enter the workings and appeal to Ralph Lopez, slayer of six men to give himself up in order that they might obtain the \$1000 reward on his head. Lopez took refuge in the mine on November 27, where he killed two deputies in an underground battle two days later and all attempts since to capture him dead or alive have failed.

The women said they believed Lopez's gallantry would induce him to surrender, knowing that his days were numbered. The singular request

Officers Are Vigilant In Seizing Arms

[Canadian Press Despatch]
NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—A cable to one Tribune from London says: The activity of the customs officials in carrying into effect a proclamation prohibiting the exportation of arms and ammunition to Ireland was followed by a series of large seizures at Fleetwood yesterday. This is the port of embarkation for practically all cargo consigned to Belfast, and not a package is allowed to escape scrutiny. Steamers arriving at Belfast were asked: "Have you any arms to declare?" The luggage was searched in many instances, but at this port special staff customs officers did not make a single capture. Several women were among the passengers suspected of gun-running, and were called upon to declare that they were not carrying a concealed armory about with them.

CANADIAN DINNER IN NEW YORK CITY

Many Prominent Speakers at Great Annual Event—Strong Appeal for International Peace Vigorously Applauded by Those Present.

[Canadian Press Despatch]

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—There was peace at the dinner of the Canadian Society at Delmonico's last night. Sir John Willison, editor of The Toronto News, introduced it on behalf of Canada, and Secretary William Jennings Bryan followed it up for the United States. England's tribute was delivered by Viscount Campden on behalf of Ambassador Spring-Rice, who was unable to be present.

Voicing his pride at being connected with an administration which was engaged in removing, so far as human wisdom could, the causes of war, the secretary of state told of what was being done at Washington to bring the nations of the world into harmony. Last April, he said, he called together the representatives of forty nations whose emissaries were gathered at the capital and offered a peace plan which for its main feature, fixed a period of investigation of all causes of dispute before the declaration of open hostilities.

"This peace plan has already been accepted," said the secretary, "and in eight months the governments representing more than four-fifths of all the people on the globe, have placed themselves on record as favoring the abolition of war. Four treaties have been signed, two are awaiting signatures and several others are in the process of being agreed upon."

"I expect in the near future to see this nation inked by such treaties to all the nations of the earth. We cannot make war impossible, but we can

go far towards making it improbable by eliminating the conditions which make for war. One of the most important steps in this direction is that which establishes a period of deliberation before beginning hostilities.

"In a short time we shall celebrate the completion of 100 years of peace between English-speaking peoples. During all that time Canada and the United States have lain side by side with not a fortress, not a cannon, along 4,000 miles of their mutual border. Who will say that either of these nations is the worse off for the peace which has lasted for 100 years?"

"If these two nations can get along without war for 100 years, who will say that they cannot get along without war for thousands? If they can live side by side without killing each other for that space of time, why cant all nations of the world get along without cutting each other's throats?"

TOSSED A BOMB.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 11.—A bomb was tossed across Second Avenue in the Hazelwood section of the city at 10:45 to-day and exploded, scattered the front of the building occupied by Thomas Giroci as a fruit store. Windows in the Hazelwood Savings and Trust Building next door were shattered, and other damage done, but the police declare no one was injured. Patrolman M. L. Toole saw a man crouch in the shadow of a telephone pole and throw the bomb. He fired after him as he ran away, but the man escaped.

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FINE POINTS IN STREET RAILWAY FIGHT TO-DAY

Solicitors for Company Declare That Legislation and Courts of Toronto Have Nothing to Do With the Railway Matter at All.

(Special to the Courier)

TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 11.—When the appeals of the Brantford Street Railway and the Grand Valley Railway from certain judgments, rescinding the franchise rights and permitting the city of Brantford to seize for tax arrears, came up in the second appellate division to-day, George H. Watson, K.C., declared that the Dominion Railway Commission alone had jurisdiction.

Mr. Watson had raised the point at the trial, but had not been sustained.

Mr. Watson reviewed the histories of the Grand Valley, the Brantford Railway and the Thames Valley Railway, and related how the Grand Valley had absorbed the others.

Mr. Justice Leitch, formerly chairman of the Ontario Railway Board, pointed out that only the Grand Valley had a Dominion charter, the others being local roads.

Mr. Watson thought that the Brantford Railway had obtained a Dominion charter subsequent to incorporation.

"I never heard of any such special act," interposed W. T. Henderson, K.C., for the city of Brantford.

Mr. Watson emphasized the opinion that when the Grand Valley took over the Brantford Street Railway, the latter became vested in the Grand Valley.

Chief Justice Mulock asked whether the Legislature or its courts had ceased to have jurisdiction over the Brantford Railway.

Mr. Watson insisted that the Grand Valley, with a Dominion charter, now owned and controlled the Brantford Street Railway, its assets and rights in general.

"The Legislature created the Brantford Street Railway," observed Sir William Mulock. "You are trying to say that the Brantford Street Railway has ceased to come under the jurisdiction of the Legislature and the courts because of agreements?"

Mr. Watson replied that the amalgamation had been approved by the Dominion Parliament.

"Then the courts are ousted by the Dominion?" asked Mr. Justice Leitch.

"Yes," said Mr. Watson.

Mr. Watson gave some pages from the life of the Brantford Railway. It was incorporated in 1886. In 1902 an agreement gave the Grand Valley running rights. A Brantford by-law was passed, and the rights and franchise were extended. In 1907 the Grand Valley absorbed the Brantford Railway.

The lawyers before the Appellate Division are: George H. Watson, K.C., and Grayson Smith, representing the Grand Valley, Receiver Stockdale and the Trust & Guarantee Company; W. T. Henderson, K.C., city of Brantford, and J. A. Patterson, K.C., National Trust Company.

Church Has The Chance

To Provide Decent Dancing Halls And Watch Morals.

[Canadian Press Despatch]

MONTREAL, Dec. 11.—The renting of a dancing hall by the churches was the cure formulated by Rev. Dr. McManus during a discussion at the annual meeting of the women's National Immigration Society on the facility with which young immigrant girls became familiar with picture theatres, dance halls and undesirable young men.

Rev. Dr. French complained that new comers within a month of landing picked up with young men, when he was a man it was the young man who looked round and noticed the girls. That was not the case now—it was the young girl who attracted the notice of the man in many cases. Such girls had to be taught to appreciate and care for their dignity.

Mr. McManus said dancing might help to develop the social side of the girl's character and if it was conducted under the care of church authorities would enable girls to meet the right kind of young men.

KING ALFONSO WAS ANGRY

Because French Minister Said Anarchists Would be Let Loose.

[Canadian Press Despatch]

PARIS, Dec. 11.—The Figaro says that M. Caillaux, the new minister of finance, will not be present with the other ministers at President Poincaré's lunch to King Alfonso to-day. When M. Caillaux was premier in 1901, the paper explains, he became impatient over the dilatory tactics of Spain in the Moroccan negotiations, and told the Spanish Ambassador that if the king did not give in the watch on Spanish anarchists would be relaxed on this side of the Pyrenees.

The ambassador reported the premier's words to the Spanish foreign office, and their import was apparent to King Alfonso and the other members of the royal family, who were exceedingly indignant.

A big demonstration was made at the Capitol in Washington by the Anti-Saloon League.

GAS SUPPLY DUE IN CITY TO-NIGHT

The Brantford Gas Company expects this afternoon to receive its first supply of natural gas from the Tilbury fields. This field has a supply that will last for many years, and will place Brantford in an especially enviable position. The Selkirk field, from which the supply is now obtained, is showing signs of exhaustion. The Tilbury gas has more sulphur in it than the Selkirk product, but its combustion properties, it is stated, are even more valuable and are quite harmless, so the Government experts report. This tapping of the Tilbury field has cost the Dominion Company some \$2,000,000, but it means a supply of natural gas for Brantford and other cities and towns which will last for many years. It is considered a great boon to this city from a manufacturing and domestic standpoint.

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