STORE OPEN UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT.

A Happy Xmas

THIS is the last day you'll have to make Xmas, 1903, happy for some of your particular friends. A gift—a sensible gift—goes a long way toward doing that, and there's not in the whole catalogue a more sensible one than a fur garment of some description.

Our Christmas sales, to yesterday at 6 o'clock, outrivalled all our former records, and to-day promises to cap the climax, because the public has realized that, in point of excellence of quality and extent in style, our stock stands alone as the best.

You'll only need to walk through our showrooms in order to come to an immediate conclusion as to the proper gift to buy your friend.

Muffs, Gauntlets, Caps, Scarfs, Boas, Stoles, Caperines, Capes, Jackets, Cloaks.

In Russian Sable, Royal Ermine, Hudson Bay Sable, Mink, Chinchilla, Baum Marten, Persian Lamb, Alaska Seal, Moire Persian, etc.

Our big showrooms—the largest of their kind in Canada—will remain open until late to-night for the convenience of dilatory shoppers.

Even if you don't buy don't overlook our display.

W. & D. Dineen Co., Limited

Cor. Yonge and Temperance Streets,

TORONTO.

BRIDE-ELECT A SUICIDE.

Five Weeks' Vigil at Mother's Bedside Unhinges a Girl's Mind.

Independence, Ia., Dec. 23.—Broken down from exhaustion brought on by a five weeks' vigil at the bedside of a sick mother, Karol Plummer, a pretty girl of 21, committed suicide yesterday by shooting. She was to have been married on Christmas Eve. Mrs. Plummer, the dead girl's mother, was taken ill more than six weeks ago.

Night after night and day after day the devoted daughter was at her mother's bedside. Once in a long while she would be able to snatch a few minutes' sleep, but as a rule her vigils were uninterrupted, and she would brook no interference with what she thought both love and duty required.

LODGE AND SOCIAL.

Excelsior Lodge, No. 52, A.O.U.W., has elected the following officers for 1904: C. W. Baxter, M.W.; George Jackson, Foreman; G. A. Yorston, Overseer; J. H. Curgan, recorder; Robert Mills, Financier; Jas. Yorston, Treasurer; A. V. Mann, Guide; Thomas Fray, I.G.; S. Learing, O.G.; J. A. Yorston, Representative to Grand Lodge; Thomas Martin, alternate; Trustees: Thos. Briusmead, James Driffil, A. Henderson.

The Harbord Alumnae are giving a fancy dress dance on Tuesday, Dec. 29, in St. George's Hall at 7.30 p.m. All members of the Harbord Alumnae are invited and each member is asked to wear a mask.

MR. GEARY'S CANDIDATURE.

R. G. Geary, who is a candidate in Ward 3, is a young man who ought to make a good alderman. His friends are pleased with the canvass so far, and think he will be well up when the ballots are counted.

The Christmas number of The Masonic Sun contains articles from several of the grand masters of the Grand Lodges of the Dominion of Canada and other distinguished Masons. The mechanical work was under the supervision of Bro. A. McCoomb of the Bryant Press and is very creditable.

MURDERER ON PAROLE.

Will Spend Xmas With Family and Return for Sentence.

Uniontown, Pa., Dec. 23.—Convicted this morning of second-degree murder and restored this afternoon to the bosom of his family, James Swaney will spend Christmas with his wife and twelve children and then return to receive his sentence and be sent to the Western Penitentiary.

The attorneys for both sides agreed to the parole and four brothers of the convicted man furnished $10,000 bond.

A coincidence is that "Big Bill" Turner, for whose murder Swaney was convicted, was one time given a commitment and he went to serve a one-year term without an officer accompanying him to prison in Pittsburg.

MOTHER PROVINCIAL DEAD.

Windsor, Dec. 23.—Sister Mary Elizabeth, in charge of ten convents in Ontario, with the title of Mother Provincial, and for 52 years a nun, died of pneumonia last night in St. Mary's Academy, Windsor. The remains will be taken to Montreal.

MR. WRIGLEY'S ILLNESS.

The condition of George Wrigley, editor of Social Justice, is serious. He has been ill for two weeks, but was recovering until the night before last, when he was stricken with paralysis on the right side. Last night the paralysis was slightly better, but his friends are feeling alarmed.

PROMINENT DEAD.

Brooklyn. — Rear-Admiral White, stricken with apoplexy in Navy Yard.

Chicago.—Hiram W. Beckwith, law partner of Abraham Lincoln from 1856 to 1861.

Berkeley, Cal.—Felician Victor Paget, professor of University of California, of apoplexy.

Score's Toggery Department

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The most exquisite and up to-date novelties in Neckwear, Gloves, Canes, Chaste Scarf Pins, etc.

Call and See 77 King St. West

YORK COUNTY AND SUBURBS

School Section Arbitration Matter in East Toronto Advanced Another Stage.

WOULD-BE THIEF AT EMPRINGHAM'S

Inquest on Railway Victim Adjourned—Suburban and County News.

Toronto Junction, Dec. 23.—The census returns as collected by the police give the town a population of 7661, an increase of 720 over the census taken by the assessors. In the census just taken a list of those people sleeping in hotels or at other places, which the assessors do not take, was recorded and some absentees were also enumerated. By wards the figures are: Ward 1, 1254; Ward 2, 1273; Ward 3, 1642; Ward 4, 1030; Ward 5, 1846.

A special meeting of the Town Council was held to-night at which the resignation of Dr. A. H. Perfect as town auditor, and Mr. Campman, poundkeeper, was accepted. Dr. Perfect will run for the council in Ward 5, and Mr. Campman in Ward 1.

Court Davenport, I.O.O.F., last night elected these officers: C.R., H. Hand; V.C., R. E. Irving; R.S., D. W. Jones; F.S., J. I. Beatty; Treasurer, D. Mason; Senior Warden, F. Hinton; Junior Warden, W. Larkin; S.B., F. Hooker; J.B., J. Harper; C.D., J. Sullivan; Physician, Dr. Massey; Auditors, J. J. McGlenning and John Sullivan.

Andrew Russell, a prominent Mason and Oddfellow, father of Miss Russell, teacher in Ext. Clair-avenue School, died this morning at his home on Victoria-street, in his 80th year.

North Toronto.

An organization meeting for the South York Liberals will be held at the Town Hall on the 29th inst.

The members of the present council met on Tuesday night and decided to act in unison against the ticket placed in the field by the local optionists.

County Constables Lawrence and Brown enquired into the burning of the barn on the Mount Pleasant Cemetery grounds and found that it was the work of boys on Merton-street. The reason assigned by the boys for the offence was that they wanted to get rid of what had been a harbor for tramps for a long time past.

The closing exercises of St. Clement's Church School were held on Tuesday afternoon with the rector, Rev. T. W. Powell, presiding. Rev. R. Ashcroft of York Mills addressed the children during an interval in the program. The institution has grown materially since its inauguration and has now some 50 pupils in attendance.

F. Doherty is reported to be improving from an attack of typhoid fever.

The wife of Councillor Armstrong is ill at her home on Rochampton-avenue.

George Stocker for Eglinton West Ward, and James Logie for Eglinton East Ward, are candidates for next year's School Board.

Elijah Armstrong of the second concession of West York, will be a candidate in the coming York Township elections. Mr. Armstrong is a promising young man, with friends in all divisions of the municipality.

Todmorden.

The annual closing exercises of the Public School in No. 1 Section, generally known as "The Plains" School, were held on Tuesday afternoon. An afternoon's program of songs, recitations and amusements was produced by the pupils and ex-pupils of the school. Trustee John R. Taylor was chairman and Trustee Robert Barker was Santa Claus, and he distributed 50 pounds of candy amongst the pupils. Robert Cosburn, an ex-pupil, brought a gramophone along and contributed several records from it.

East Toronto.

East Toronto, Dec. 23.—The adjourned inquest on the body of the Italian trackman killed in the G.T.R. yard last week was still further adjourned until Thursday evening, Jan. 7, at 7.30 o'clock in the council chamber. The adjournment was considered necessary, owing to the illness of George Bilden, the chief witness, who is fireman of engine No. 771 that is said to have killed the victim.

At 10 o'clock Saturday night one of the shunting engines bumped into the car occupied by the Italians in the employ of the G.T.R. for a sleeping apartment, and wakened the men with a pretty hard jolt, but no damage was done. A few hours later, at 3 o'clock Sunday morning, there was another collision, which knocked the car off the track and ripped part of the bottom out of it. The occupants were uninjured, but had to walk to the station in their bare feet thru the snow.

One night recently George Empringham, sr., narrowly escaped a heavy loss by burglary. He had drawn a considerable sum of money from the bank to cash G.T.R. cheques for the men. During the night a ladder was placed against his bedroom window and the shutter smashed. The would-be robbers, it is supposed, were frightened off. Constable Tidsberry reported the matter to the High Constable.

George Eddowes of 481 East Gerrard-street, Toronto, was convicted of using abusive language on the Danforth-road a couple of months ago. Magistrate Ormerod fined him $2 and costs. The fine was paid, but an appeal made to quash the conviction before the county judge. His honor quashed the conviction and Eddowes went to the magistrate and received the money. On the 16th inst. Judge Winchester set aside his former order and re-instated the conviction and now Eddowes must return his fine and costs to Magistrate Ormerod.

It was reported that a cow and calf, a horse, pig and number of fowls had been locked up since Sunday in a stable on Kildare-avenue, off Danforth-road, opposite Harris' factory. The complaint was handed to County Constable Kennedy to investigate.

The special meeting of the council was held to-night in the council chamber, Mayor Dr. Walters in the chair. All the councillors were present, except Councillor Richardson. Town Solicitor Grant officially announced the absolute quashing of the bylaw passed at the last session of the County council, appointing arbitrators in the matter of school section No. 26. The total cost to the town corporation of the several times the matter has been ventilated in court is just $3.00 to date. The mayor explained that school section 26 was entitled to compensation for its interests in Lansdowne-avenue school house, and a bylaw was passed appointing an arbitrator to adjust all claims and disputes arising out of the annexation of part of this section to the town. R. E. Kingsford was named as arbitrator for the town. The Township Council of York will appoint another and His Honor Judge Winchester will be the third arbitrator in accordance with the statute governing the case.

A. J. Russell Snow and R. W. Barker of the Balmy Beach Park Commission, addressed the council explaining the purpose of the commissioners to erect bath and boat houses on the beach in front of the park. Also a club house with a hall to hold 250 persons and other conveniences. The privileges of the boat and bath houses will be available to the general public of the town on payment of a nominal fee. The proposed improvements will cost $4500. The revenue from rentals, fees, etc., was estimated to be $1370 per annum. A bylaw had been passed by the Park Commission authorizing the borrowing of the necessary sum. The bylaw in order to become legal would have to be consented to by the town council. After much discussion it decided to lay the question over until after the public meeting to be held in Spruce-avenue fire hall on Saturday evening next, when the opinion of the residents will be obtained.

The reported suggestion of City Engineer Rust that the city supply the town with water in return for the privilege of dumping he city sewage in the lake near Balmy Beach was referred to by Councillor Rose and the Mayor and other members expressed themselves unanimously and in no uncertain way as opposed to the suggestion.

The arrears of taxes on Balmy Beach Park were written off. Salaries and accounts amounting to $321 were passed.

F. W. Lyonde addressed the council in support of a bylaw to compel the owners of vacant property in Ward 1 to clear off the snow. The property was held by the owners at high figures and they should do their fair share of snow-shovelling or pay for having it done.

The town solicitor was instructed to prepare a snow bylaw.

The request of Emerson Coatsworth, ex-M.P., to erect boathouses at the foot of Fernwood Park-avenue, was not granted, the committee having reported adversely.

A letter was read from the company, who proposed erecting factories here, but the matter is not yet ready to bring before the council.

This in the Land of the Free.

Washington, Dec. 23.—United States Secretary of Commerce and Labor Cortelyou has ordered the deportation of the skilled glass blowers from Stourbridge, England, detained at Ellis Island, under the alien contract labor law, bound for Corning, N.Y. They appealed to the secretary from the action of the immigration authorities. It is held that the company had not shown sufficient diligence in seeking like labor in the United States.

The crowds will be incessant up till 10 o'clock to-night. No matter when you come we shall be ready with goods enough and help enough to insure your absolute satisfaction. This is the best store the day before Christmas as well as the day after.

Follow the crowd this way for the best of everything in Furs. No age or nature or condition has been overlooked. For instance:

Mink Jackets	$400 00	Men's Mink-Lined Coats	$150 00
Seal Jackets	200 00	Men's Muskrat-Lined Coats with otter collar, our own make	65 00
Persian Lamb Jackets	100 00	Men's Otter Gauntlets	16 50
Fur Lined Cloaks, pattern models	45 00	Men's Otter Caps	15 00
Hudson Bay Sable Scarfs	25 00	Men's Seal Caps	15 00
Hudson Bay Sable Stoles	75 00	Men's Persian Lamb Wedges	10 00
Black Lynx Stoles	20 00	Men's Fur-Lined Gloves	2 50
Mole and Ermine Stoles large	75 00	Men's Persian Lamb Gauntlets	15 00
Chinchilla Stoles	55 00	Men's Persian Lamb Adjustable Collars	15 00
Natural Lynx Stoles	40 00	Men's Otter Adjustable Collars	16 50
Cross Fox Stoles	35 00		

Now while the Christmas spirit is on the world we unite with you in good wishes and good will and help to swell the melody of the bells as they ring out—

A Very Merry Christmas

J.W.T. FAIRWEATHER & CO.

84-86 YONGE STREET

No Other So Quick — EDDY'S — No Other So Reliable

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1851

MATCHES

MORE POPULAR THAN EVER.

SULPHUR BRANDS	ASK YOUR GROCER FOR ONE OF THESE BRANDS	PARLOR BRANDS
"Telegraph" "Telephone"		"King Edward" "Headlight" "Eagle" "Victoria" "Little Comet"

CHINESE STUDENTS HAVE A STRENUOUS EXAMINATION

20,000 of Them Sealed in Separate Cells and Write for 24 Hours at a Stretch.

In a letter just received by Dr. Mackay, secretary of the Presbyterian Foreign Missionary Society, C. H. Robertson, a missionary stationed at Nanking, China, gives some very interesting facts concerning the educational systems in China.

The Chinese government, says he, does not support education in our way, but permits men to study when and how they wish. It does at stated times and places hold examinations, where the successful candidates are given degrees, the first three of which correspond roughly to our bachelor, master and doctor degrees respectively. There are in the Chinese empire about 1700 matriculation or preliminary examination centres, 250 of the first degree, 18 of the second degree and one of the third degree. The halls at Nanking are for second degree examinations and hold about 28,000 students at one time.

Several days are taken up in getting the 20,000 candidates settled in their respective cells, after which the doors are sealed up. The first exam consists of essays upon five topics, mainly concerning the past dynasties and history of China. They write for 24 hours continuously—from 5 a.m. until 5 a.m. Three exams make up the whole course. The strain is very severe and men frequently succumb.

For the first test this year there were 20,000 candidates, for the second 19,000 and for the third 18,000. The gates are sealed after the examination and two examiners and eighteen assistants wade thru the papers. After five weeks the successful ones are announced. Out of 20,000 candidates degrees are given only to the 145 persons who stand highest in the list.

MASSACRE DUE CHRISTMAS.

London, Dec. 23.—The Jewish Chronicle announces that a joint meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association will be held Dec. 25 to consider the question of making representations to the Russian government, thru the Foreign Office, relative to the report that fresh anti-Jewish excesses are threatened at Kishineff on the Russian Christmas Day.

CITY CHARITY TO PROVIDE 15,000 XMAS DINNERS

Benevolent Societies, Charitable Organizations and Individual Kindness Will Cheer Needy.

The milk of human kindness is flowing freely in the hearts of the charity workers of Toronto these days, and it will not be their fault if there is a family in the whole city that is not joyous on Christmas Day. A visit to the headquarters of the different charitable organizations by a World reporter yesterday was a revelation. Everything was in a state of bustle, preparing for the feeding of over 15,000 poor people. Every society and institution has its special manner of distributing its charity, as well as its families that are constant dependants, year after year. Besides the public charitable institutions there are a large number of aid societies that work in connection with churches, to which many ladies and gentlemen give their services and a part of their purse, while there are many individuals that unostentatiously give of their means to the needy the year around and particularly now. Over all these is the Associated Charities that is assisting to discover the deserving ones that none may be neglected.

The St. George's Society, who will be one of the largest distributors of food, have made arrangements to supply dinners for 5000 souls on Christmas Day. Seven thousand pounds of beef, 1500 loaves of bread, boxes of biscuits, cakes, and other sweet meats, besides a large supply of tea, coffee and sugar, have already been arranged for. The stores will be handed out on Thursday, starting at 10 a.m., and lasting till after 5 in the evening. The visitors are now at work distributing cards that will entitle the holders to obtain their supply of provisions. While they are waiting for their baskets to be filled on Thursday they will be entertained in the big hall by an orchestra and songs.

The Salvation Army expect to feed about 2500, and baskets of provisions will be given out by them. They are visiting the abodes of their supplicants and getting everything in readiness to have all sit down to a good meal. Baskets are even now being given out. On New Year's Day a big spread will be given to all poor children.

The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society expect to donate as much as in former years.

The Rev. Robert Hall of the City Mission will provide for 600 persons. He will have the grocers and butchers, from whom he purchases the provisions, deliver them to the doors of his indigent charges. Altho monetary donations have not reached the figure of last year by nearly a half, yet the minister expects to have plenty for all. Little Christmas cards will accompany each store of provisions.

The St. Vincent De Paul Society will follow out their custom of the last fifteen or twenty years and double the regular weekly allowance of those constantly receiving assistance from them, except where they cannot be trusted, in which cases the food is purchased for them. Others, too, reported to them as deserving receive orders for Christmas supplies. It is anticipated that they will provide Christmas dinners for at least 600. This society has decided to give clothing as well to those who are in absolute need of them. Frank J. Walsh of the City Relief Department is taking an active interest in the St. Vincent De Paul holiday work, which yesterday received the annual donation of $100 from Prof. Goldwin Smith.

The St. Andrew's Society, who are continually looking after the destitute citizens of Scotch descent, will not make any great extra effort during the Christmas season, as their dependants are, as they say, pretty well looked after all the year around. Whatever work is to be done will be done quietly. The St. Andrew's Institute will, however, supply a number of families with Christmas fares. They are now receiving donations from all parts of the country surrounding Toronto, and it is more than likely that nearly a thousand poor will receive their dinners from them.

The Victor Mission will distribute again this year, but it will be hard to estimate the number they will feed, owing to the many strangers that are in the city.

Besides the above-mentioned organizations that will look to the wants of these thousands, there are the numerous smaller ones, the churches and private individuals. The cheap lodging-houses will mark the gladsome day as is their want by the addition of several delicacies on the bill of fare.

There should be no hungry beings in Toronto on Christmas Day.

BLOW TO TICKET SCALPERS.

Missouri Courts Sustain Injunctions Obtained by Railways.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 23.—The Supreme Court to-day denied the writ of prohibition asked by St. Louis ticket brokers against railways entering that city, to enjoin the Circuit Court from enforcing injunctions preventing the sale by them of excursion tickets for World's Fair traffic on the ground that the lower court has jurisdiction in such cases.

The writ of prohibition denied by the Supreme Court was secured by the brokers last July for the purpose of withholding the effect of the injunctions issued against them by the St. Louis Circuit Court on the petition of six prominent Western railroads.

The temporary injunctions obtained by these railroads last July now go into effect and restrain in a most sweeping way the defendants from buying, selling or dealing in mileage, excursion or commutation tickets, where it plainly appears thereon that the ticket was issued and sold below regular schedule rate under contract with this signed by the original purchaser, that such ticket is not transferable.

Two Small Fires.

An alarm from box 248 last night gave eastern companies of the Fire Department a run to a blazing chimney on Elliott-street. Overheated furnace pipes caused about $25 damage at Douglas & Radcliff's, 30 Market-street, yesterday morning.

MONEY

Absolutely the cheapest place in town to borrow money on furniture or piano. Security not removed from your possession. Easy payments. Strictly private, no inquiries of neighbors or employer. If you want to centralize your bills so as to pay all in one place, come and see us.

MUTUAL SECURITY CO.,

14 Yonge St. (First Floor)

MONEY TO LOAN

If you want to borrow money on household goods pianos, organs, horses and wagons, call and see us. We will advance you any amount from $10 up, same day as you apply for it. Money can be paid in full at any time, or in six or twelve monthly payments to suit borrower. We have an entirely new plan of lending. Call and get our terms. Phone—Main 4233.

The Toronto Security Co

"LOANS."

Room 10, Lawlor Building, 6 King St. W

THE ROBERT **SIMPSON** COMPANY, LIMITED

H. H. FUDGER, President: J. WOOD, Manager. THURSDAY, DEC. 24

Store Open To-Night, Christmas Eve., Until 10 o'Clock.

A Merry Christmas

To All Our Friends, Patrons and Helpers We Extend the Heartiest of Christmas Greetings

The store will be closed to-morrow. Re-opens Saturday. See evening papers for a great Saturday programme.

THE ROBERT **SIMPSON** COMPANY, LIMITED

Eye Strain

Phone Main 2568.

Many persons can testify that they have been cured of their

Headaches

since they were fitted with a pair of Spectacles from

F. E. LUKE Refracting Optician

11 King Street West, Toronto.

. . . Greetings . . .

We wish to thank our many friends and patrons for the thorough appreciation they have shown of our efforts in their behalf for the past year. Many Christmases have come and gone and each succeeding one finds us doing a larger business and with more pleased customers than the last. Our clientele being so extensive personal greetings are impossible, so we take this public method of wishing our many friends all over Canada **a Joyous Christmas and a Pleasant and Prosperous New Year.**

Holt, Renfrew & Co.,

5 King St. East.

Toronto, December 24, 1903.

"THE LAST CALL"

on your way home should be to get a

Berliner Gram-o-phone

and make Christmas merry with music, song and story. Three records free. Made in Canada, guaranteed for 5 years. Plays and sings the masterpieces of great musicians and singers, and yet a child can operate it. Young and old enjoy its varied entertainment.

Prices $15 to $45

Residents of Toronto can order of The Nordheimer Piano & Music Co., 15 King St. East, or of Thomas Claxton, 197 Yonge Street.

For a Dollar and a Promise

By sending name, address, occupation and $1.00 immediately direct to the manufacturer any honest person can have the Standard Type "A" Berliner Gramophone, complete with 16-in. japanned concert horn and 3 free records, for New Year's, on promise to send the balance in monthly payments of $2.00 for 8 months. If spun brass horn is wanted instead of japanned enclose $2.00 extra to

E. Berliner, 2315 E. St. Catherine St., Montreal

EMANUEL BLOUT, General Manager for Canada.

President Shields Optimistic.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Cornelius Shields, president of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company, is in the city to-day on his way from New York to Sault Ste. Marie, for which place he leaves to-night. He says the re-organization plan now in process of arrangement will be successfully carried out, and in a very short time.