ROYAL BANK SHOWS RECORD INCREASES

Total Assets $788,478,778, a Gain of Two Hundred Million Dollars.

The annual statement of the Royal Bank of Canada for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30 is a record one, even for this progressive institution. Total assets have now gained to $788,478,778, placing the Royal in the position of being the second largest bank on this continent in point of assets, being exceeded only by the National City Bank of New York, the largest institution in the United States.

The assets show a gain for the year of over $200,000,000, and while one-half of the increase may be attributed to the purchase of the Union Bank of Canada and the Bank of Central and South America, the balance is the result of the growth in the general business of the bank. This remarkable development is in turn due to the very complete organization built up by the Royal Bank, as it now has a chain of 905 branches, and of this number 779 are situated throughout Canada, enabling it to serve every section of the country.

An analysis of the general statement of assets and liabilities discloses an exceptionally strong cash position. Liquid, or immediately available, assets stand at $398,193,935, equal to 56.30 per cent of liabilities to the public, while cash and cash balances are $198,314,647, equivalent to 28.40 per cent of public liabilities. Among the liquid assets accounts of special interest include dominion and provincial government securities amounting to $82,245,405, compared with $53,039,825 a year ago; and Canadian municipal securities and British, foreign and colonial public securities, other than Canadian, $28,407,242, up from $25,634,914.

Trade Expansion.

The continued reports of a steady revival of business throughout Canada are borne out by the gain in current loans and discounts in Canada to $190,854,642, as compared with $148,499,355 at the end of last year, an increase of over $42,000,000, while the total of all loans is now $336,780,201, up from $257,225,355 a year ago.

As a result of the extensive organization built up, deposits have shown the surprising gain of $180,000,000, and of this amount the increase in Canada has accounted for over $150,000,000. Total deposits now stand at $641,677,535, as against $461,828,700 last year. Of this amount savings deposits are $443,380,136, compared with $338,291,427, and deposits not bearing interest amount to $198,297,398, as against $123,537,341.

Growth in Earnings.

The profit and loss account shows that earnings were well above the previous year. After making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, and the usual appropriations for bank premises and officers' pension fund, the sum of $1,249,435 was carried forward. Profits for the year amounted to $4,081,628, up from $3,878,976, and added to the amount brought forward from the previous year, made the total available for distribution $5,225,435. This was distributed as follows: Regular dividends and bonus, $3,056,000; transferred to officers pension fund, $100,000; appropriation for bank premises, $400,000; and reserve for dominion government taxes, including the war tax on bank note circulation, $420,000; leaving a balance to credit of profit and loss of $1,249,435.

The annual general meeting of shareholders will be held at the head office, Montreal, on Jan. 14.

OIL MERGER NEWS SPURS SECURITY BUYING IN N. Y.

New York, Dec. 28. — Expanding activity and a firm price undertone characterized the bond market today as trading entered upon the final lap of the year. An accumulation of orders over the Christmas holiday swelled the day's volume of business without effecting any material price changes.

Buying of the oil issues in response to recent merger developments on the Pacific coast and predictions of additional combinations in the mid-continent petroleum shares promoted accumulation of these bonds, with prices closely following the rise in stocks. Skelly and Sinclair liens made good headway, and both Pan-American 6's and 7's were active, the latter gaining a point.

Convertible rail issues continued to fluctuate in sympathy with the action of the carrier stocks, but price movements were not uniform. Norfolk and Western 6's advanced 1½ points, while Chesapeake and Ohio 5's receded a point. Atchison general 4's, Delaware and Hudson 7's and other high-grade issues were firm.

EGGS AND POULTRY

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—Increasing receipts continue to be the chief feature of the egg markets. Christmas poultry markets were cleaned up with good strength in most centers, although St. John reported a slump.

Toronto—Unchanged; paying, extras 45c to 47c; making sales, 47c to 48c, firsts 37c to 38c, seconds 27c to 28c, f.o.b.

Montreal—Increased production; fresh extras, jobbing, 68c, firsts 63c.

Winnipeg—Egg and poultry markets unchanged. Car of storage seconds rolling Montreal from Winnipeg costing 30½c delivered.

Edmonton—Dealers are quoting to country shippers for extras 45c, firsts 40c; jobbing, fresh extras 60c, firsts 55c; storage stock in fairly good demand; extras, jobbing, 45c, firsts 40c, seconds 35c.

Chicago—Spot 42c. December refrigerators 36½c; fresh eggs for January delivery 40⅞c.

New York—Extra firsts 46c to 47c; firsts 44c to 45c.

British cables (prices shillings per 10 dozen):

London, Dec. 28.—Little business doing; latest quotations: English 28s to 29½s, Irish 26s to 27½s, Belgian 27s to 28s, Danish 27s to 30s, Dutch 25s to 30s, Italian 20s to 24s, Australian 22s, California 26s, Argentine 15s to 16s. Chicago 1 1-3s to 1 5-6s; English turkeys 1 2-3s to 2 1-6s.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Toronto creameries are quoting for churning cream 40c to 43c per pound butterfat, at shipping points, Toronto delivery.

Wholesalers are paying: Butter, solids, finest pasteurized, 44c to 44½c; firsts, 43½c to 44c; seconds, 42½c to 43c.

SEEDS

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Timothyseed, $7.25 to $7.50.

HAY AND STRAW

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Hay, No. 2, per ton, carlots, $14.50 to $15.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Straw, per ton, $9 to $9.50.

New York, Dec. 28. — Hay, barely steady; No. 1, $29; No. 2, $26 to $28, No. 3, $22 to $24; sample, $16 to $19.

Special to The Advertiser.

Detroit, Dec. 28.—Hay, No. 1 timothy, $24.50 to $25; standard, $23.50 to $24; No. 1 light clover, mixed, $23.50 to $24; No. 2 timothy, $21 to $22; No. 1 clover, mixed, $20 to $21; No. 1 clover, $20 to $21.

Wheat and oats straw, $12.50 to $13; rye straw, $13.50 to $14 per ton, in carlots.

HOPS

New York, Dec. 28. — Hops steady; state, 1925, 50c to 65c; do., 1924, 35c to 40c; Pacific coast, 1925, 27c to 30c; do., 1924, 22c to 25c.

BEST REGARDS FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

One of the most unique Christmas cards of the season was that sent out to her friends by Miss Aileen Hughes, daughter of the late Sir Sam Hughes. On

BAD ROADS AFFECT PRICES OF PRODUCE

Small Market Results From Blocked Roads Throughout Country.

Due to the deep snow on the country roads the majority of farmers failed to put in an appearance at the local market this morning, only about forty farmers being present. However, a bigger market is anticipated for Thursday. Hen turkeys, what there were of them, sold at 40 cents a pound, and gobblers at 35 cents a pound. Geese brought 17 cents a pound alive and 22 cents dressed.

Fall wheat has taken a slight rise in price, now being $1.45 per bushel. Eggs and dairy produce prices remain stationary. Hay and oats are still very scarce, only one load of hay coming in yesterday and none in today at the time of going to press.

Grain, per Bushel:			
Barley, per bu.	$ 72	to	$ 72
Oats, per bu.	46	to	47
Wheat, per bu.	1 45	to	1 45
Grain, per Cwt.:			
Barley, per cwt.	1 50	to	1 50
Buckwheat, per cwt.	1 50	to	1 50
Oats, per cwt.	1 40	to	1 40
Rye, per cwt.	1 60	to	1 60
Hay and Straw:			
Hay, per ton	19 00	to	22 00
Straw, per ton	9 00	to	10 00
Fruit, Vegetables:			
Apples, per basket	35	to	60
do, per bu.	85	to	1 50
Beans, per bu.	3 00	to	3 00
Beets, per bu.	75	to	1 00
Cauliflowers, per doz.	2 50	to	4 00
Cabbages, per doz.	60	to	80
Carrots, per bu.	80	to	1 00
Celery, doz bunches	1 50	to	1 50
Lettuce, doz bunches	80	to	90
Onions, per bu.	1 25	to	1 50
Parsnips, per bu.	1 00	to	1 00
Parsley, per bunch	5	to	5
Pears, per bu.	1 00	to	1 75
Potatoes, per bag	2 00	to	2 25
Pumpkins, each	15	to	25
Radishes, per doz.	50	to	65
Sage, per doz.	40	to	50
Honey, Wholesale:			
Honey, 5-lb pails	50	to	75
do, combs, each	25	to	25
Honey, Retail:			
Honey, 5-lb pails	75	to	85
Dairy Products, Retail:			
Butter, dairy, lb.	43	to	48
do, creamery, lb.	46	to	50
Eggs new-laid, doz.	60	to	65
Dairy Products, Wholesale:			
Eggs, fresh extras	55	to	55
do, firsts	48	to	48
do, seconds	35	to	35
do, cracks	35	to	35
Pullet extras	40	to	40
Dressed Meats, Wholesale:			
Heifers and steers, 500 to 600 lbs, cwt.	11 00	to	12 00
Cow beef, 400 to 500 lbs, per cwt.	8 00	to	10 00
Beef hinds, lb.	15	to	15
do, fronts, lb.	12	to	12
Lamb, spring, lb.	23	to	25
Veal, per lb.	12	to	14
Dressed Meats, Retail:			
Pork fronts, lb.	18	to	19
do, hinds, lb.	19	to	22
Live Stock:			
Bulls, No. 1, lb.	4½	to	4½
do, No. 2	3½	to	3½
Calves, per cwt.	10 00	to	11 00
Lamb, per lb.	10	to	11
Hogs, alive, per lb.	12	to	12½
Pigs, small, pair	10 00	to	12 00
Sows, fat, cwt.	8	to	9
Hides:			
Cow hides, No. 1, lb.	9	to	9½
do, No. 2	8	to	8½
Calf skins, No. 1, lb.	15	to	15
do, No. 2	13	to	13
Horse hides, each	3 00	to	3 50
Kip, No. 1, lb.	13	to	13
do, No. 2	11	to	11
Sheep skins, each	1 50	to	2 00
Poultry, Wholesale:	Alive.		Dressed.
Chickens, spring, over 6 lbs	21		22
do, 5 to 6 lbs.	19		25
do, 4 to 5 lbs.	17		23
do, under 4 lbs.	15		20
Black and red feathered	12		18
Hens, over 5 lbs.	18		22
do, 4 to 5 lbs.	15		20
do, under 4 lbs.	10		13
Roosters, old, over 5 lbs.	10		14
do, under 5 lbs.	8		11
Ducks, spring, over 5 lbs.	20		23
do, 4 to 5 lbs.	18		20
do old, over 4 lbs.	15		18
Geese, over 10 lbs.	17		22
Turkeys, young, hens or gobblers, over 8 lbs.	35		40
do, old	35		40

THIRTY-DAY TOURING PERIOD IS EXTENDED

Canadian Motorists May Now Remain in States For Ninety Days.

By a recent ruling of the United States treasury department at Washington, the 30-day permit for tourists entering the United States from contiguous foreign territory has been extended to a period of 90 days. So reads a letter received today by C. E. Bernard, secretary of the London Motor club, from W. G. Robertson, secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Motor league.

The letter says that effort is being made through the Canadian Automobile association by the O. M. L. in conjunction with other of the provincial motor leagues throughout Canada to have the customs department at Ottawa make a similar ruling for United States tourists and extend the now existing 30-day permit to 90 days. It is possible that this will go into effect very shortly.

TURK SAYS CRISIS NOT YET REACHED

Tewfik Rushdi Declares Mosul Affair Must Pass Through Other Stages.

Associated Press Despatch.

Constantinople, Dec. 29.—On his arrival here today from Belgrave on the way to Angora to explain the Mosul situation and the Russo-Turkish treaty recently entered into, Tewfik Rushdi Bey, the Turkish foreign minister, received the foreign ambassadors, including the British ambassador, with whom he conferred for an hour. Rushdi told press correspondents he could not discuss the Mosul situation before reporting to the Angora government. He insisted, however, that the ruling of the council of the league of nations, giving the mandate to Great Britain, must be regarded as the first phase in the negotiations and that the subject must pass through other phases before the matter could possibly reach the rupture stage.

Concerning interviews he had in Belgrade, Rushdi said he found the Serbian government holding identical views with Turkey on questions affecting mutual interests.

DOUBT LOAN STORY.
By NEGLEY FARSON.
Special Cable to The Advertiser and the Chicago Daily News. Copyright.

Angora, Dec. 29.—Rumors that the British will meet Turkish dissatisfaction over the Mosul award with a loan to Turkey of twenty million pounds sterling, as well as ceding a part of the province of Hakari, now belonging to Iraq, are received here with general incredulity.

Bitterness against Great Britain is growing, especially in the popular press which is doing its best to point out that Stanley Baldwin's Mosul policy is unpopular with his own country, and is resented by many influential leaders.

Final decision by the Turkish war council must await the return of Twefik Bey, the foreign minister.

PARTY PLOTTING TO OUST BALDWIN

Conservatives in Britain Are Split—Section Would Drive Out Premier.

By HENRY SOMERVILLE.
Special Cable to The Advertiser. Copyright.

London, Dec. 29.—The Glasgow Herald, the principal Conservative newspaper in Scotland, has denounced a plot within the Conservative party to depose Mr. Baldwin from the party leadership. The Herald says:

"Curious and mysterious movements are going on behind the scenes. It is fairly clear that a determined attempt will be made in the next month or two to depose Baldwin and split the Conservative party."

It is hinted that the crisis that may arise from the stoppage of the coal subsidy will be used to strike at Baldwin. The Herald does not indicate who may be the plotters, but other papers suggest the names of Conservatives who were prominent supporters of the coalition with Lloyd George.

All the world knows that two London newspaper magnates are out for Baldwin's blood, but they will not cause the premier to lose any sleep. They conducted a raging campaign against the government over the Mosul question, but when the debate took place in the House of Commons last week, there were only two dozen voices against the government.

There is a section of the Tory party which is against Baldwin. It is a section of rich men who want a ruthless cutting of social services so as to reduce taxation, and who want a stand-up fight with the trade unions. They think Sir Robert Horne would be a Conservative leader to their tastes.

There is no sign, however, that the cabal against Baldwin stands the slightest chance of success. The great bulk of Tories do not want to see the country committed to a class war. They believe Baldwin's policy of conciliation is the only one that will not end in disaster.

ENLARGE STOCKYARDS.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—Packers, commission men and traders at a meeting here last night, voted unanimously to increase the accommodation of the local union stockyards.

MOUNT ELGIN CHRISTMAS TREE.
Special to The Advertiser.

Mount Elgin, Dec. 28.—The Sunday school of the United church held their annual Christmas tree in the C. O. F. hall on Monday. Rev. Mr. Quigley was chairman. A pantomime, The Holy City, and at the conclusion a splendid play, From Pumpkin Ridge, was put on by the young people.

FRENCH MINISTERS BACK BUDGET PLAN

Doumer's Fiscal Scheme Is Adopted—Incomes, Tobacco, Sales To Bear Burden.

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The ministers today unanimously approved a scheme presented by M. Doumer, for balancing the budget and stabilizing the franc, and authorized the finance minister to introduce the bills in parliament.

It is understood that M. Doumer will submit his measure this afternoon, and that the chamber's finance committee will discuss them during the new year's parliamentary recess.

The finance minister announced that he estimated the budget deficit at 8,800,000,000 francs ($352,000,000). He proposed to meet this by increased income taxes, reinforcement of the fiscal administration, a tax on bourse operations, high prices for tobacco (which is sold under government monopoly), a tax on exports, and "an extraordinary and temporary stamp tax on sales."

Two billion, five hundred million francs of new revenue ($100,000,000), will go to a sinking fund, two billion francs ($80,000,000) to reimburse the Bank of France for advances made the state, and the rest to balance the budget.

Before the meeting of the cabinet, Finance Minister Doumer promised the chamber of deputies he would introduce in January a bill to apply to the reconstruction of the devastated regions "all that I can extract from the Dawes plan."

Some of the deputies asked for more precision, insisting that everything forthcoming from the Dawes plan should enter into the reconstruction program. The finance minister made no reply.

CALLS RADICALS' BLUFF.

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 29.—Premier Briand's declaration to the radical members of his cabinet to the effect that "I would see you go with regret but without despair" has caused a marked transformation in the political situation.

The radical ministers, thus told that they could be dispensed with immediately in case they did not go along with the government in its financial plans, have discovered that they do not want to step down. Former Premier Painleve, now minister of war, was the first to assure Premier Briand that he had never thought of abandoning the ship.

The premier is said to have come to an understanding with the president as to enlargement of his majority in the chamber of deputies by bringing representatives of new groups into the cabinet if the radicals stepped out.

TWO BIG HOTELS DOOMED BY FIRE

Ocean City, Maryland, Threatened by Flames—Wires Are Down—Help Called.

Associated Press Despatch.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 29.—A section of Ocean City, Maryland, including two hotels and several residence blocks, appeared doomed by fire at noon today.

The Ocean City central telephone office was out of commission shortly after the fire started. Reports from a banking house at Berlin, Md., maintaining the nearest telephone to the fire, said that the Seaside hotel and the Atlantic hotel both were ablaze.

Snowhill and Salisbury, Md., reported that the flames, originating in the electric plant at the eastern end of Baltimore avenue were working into the residence district. Assistance was asked from Salisbury, Snowhill, Pocomoke and Berlin fire departments.

TASCHEREAU TO SERVE AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Premier of Quebec Reorganizes Cabinet—Perrault as Attorney-General.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Montreal, Dec. 29.—A Quebec special to the Gazette says: "Premier Taschereau, attorney-general and minister of municipalities, will retain only the presidency of the council in the reorganization of the cabinet which will follow the coming session, it is learned from a reliable source, and Hon. J. E. Perrault, minister of colonization, mines and fisheries, will become attorney-general, being scheduled by Hon. J. N. Francoeur, the speaker.

It is understood that Hector Laferte, K.C., deputy speaker, will be appointed speaker.

Elise Therriault, M.L.A. for L'Islet, is expected to take over the department of municipalities, which is now handled by the premier. The member of L'Islet has been associated with municipal affairs as legal adviser to the city of Quebec for the last five years.

JAP GOVERNMENT WILL TRAIN ROYAL CHILDREN

Guard Against Ignorant Rulers by Teaching Princes and Princesses.

Associated Press Despatch.

Tokio, Dec. 25.—Princes and princesses of the blood will have the government as their schoolmaster, if an ordinance before the privy council is approved.

Characterized as the first action of its kind in the country, the measure was drafted for the purpose of enforcing educational standards in the imperial princes' families so as to insure Japan against ignorant or poorly educated rulers.

Beginning at the age of six, royal children, under provisions of the ordinance, must go to school 14 years, or study at least this length of time.

FIRE LOSS IS $40,000.

Associated Press Despatch.

Cordova, Alaska, Dec. 29.—Fire of unknown origin gutted the Davis-Phillips grocery and Nickoloff general merchandise store, with a loss of $40,000, partly covered by insurance, at midnight on Saturday.

Announcement

"SUPERTEST" Has Completed Another Successful Year

To our ever increasing number of friends and customers:—

We are pleased to announce the completion of one more year of satisfactory progress and success, which we consider due to your loyal support and patronage.

We take this opportunity of expressing our sincere appreciation for the support and confidence you have placed in us and assure all that in future, as in the past, our greatest effort will be to warrant a continuance of your confidence and support through our constant care that Supertest products and Service will at all times be the highest quality that careful watchfulness can make them.

Many Supertest users here and in the surrounding territory will be interested to learn that plans have recently been completed whereby a further development and expansion will take place during the coming year. As the success of Supertest to date has been largely due to the co-operation of users of Supertest Products, we feel that an opportunity should be given you to share in the further success by becoming part owners of the Company which you supported through your patronage.

Through the development and expansion which is about to take place an opportunity will be given our customers to secure prior to public offering, certain 7% SINKING FUND PREFERRED SECURITIES which will be the FIRST SECURITY of the Company, together with a bonus of Common Shares, enabling you to participate in the future growth and development of Supertest.

Should you desire to share in the profits of Supertest and inform us accordingly we shall be glad to arrange that you receive advance particulars in regard thereto. Arrangements have been completed with well known and reliable financial institutions for greater and larger development of Supertest.

Allow us to again thank you one and all for the confidence you have reposed in us during the past, and to express the hope that the year 1926 may be a prosperous and happy one.

"SUPERTEST"

TRADE MARK

DISTRIBUTORS OF

GASOLINE, LUBRICATING OILS, ETC.

Head Office — Supertest Building — London, Ontario

ELDER SON LOSES SPECIAL CLAIMS

New Law in Britain Takes Away Time-Honored Inheritance Right.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Dec. 29.—Under a new act which comes into effect in the New Year dealing with the administration of estates, the owners of which die intestate, the elder sons will possess no advantages over the younger sons, and the hoary word "primogeniture" will practically be lost to the language here. In the new act males have no preference over females, and males and females of the same degree will rank equally in the division of an estate.

The new act, which is largely the work of Lord Birkenhead, secretary of state for India, and a former lord high chancellor, affects only the estates of those persons who die intestate. It will still be open to a man to will his property in any way he chooses.

One Home Houses Fete 50 Years

Annual Christmas Day Reunion Is Held by McLellan Family, Thamesville.

Special to The Advertiser.

Thamesford, Dec. 28. — The annual Christmas reunion of the McLellan family was held at the home of James McLellan, Jun., on Christmas Day. About 35 attended. This Christmas celebration has been held in the same place for more than 50 years. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ezra McLellan, who will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary in the near future. Each year Mrs. McLellan shows her juniors how to step-dance, and she was better than ever this year.

MRS. E. ELGIE DEAD.
Special to The Advertiser.

Wallaceburg, Dec. 28.—The death took place on Sunday evening of a well-known resident, Mrs. Elizabeth Elgie, Albert street, South Wallaceburg. She had been ill only three days, following a stroke. She was born at Chatham, and married to Ralph Elgie, who predeceased her some fifteen years ago. After her husband's death, she came to Wallaceburg to reside. Three daughters and one son survive, John of Lawton, N.D., Mrs. Donald Irvin, Mrs. John White, Mrs. Martin McGaffrey, of tenth concession, Chatham township, a half brother, A. Tingley, of Port Huron. The funeral will take place from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Martin McGaffrey, to Oldfield church, interment at Oldfield cemetery.

The services will be conducted by Rev. J. T. Johnson, of Trinity United church, of which Mrs. Elgie was a devout member.

Leading American Burglars Are Now Total Abstainers

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Dec. 29.—Prohibition has produced such prosperity and efficiency in the United States that "even the best American burglars now are total abstainers," William E. (Pussyfoot) Johnson told a Press Association reporter, who sought comment from him on England's Christmastide festivities.

"There is an increasing public opinion in England," he said, "that drinks are a bad thing for both individuals and nations. Public opinion is going in the direction of prohibition all over the world, and Great Britain will come along in its own time. The Scandinavian countries, where I have just visited, are going that way very rapidly."

Johnson arrived here last week after a vigorous speech-making tour of Turkey, Bulgaria, Jugo-Slavia, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. He will sail on the steamer George Washington on Wednesday for New York in a tour of Canada and the United States.

NOVEL PROCESS USED BY COUNTERFEITERS

Various Colors of Each Bank Note Separated by New Method.

Associated Press Despatch.

New York, Dec. 29.—A new and ingenious photographic method for counterfeiting money was uncovered yesterday by secret service agents who arrested five members of what officials believe to have been an international counterfeiting gang operating from Elizabeth, N.J. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police co-operated with the secret service in tracing the gang.

A method of photographs separating the various colors of each bank note done in a way not yet fully solved was discovered by the agents when they seized the photograph plant at the home of the supposed leader of the ring, Frank Weigand.

The ring is said to have passed about $35,000 in counterfeit bills in this country and Canada during the last nine months.

STRATFORD MINISTER IS GIVEN PURSE OF GOLD

Special to The Advertiser

Stratford, Dec. 28.—Rev. O. C. D. Klaehn closed a 20-year pastorate at Zion Lutheran church yesterday, and at the close of the evening service, he and Mrs. Klaehn were made recipients of a purse of gold. Dr. Klaehn is going into a larger field of work in the Lutheran church, and his headquarters will be at Montreal.

FOUR DEAD AT BALTIMORE.

Associated Press Despatch.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 28.—Four deaths—one from freezing and three from asphyxiation—was the toll of the cold wave in Baltimore today.

Fred E. Berg, a Baltimore and Ohio railway truckman, found unconscious late last night at Locust Point from the cold, died in a hospital. Bernard Brophy, Will C. Reilly and Louis Glassman were victims of gas in rooms tightly closed against the cold.

URGES UNITED STATES TO DROP CATTLE DUTY

Conference Hears Plea For the Removal of Tariff—Restrictions Called Burdensome.

Associated Press Despatch.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The present United States tariff duties on cattle and beef were described as futile and burdensome to the industry by Dr. Lynn R. Edmister of the institute of economics, Waishington, speaking here today at a conference on the tariff question called by the people's reconstruction league. Beef and cattle imports now slightly exceeded exports, he declared, predicting tariff duties soon will have some effect on domestic prices.

"The time has arrived, therefore," he continued, "when we should decide whether to endeavor to attract more capital into this industry—or check its withdrawal—through tariff; or whether to permit consumers to draw freely upon foreign sources of supply for their increasing future needs."

FOUR GENERATIONS ATTEND.
Special to The Advertiser.

Mitchell, Dec. 28.—At a gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Berry, Montreal street, on Christmas Day four generations of the Russell family were present: Mrs. William Russell of town, who is 90 years old; her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Goforth; her granddaughter, Mrs. Berry, and her great-grandson, Robert Gordon Berry.

BIRTH RATE SHOWS MARKED DECREASE

Windsor, Ont., and St. John, N. B., Only Cities To Report Increases.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—The birth rate in English-speaking Canada continues to decline. In June last, the most recent month for which the record in the bureau of statistics is complete, 12,336 babies were born in eight provinces. Of these 6,332 were males and 6,004 females. No record is available for Quebec. In June, 1924, 13,344 babies were born in the same area.

In the last four years the birth rate in Canada (not including Quebec) has dropped from 26.5 per thousand of population to 22.1 per thousand. The decline in the natural increase of population has been steady since 1921, if figures for the month of June, 1925, can be taken as an indication. June last is the most recent month for which figures are available.

Statistics by districts are available only for cities of 30,000 or over. Of 13 cities thus tabulated only two had an increase in births in June last as compared with June, 1924. These were St. John, N.B., and Windsor, Ont.

Scratch of Cat Brings On Death

Aged Mitchell Man Dies From Injury Inflicted by Pet.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Stratford, Dec. 29.—Blood poisoning, caused by a scratch from a cat, resulted in the death of Thomas Kemp, an old and respected citizen of Mitchell, at an early hour today. He had been confined to the house for two weeks with a cold and about a week ago, while playing with a cat, received a scratch on one hand, which developed into blood poisoning. He was a native of Durham county, but had lived in Perth for nearly 60 years. His widow, five brothers and three sisters survive.

Body of Duchess Will Rest Among Kings of Four Nations

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Dec. 29.—A little steamer will leave here tomorrow with the body of the dowager Duchess of Argyll, who died Christmas eve. It will proceed to the lonely little islet of Iona in the inner Hebrides group off the coast of Scotland, where the burial will take place. Iona island was the center of Christianity in the sixth century and afterwards for many centuries of holy repute and the favorite burial place for early kings and chieftains. Tradition places there the graves of 48 Scottish kings and two Irish, one French and two Norwegian monarchs. Besides these there are buried there numerous saints of the early church.

How long the voyage will take is uncertain. It will depend on the weather and the ability of those on the steamer to land the coffin on the crude granite pier, for there is no harbor. The island belongs to the Argyll family.