## To the Trade

At the beginning of the season specialties are always

the first to sell. To day we mention three -two in Fancy Cotton Shirtings and one in Fancy Ginghams. Samples and quotations forwarded on application.

FILLING LETTER ORDERS A SPECIALTY

TORONTO. CRUELTY OF ROBBERS.

They Bound Mrs. John Clark of Onondaga, Went Through the House and

ndaga, Dec. 29.-While John Clark this place was at church Sunday evenand tied Mrs. Clark to the stair door. They then blew out the light, lighted a dark lantern and proceeded to search the house for valuables. They got about \$\foating{\text{fi0}}\$ in money and some jewelry. They also took two gold rings off the fingers of Mrs. Clark, after which they put a towel around her neck, and, attaching the other and to the celling, they left her. By raising herself on tip toe she managed to keep from choking to death until her tusband returned and took her down. The jewelry was found next morning. No arrests as yet.

good grades steady: others weak.

The Montreal sugar refiners have advanced the prices of both granulated and yellows \( \frac{1}{2} \)c, and the prices are now 4\( \frac{1}{2} \)c to 4c respectively.

Contract stocks of wheat are piling up at Chicago at a rapid rate. On Nov. 1 they were 5,000,000 bushels. Saturday night's official figures were 7,256,000 bushels. Sicoks are now in excess of the conservative estimates of the quantity that Leiter will have to take. He had 200,000 bushels delivered him yesterday.

The country elevator stocks of wheat in

Bill Schweitzer Let Loose.

"Bill Carrella betroit police have "Bill" Schweitzer at liberty. The time law allowed for holding him expired lay. He is the man who was implicating an attempted robbery in Canada at 20 years ago, and who escaped after was sentenced. The Canadan officials ed to do anything in the matter of curing his extradition.

TORONTO FINANCIAL CORPORATION. Subscribed Capital.....\$633,100 Paid-Up Capital...... 195,416

THE CANADIAN MUTUAL LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANY.

Head Office. 51 Youge Street.

Hockey Skates.

RICE LEWIS & SON Corner King and Victoria-streets,

**Norton Door Checks** and Springs.

6 ADELAIDE-ST. EAST.

**CLAM BOUILLON CLAM CHOWDER** 

Eby, Blain Co., Toronto.

Hofbräu.

REINHARDT & CO.'Y.

WATSON'S COCOA ESSENCE IS ABSOLUELY PURE.

TORONTO COLO STORAGE COMPANY

9, 11, 13 Church-st. Tel. 1831. 246

Hugh Cameron, Agent,

Chickens, per pair ...... \$0 40
Ducks, per pair ...... 0 60
Geese, per lb. ...... 0 06
Turkeys, per lb. ..... 0 07

Fruit and Vegetables -Very Weak After Mid-day.

The Exports Were Smaller Than Usual and Cables Closed Weak-Provisions Were Quiet and Featureless. Wednesday Evening, Dec. 29.

Chicago Markets.

Henry A. King & Co. report the following luctuations on the Chicago Board of Trade

SCORES'

27 KING W. TORONTO'S GREATEST TAILORING STORE. 27 KING W.

The year 1897 has been one of great ac-

tivity and success with us. We have done

a prodigious trade and our values have

been superb. Two of our specialties

alone, viz., our Scotch Tweed Business

Suits at \$20 and \$22.50 and our famous

Guinea Trousers, have met with a phe-

nomenal success. In buying these goods

right in the British factories we scored a

point, the importance of which you cannot over-estimate. By paying spot cash

for our goods we secure values that

could not otherwise be obtained, and we

are thus in a position to sell our high-

LOW CASH PRICES.

Scores High-Class Cash Tailors, 77 King St. W., Foronto.

class specialties at

Liverpool wheat futures irregular, March closing %d lower thon yesterday, and July Cash wheat in Chicago closed 34c lowe than yesterday.

May wheat on curb 92%c. Puts on May wheat 91c, calls 931/2c. Puts on May corn 29%c, calls 29%c. At Toledo clover seed closed at \$3.20 for an, and at \$3.25 for March.

Car receipts of grain at Chicago to-day: Wheat 185, corn 336, cats 211. Estimated or Thursday: Wheat 240, corn 460, cats Receipts of wheat at Minneapolis and Duluth to-day 441 cars, as against 272 cars the corresponding day of last year.

Exports at New York to-day: Flour 2833 barrels and 34,277 sacks; wheat 208,000 bushels.

Receipts of hogs at Chicago to-day 31,500, or the same as expected. Estimated for Thursday 35,000; official on Tuesday 19,850; left over 2247. Market rather slow and 5c lower. Heavy shippers \$3.25 to \$3.50.

Cattle receipts at Chicago to-day 14,000; good grades steady; others weak.

. The country elevator stocks of wheat in the Northwest are said to be only 5,000,-000 bushels, a decrease of 3,000,000 bushels within a month.

Leading Wheat Markets Cash. May.

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FLOUR-The market is quiet, with no special feature. Straight rollers are quoted at \$3.90 to \$4, middle freights.

WHEAT—The wheat market was steady in the morning, with sales of red winter and white at 83c high freights. Afterwards the feeling became weaker owing to decline in Chicago. Spring is quoted on Midland at 82c to 83c, and goose sold at 77c. No. 1 Manitoba hard 98c at Midland. BARLEY—The offerings are moderate and prices unchanged. No. 2 is quoted at 32c west; No. 3 extra sold at 28c to 30½c, the latter for choice. Feed sold at 25c west.

OATS-The market continues firm, with sales of white at 24½ to 25c west, and at 25½ on Midland; mixed steady at 24c PEAS-The market is firm, with siles it 46c, north and west, and at 47c on Mid-BUCKWHEAT-The market rules steady, with sales at 31c west, and at 32c east.

RYE-The market is unchanged. Sales were made at 44c high freights and at 45c on Midland. CORN—The market is quiet, and prices from, with sales west at 27½c to 28c. BRAN-The demand is fair, with sales at \$8.25 to \$8.50 middle freights. Shorts rule at \$10 to \$12 middle freights.

OATMEAL—The market is quiet and prices unchanged at \$3.10 in bags and \$3.20 in barrels on track.

DRIED APPLES—Trade is quiet, with quantities quoted at 4½c to 5c per lb. Evaporated, 8c to 8½c per lb.

HIDES—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. Cured are quoted at 9½c to 9½c. Dealers quote green at 9c for No. 1, 8c for No. 2 and at 7c for No. 3. Sheepskins \$1 to \$1.10. Tallow 2½c to 3c per lb. for rendered. WOOL-There is no fleece wool on the market. Pulled supers in fair demand at 201/2c to 21c, and extras at 22c to 23c.

PROVISIONS—Trade remains quiet, with prices steady. Bacon, long clear, 7%c to 8½c. Breakfast bacon, 11c to 11½c. Rolls, 8¾c to 9½c. Mess pork, \$14 to \$14.25; do., short cut, \$15 to \$15.25; do., shoulder mess, \$13.00. Hams, smoked, 10½c to 12c. Lard steady at 6½c to 6%c for tierces, 6%c to 7c for tubs and 7c to 7½c for pails. Compound, 5½c to 6c.

POTATOES—The market is quiet, with car lots quoted at 55c to 58c per bag cn track.

Receipts of grain were light to-day, not more than 1800 bushels all told being delivered. Wheat firmer, 500 bushels selling as follows: White 84c to 85c, red 86c to 87c and gcose 78c to 79c per bushel. Barley firmer, 800 bushels selling at 30c to 37c. Oats firm, with light deliveries; 300 bushels sold at 27c to 27%c.

Red clover, bush \$3 40 to \$3 60
Alsike clover, bush 3 25 4 00
Timothy, bush 1 25 1 35
Beans, white, bush 0 60 0 70 Straw, sheaf, per ton ... 7 00
... loose, ton ... 4 00
... baled, cars ... 4 60 

IS STILL BEING MANUFACTURED.

To SMOKERS

THE OLD SIZE

Liverpool—Close—Wheat steady at 7s 5½d for March, 7s 4¼d for May and 7s 1¾d for March, 7s 4¼d for Jan.. Feb. and July. Maize 3s 2¾d for Jan.. Feb. and July. Maize 3s 2¾d for Jan.. Feb. and March, and 3s 3d for May. Flour 25s 6d.

Chicage Gossip.

Henry A. King & Co., 12 King-street east, received the following despatch to day from Chicago:

Wheat—A good many people imagined there would be some lively times to-day in the wheat pit and the settlements of December contracts would cause prices to go up with a bound, but they were disappointed. It opened ¼c off and remained very steady and dubl until about half an hour before the close. It looked as though the clique the close it. It required but a little encouragement from that source to set the ball rolling and May sold off more than a cent in less than ten minutes. After

cast, received the following despatch today from Chicago:

Wheat—A good many people imagined there
would be some lively times to-day in the
wheat pit and the settlements of December
contracts would cause prices to go up with
a bound, but they were disappointed. It
opened 1/4c off and remained very steady
and dull until about half an hour before
the close. It looked as though the clique
did not like the way the market was acting
and began to sell it. It required but a littile encouragement from that source to set
the ball rolling and May sold off more than
a cent in less than ten minutes. Aftersteadying for a minute, it took a fresh start
and finally broke to 92%c, a break of about
2 cents from highert point of the day. We
den't think the end is reached yet, although
there was a slight reaction at the close. It
doesn't dook healthy to us. New York reported 7 loads for expert. The December
option opened at 99c and closed at bottom
price, 96%c.
Provisions dull and firm. There has been
some buying by English packers and qu'te
liberal purchases of lard and ribs credited
to Armour. Receipts at seven principal
western points to day were 69,100; same day
last year 71,500. There is a strong undertone to the provision market and on reactions it is safe to buy.

Oats have exhibited considerable strength,
May selling at 244/c. One prominent house
bought 500,000 bushels. The same firm Kaffirs Moving Upward. New York, Dec. 29.—The Evening Post's financial cable from London says: Apart from the settlement there was little business in the stock markets here to-day except in Kaffirs, which are moving upwards. Americans were occasionally lower in price, but were steady under the creums ances. There was much comment on the reported intended resignation of Secretary Gage. Notwithstanding the denial, it is recognied that currency reform would be delayed in the event of such a happening. Money is very dear and there is no immediate prospect of its cheapening. The Paris and Berlin markets were quietly steady.

Street Railway Shares the Active Ones in Toronto and Montreal.

Coal Stocks Lower on Wall street and Manhattan and Metropolitan Were Also Sold Freely-Earnings and Dividends-Try-

Consols closed 1-16 lower for account.

In Paris 3 per cent. rentes are 1036 5c. The net gold balance of the United States Treasury is \$160,533,941.

A cable to A. E. Ames & Co. from London to-day quoted Grand Trunk guaranteed at 68½, 1st pref. at 55½ and Hudson's Bay at £23%.

Bay silver in London closed at 285% per Bar silver in London closed at ounce, and in New York at 56%c The net earnings of Canadian Pacific for the month of November were \$1,189,733, an increase of \$327,584. For the eleven months net earnings were \$9,250,321, an increase of \$2,067,172 as compared with the corresponding eleven months of 1896.

Liverpool, Dec. 29.—No. 1 Northern wheat. 7s 10d to 7s 10½d; No. 1 Cal., 8s 3½d to 8s 4d; red winter, stock exhausted; peas, 4s 9d; corn 3s 2½d; pork, 48s 9d for fine western; lard, 24s 0d; bacon, heavy 1.c., 20s 0d; do., light, 28s 0d; do., short cut, 20s 0d; do., light, 28s 0d; do., short cut, 20s 0d; tallow, 18s 6d; cheese, 42s 6d.

London—Wheat off coast and on passage firm. English country markets generally 6d dearer. Maize on passage rather easier. Paris—Wheat 29f for Jan. Flour 6lf 5c for Jan. French country markets weak.

Liverpool—Wheat futures steady at 7s 60½d for March, 7s 45½d for May, find 7s 15½d for Jan., 3s 23½d for Feb. and 3s 2½d for Jan., 3s 23½d for shows net increase in earnings equal to armost 2 per cent. on adjustment bonds.

The Reading statement for November shows a net decrease of \$48,867, and the Coal and Iron Company a net decrease of \$127,666.

Wabash's net earnings for November show a net increase of \$140,243, and from July 1 the net increase is \$324,279.

Pacific Mail's gross earnings for November increased \$14,029, and the net increase is \$14,029, and the net

Foreign Exchange.

Aemilius Jarvis & Co., 23 King street west, stock and exchange brokers, Toronto, report local rates to-day as follows: -Counter—Buy. Sell. Buy. Sell.

N. Y. Funds... | ½ to ½ | 1-16 to 1-10 pre.

Sig. 60 days... | 8½ to 9 | 8 7-16 to 8½ do. demand... 9½ to 9½ 9 1-16 to 9½

| Toronto Steck Mcrket. | 1 p.m. | 3.30 p.m. | Ask. Bid. | 1004 | 238 | 2344 | 239 | 234 | 238 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 228 | 234 | 235 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 |

Sales at 11.30 a.m.: Western Assurance. 50 at 169½; Montreal Gas, 25, 10, 3 at 188; C.P.R., 100, 25 at 81½; Cable, 25 at 178½; do. coupon bonds, \$10,000 at 104½; do. reg. bords, \$1500, \$10,000 at 104½; fo. reg. bords, \$1500, \$10,000 at 104½; Toronto Railway, 25, 50 at 87½, 25, 25 at 88; London & Canadian Loan, 21, 15, 123 at 74.
Sales at 1 p.m.: Bank of Commerce, 10, 10 at 135½; Imperial, 10, 15 at 190; Toronto Electric, new, 15 at 119; Cable, 50 at 178½; Frèchold Loan, 17 at 104½.
Sales at 3.30 p.m. Toronto Electric, 40, 10 at 135½; Cable, 25 at 178½, 25 at 178½; do., reg. bonds, \$1000, \$9000 at 104¾.

The range in prices is as follows:

Open. High. Low. C

Am. Sugar Trust. 139½ 141 139% 1

Am. Tobacco 89% 90½ 88½

Am. Spirits 7½ 7½ 7½

Atchison 12½ 12½ 12% 12%

do. pref. 30% 30% 30%

Bay State Gas 4 4 3%

Brooklyn R. T. 35% 36% 35

Ches. & Ohio. 22½ 22½

Cheago G. W. 14½ 15½ 14%

Cotton Oil 22½ 22½ 22½

Chi. Bur. & Q. 99% 100% 90% 4

Crople's Gas 96% 97% 90% 1

Canada Southern 53 53 53

Dela. & Hudson 111½ 112½ 111½ 15

Dela. Lac. & W. 155 The range in prices is as follows:

| People's Gas | 30% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 2 WILLIAM FAHEY

1897 Two days more and the old year will have passed away. The last two days will be specially interesting to Shoe Buyers at Kingsley & Co. 's. Big Reductions in all styles Men's Veivet and Plush Slippers for New Year's presents. **Big Reductions** in all styles Ladies' Felt House Slippers. Ladies' Skating Boots, special values at \$2 for Friday. Special cut prices on Ladies', Misses', Children's and Little Bys' Leggings for Friday.

E. L. KINGSLEY & CO. YOL

Union 7500, Union Pacific 2000, Jersey Central 2400, Northern Pacific 2100, Northern Pacific preferred 3300, Reading 3700, L. & N. 4800, Burlington 13,200, People's Gas 4400, Lead 900, Manhattan 27,800, Tobacco 26,200, Southern preferred 1300, Chicago G. W. 4500, Atchison preferred 1200.

Montreal stock Market.

101 and 93%; Dominion Coal, pref., 107 and 10634.

Morning sales: C.P.R., 225 at 81%; Duluth, 100 at 3½; Halifax Heat and Light, 25 at 339%; do., bonds, \$5000 at 85, \$1000 at 86; Richelieu, 25 at 108; Street Railway, 100 at 23634, 40, 100 at 23636, 100 at 23636, 100 at 23636, 10 at 23636, 100 at 23634, 11 at 2365, 100 at 1839, 25 at 1884, 250 at 18834, 25 at 1863; Royal Electric, 25 at 141½; Toronto Railway, 225 at 88, 5 at 87%, 125 at 87%, 25 at 88, 100 at 87%, 125 at 88, 25 at 87%; Bank of Montreal, 4 at 237, 4 at 23634; Merchants', 2 at 177½, 20 at 178; Hochelaga, 11 at 146%; Windsor Hotel, 10 at 92%; Dominion Cotton, 50 at 95.

Afternoon sales: C.P.R., 125 at 81½; Halifax Railway, 10 at 116%; Gas, 200 at 188%; 25 at 88, 100 at 88½. 25 at 88, 625 at 88%, 25 at 88, 625 at 88%, 25 at 88, 625 at 94%.

Lendon Stock Market.

London Stock Market. do. demand... | 9% to 9½|9 1-16 to 9½

—Rates in New York!—

Posted. Actual.

Sterling, 60 days... | 4.82½|4.81½ to 4.81½

"" demand... | 485½|4.81½

Toronto Stock Mcrket.

Language Posted Actual.

Toronto Stock Mcrket.

2 20 p.m. | 2 St. Paul ..... Louisville & Nashville. Northern Pacific, pref.

Pennsylvania Central ... McIntyre & Wardwell (John J. Dixon) received the following despatch to-day from New York:
The stock market continued irregular to-day, with business confined principally to professional operators. Commission house business of a legitimate character was only fair and on both sides of the market. London was a moderate seiler. The coal stocks fair and on both sales of the haracteristic don was a moderate sciler. The coal stocks continued weak, with some liquidation and the lack of confirmation of recent reports that a strong combination had been formed among coal companies to regulate sales through a Central Sciling Agency, as well as to restrict the output, and it begins to look now as though there was as much truth in the recent newspaper talk of deals with the Metropolitan Traction Company and Manhattan. In the late trading the market weakened under general selling, influenced by a sharp and unexpected break in wheat and the close was irregular. The bull leaders appear to be still in control of the market. They are evidently trying to keep builtish sentiment alive and the undertone strong by manipulative tactics until after the New Year, when they expect there will be good investment demand and the public will come in.

PRODUCE DEALERS.

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FULLY TEN THOUSAND MEN

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Would Be Required in Case of Wa to Rightly Man the Warships.

The Requisition of the C.P.R. Steams bled Off Chemulpo to Support a Stre Expestulation With Corea.

London, Dec. Jo. A new agency we hounces that the British naval reserves with the mobilized.

According to receat estimates, the reserve forces of the British navy number about 28,000 men. Of this number it is carculated that at least 10,000 men would trequired in case of war to complete the manning of the warships of Great Britain which are understood to require a complement of 110,000 men, whereas only 100,00 nre said to be actually in service. The nival reserve problem has long been discussibly British authorities, and the general option appears to be that the number of men available is far short of the number which would be required in case of war.

In addition to the men of the naval reserve, Great Britain has halarge reservifiest and a number of reserve merchal cruisers, including such vessels as the Canpania, Lucania, Eturia, Umbria, Majesti Teutonic, on the Atlantic; and Empress India, Empress of China, Empress of Japa and others on the Pacific.

White Star People Surprised.

CHINESE IMPERIAL DECREE. Emperor Attempting to Excite His Subje

decree he declares that the phenome betokens an impending calanity."

Appreciating: how distracted the Empor is over the landing of the Germans Klao-Chou, the stationing of the Russ fleet at Port Arthur and the danger of distribution of his Empire among the growers, growing out of these occupation of the companies of the second the prising that he should have attempted make his people understand the grave is sibilities of the future by appealing their superstition.

Was It a War Scare Fake? London Dec. 30.—The officials of Canadian Pacific Railroad here say thave no knowledge of the British Adalty having requisitioned three of Empress steamships belonging to company, as reported in a special patch from Shanghal, and they believe statement to be without foundation.

An Emphatic Denial. Montreal, Dec. 30.—(Special.)—The V President of the C.P.R. gave an emphasional to-day to the reports that the the Empresses had been requisitioned by British Government. "They are still do business at the old stand," observed Shanghessy.

This is Another Benial. vention.

During the day a semi-official contribution was issued to the report that:
French flag had been holsted over the land of Hai-Nan.

London, Dec. 31.-A despatch to Daily Mail from Shanghal, dated yest (Thursday) says:

"A British fleet of eight ships and torpedo boats has arrived at Chemulpo port of Seoul). It is reported that are two Japanese cruisers in the Yang Kiang River. Japan is working night day, preparing for war. It is believed the British and Japanese fleets are in touch."

FRENCH OCCUPATION OF HAI-Said to Have Taken Place When the

London, Dec. 31 .- The Daily Mail Pouquin, denying the French occupat the Island of Hal-Nan, but it regard morally certain that Hai-Nan was about a fortnight ago, when Port cidence forcing the suspicion that F and Russia were acting in concert.

A despatch to The Daily Mail from 8 pore, dated yesterday (Fhursday), say "The news that the French had occ the Island of Hal-Nan was brought from Saigon (capital of French (China), on Tuesday by the French boat Ernest Simon. Before the latte Saigon on th 25th a French cruisered there with either Admiral Bedellie letters from him to the French Govern Saigon. The Ernest Simon delayed fhour at Saigon in order to take the (nor's despatch relating to the hoist the flag on the Island of Hai-Nan, the French Governor.

The cause of the delay was known to a few offlicials on board the Simon, but iradvertently the secret we parted to a French officer here (Singa who, not being bound to secrety, I matter out. It is believed that the hold the telegraph offices at Hol Koprevent communication to Hong Kon cable between Hailhong (Tonquin) and gon is broken and under repair, and, liero to telegraph the news of the to Saigon.

Admiral Bedelliero, with the westerness.

liero to telegraph the news of the to Salgon.

Admiral Bedelliero, with the W Bayard and Déscartes, left Hong K Dec. 11. He called at Hai Pong of 18, and attended the meeting of t fence Committee at Hai Pong about