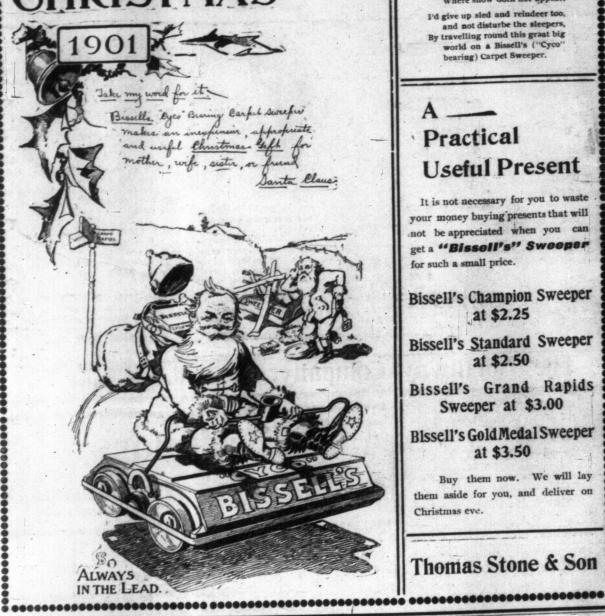
GHRISTMAS



Methinks if I were Santa Claus, I'd give up sleigh and deer, There are so many spots on earth Where snow doth not appear.

I'd give up sled and reindeer too, and not disturbe the sleepers, By travelling round this great big world on a Bissell's ("Cyco" bearing) Carpet Sweeper

Practical **Useful Present**

It is not necessary for you to waste your money buying presents that will not be appreciated when you can get a "Bissell's" Sweeper for such a small price.

Bissell's Champion Sweeper at \$2.25

Bissell's Standard Sweeper at \$2.50

Bissell's Grand Rapids Sweeper at \$3.00

Bissell's Gold Medal Sweeper at \$3.50

Buy them now. We will lay Christmas eve

Thomas Stone & Son

THE MYSTERY AT DUTTON, ONT.

Many Strange Circumstances Surrounded the Death of W. C. Urlin.

lovernment Detective Sent for to Investigate-Post Mortem Being Held.

Dutton, Ont., Dec. 17.-In connection with the tragic death of Wm. G. Urlin, whose body was found in a chicken coop in rear of his residence, by his brother-in-law, Albert, who lived with him, about 7.40 last Sunday mornng, there are a number of mystifying curcumstances, and the case is one in which, in the interests of the family and public, the fullest investigation will no doubt be made. Crown Attorney Donahue, K. C., has written the attorney-general giving the facts as far as he can learn in regard to the case, and has suggested that it might be in the interests of all parties to have Chief Inspector John W. Murray investigate the affair.

On the one hand the facts point strongly to suicide, and on the other, there are circumstances which appear to require investigation and explana-tion. The deceased had been out of tion. The deceased had been out of employment for ten or eleven weeks past and was reported to be despond-ent and melancholy, and, in fact, according to the evidences of Hertel, he at times gave evidence of unsoundmind to such an extent as to cause apprehension in the family. He was not seen after 3 p. m. Saturday until 7.40 a. m. Sunday, when his dead found in the chicken house, and what is more natural to suppose than that the case was one of suicide? But when the body was taken into the house and examined by physicians was found that there were two bulnds from a 32-calibre revolver back of and close to the right ear, and back of and close to the right ear, and the physicians, Drs. Cascadden, McKillop and Long, without a thorough examination, concurred in the opinion that it would be impossible for a person, if he could inflict such a wound, to inflict two such wounds, because of necessity the first would be fatal. Then there were no nowder marks or Then there were no powder marks or scorching of the hair and flesh to indicate that the revolver had been discharged at short range, as would be the fact in the case of suicide. The revolver with which the deed was committed belonged to Albert Hertel, the deceased's brother-in-law, and had lain, so the evidence shows, in his trunk empty for a year, but when found under where the body of deceased lay, it contained two full and three empty cartridges, though there are said to be only ceased's body. What became of third bullet? The evidence take the one witness at the inquest w the effect that froth was froze deceased's face and forehead, while again report has it that the body when found was warm and that rigor mortis had not set in. Another mystifying phase of the case is the apparent absence for foul play. The deceased was only insured for \$2,00, and that was payable to his wife. In this case circumstances and apparent facts appear to be so conflicting that scope is left for all sorts of conjecture.

THE ARK

Leader in the Supplying of Christmas Novelties--A Large Stock.

There is no store in Chatham where better array of toys and fancy goods can be found than at the Ark. They are now very busily engaged with their Christmas trade and already the crowds have commenced to come. Mr. Macaulay, the manager, has

that they have ever had and the prospects never were brighter. Their stock is varied and up-to-date and everything sold is guaranteed to be of the best. In the window is a large display of cutlery, the best they have ever shown. Upon the right on entering is arranged their silverware and fancy chinaware, also a large variety of books and games. Upon the left is their fancy china display, including a big showing of fancy

play, including a big showing of fancy lamps. They also have here a large amount of celuloid and plush goods of every description, and fancy mirrors and frames, which are quite suitable for Christmas wifts. They also carry and frames, which are quite suitable for Christmas gifts. They also carry a complete line of skates, sleighs, lamp chimneys, crockery and staples. Up stairs is arranged their stock of dinner and tea sets, toilet sets and fancy lamps. This stock is very complete and up-to-date. Then, too, they are agents for the famous McClary stoyes and although they are at presstoves and, although they are at present very busily engaged in their Christmas trade, their immense stock of stoves is always open for the in-spection of their customers.

GIRL OF GRIT

Young Lady Representing the Cavalier of France has had Interesting Career.

A bright, vivacious young lady, of pleasing address and attractive personality; an entertaining conversationist and, withal, possessed of sterling businesslike ability-such is Miss Lucile Dyer, who arrived in the city last eveninng upon a special mission in connection with the forthcoming presentation of "The Cavalier de France" under the direction of Shipman Bros.

Miss Dyer is a typical Southern girl and comes of a prominent family in Texas. She spent her girlhood in Kansas City and voluntarily decided to relinquish much of her social life and take up her present work, and her life since that time has been decidedly unique and interesting.

and pleasing accent of the Southerner and in a brief interview with The Planet chatted of her work, ambitions and mission.

theatrical debut in Kansas City-just an amateur," she added naively. "For my first attempt I succeeded in securing good support and by personal canvassing I secured a list of \$1,600 and played to an audience of 2,000. The papers had been very kind in assisting me in my canvass, but after the production the roastedme-unmercifully, I thought. It was awfully discourag-ing, but I had made my choice and

determined to stick to it. "I wrote a book," and Miss Dyer smiled," "and entitled it, 'Impressions of the World and Theatrical People,' Quite a big title, wasn't it? seven weeks after its publication the first edition was sold out. I went to Chicago and succeeded in securing a position with the Dearborn Stock Company, playing small parts. This did not satisfy my ambition and I finally went to New York, where I secured my present position with Mr. Shipman. At first I could not bring myself to take up the work. I had

hem, but I am glad now.

Miss Dyer speaks with the peculiar

"This is my third season for my present work," she said. "I made my

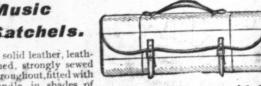
other ambitions and it was with many a heart-ache that I relinquished

"I travel in advance of the companics—there are six of them—and can-vass for lists to ensure successful business. That is my mission to Chat-ham, and I like the look of your town. "My ambitions? Yes, I still have big ones. I want to build a theatre on Broadway, New York, by joint stock company and also a circuit of six in Ontario. Maybe Chatham will be

Leather Goods ForChristmasPresents

OR a serviceable Christmas gift and one certain to be appreciated there can be nothing better than something in leather—a Purse, a Card Case, a Music Roll, Travelling Companion, Chatelaine Bag, &c. We invite inspection of our Leather Goods Stock with every confidence. The assortment is large and well bought-purchased in fact direct from the makers -and our prices will be found very reasonable for really good goods. We offer below a few suggestions.

Music Satchels.



lined, strongly sewed throughout, fitted with tan, black, dark, green and red, extra value at - \$1.50 Pebble Leather Music rolls in blacks, tans, browns 750.

Extra fine Solid leather Music Rolls, with handle finely made and finished, colors tans, black, purple, etc., special



Playing Card Cases

A dainty gift for lady or gentlemen Handsome cases in Seal, Morroco and

\$1, \$1.50 and \$2,

Every case fitted with best gilt edged cards, and pair of celluloid counters.

Finger Purses of a woman's shopping outfit We have a special value finger

\$1.00. Others at \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00 and up in choice leather, and an assortment of colors, we put silver initial on all purses

6(11(41114)11/1/1////////



carry the largest assortmen of purses in the city. The range in price from

10c to \$3.00,

coin purse to the handsome combination purse and card card Texas Steer, Snake Skin, Etc. For a lady no more designable present could be



This cut represents

one of six lines of pur

ses that are specially

good value at 25c.

Bought in the regu-

lar way these would

Chatelaine Bags, ors black, brown and gray, at

In Seal Alligator, Etc., col-\$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.

and up. A most acceptable gift to a lady

sell at 35c. and 4oc. These are good service-

able purses, made of leather, and finished

with good strong frames. : : : : : : :

Flat Leather Collar and Cuff Holders \$1.00 Writing Portofolios made of Seal and Morocco, leatherlined and finely finished,

\$1.50, \$200, \$300, \$400, \$6.00

Bill Wallets, Secret Pocket Purses For Men, Cases, Cigar and Cigarette Cases..Almost every remarkablething in leather is here



ions, for lady or gen-tleman, m a d e o i lined and fitted with travel-hair and

\$2.50, \$3, \$4 and \$5 The Price.

DINGMAN'S-BOOKSTORE,

To-day Miss Dyer is engaged in now been in business in Chatham pushing her lists among the citizens.



:: 25c :: **SLIPPERS** For Children

THESE goods are made of Felt, warm and comfortable. Suit-

XMAS PRESENTS We have a large range in

Men's Gum Rubbers Ladies' Slippers. : : SNAG PROOF

These goods are guaranteed not to break in the upper either low or high cut. At popu-lar prices. In Overshoes and rubbers we have the best that money can buy. ::::::: Our \$1.00 Felt Millifies are beautie

eleven years, and each year the business done has exceeded the one previous. They are now looking forward to the best Christmas season's trade that they have ever had and the prospects never were brighter.

Commandant I adenhorst and Fourteen Burghers Taken Prisoners.

Two Hundred Boers Taken Oath of Allegiance-Canadian Casualties.

London, Dec. 17. - A despatch from Lord Kitchener, dated from Belfast, about half way between Pretoria and the frontier of Portuguese East Africa, received here to-day announces that Commandant Kritzinger, the famous Boer commander who has figured so prominently in connection with the invasion of Cape Colony, has been captured, badly wounded, by General French.

Kritzinger was trying to break the blockhouse cordon at Hanover Road.

London, Dec. 17 .- Gen. Kitchener reports to the War Office that Cols. Brander's and Dawkin's columns operating with each other, have captured Commandant Dadenhorst and fourteen other Boers at Starkfontein. He adds that the effect of this import ant capture will be good.

RETURN OF REFUGEES.

Johannesburg, Dec. 17. - Wethin three months 10,000 refugees are expected to return here. Permission has been granted to the mines to start a hundred new stamps weekly. The railway is now able to cope with the increased traffic. Eight new engines were bought in the last few months, and there have also been large additions to the new rolling stock. The Stock Exchange will shortly re-open The Star newspaper will start after January 1. The registry of the Supreme Court will open in January for the issuing of writs. The court will sit in March.

BURGHERS TAKE THE OATH Bloemfontein, Dec. 17. - Over two hundred burghers have lately taken the oath of allegiance in the Harri-smith and Bethlehem districts. MORE DEATHS IN CAMP.

The Gazette publishes a further list of 220 deaths in the refugee camps in the Orange River Colony CANADIAN CASUALTIES.

Ottawa, Dec. 17. - The following cables have been received by Lord Minto — London, Dec. 12.—Regret to inform you that Arthur Timbrik, S. A. C., died of wounds 9th December, Krugersdorp. Father, R. Timbrick,

London, Dec. 17. - Regret to inform you that Sgt. Geo. Armstrong, S. A.

C., dangerously ill. enteric fever. Fa-ther, W. L. Armstrong, Bulah, Man.-

Casualty Department, Cape Town, Dec. 17. — Please inform Mrs. Sophia Johnson, Georgetown, P. E. I., that son, Charles Johnson, Canadian Scouts, died of enteric fever at Pretoria, 9th Dec.-Casualty.



..Xmas..

Slippers

A MORE appreciable present for your gentlemen friend can not be had than a nice comfortable pair of slippers or a pair of

'Invictus Shoes'

a number of advance spring styles of "Invictus Shoes" just to hand. : : : : : : :

INVICTOUS SHOES WEAR LIKE IRON



JHRISTMAS. WITH HIS LOAD OF w hristmas Toys, Dolls Books & Games.

TE INVITE all the Chatham boys and girls to call and see our display and leave their order for what they want this week.

It will take Santa a long time to deliver the many things he has for our boys and girls and the roads are in bad condition. So call early, pick out what you want and talk it over with pa and ma and we will see that you have your stocking filled on Christmas morning.

New Sleighs, 25c, 35c, 50c 75c and \$1.00.

Skates, 50c and \$1.00, all Sizes. Steam Engines, 50c, 75c, \$1, \$1.25 Magic Lanterns, 5Qc, 75c, \$1 to \$4 Dolls from to to \$3