Annual Sale Of Sealskins

Catch of the Victoria Sealers Marketed in London Yesterday.

Queen City Returns—Schooner Arilla Will be Libeled By Crew.

The annual sale of seal skins took place in London yesterday, the total catch of 23,144 skins being offered at Lampson's and the Hudson's Bay company's salerooms. The buying was good, but prices were a trifle lower than those of last year, there being a decline of five per cent. in the average. The average price at Lampson's was 61 shillings and 9 pence, and at the Hudson's Bay company's sales, 62 shillings. The former firm had 11,112 skins from the Victoria sealers and the latter had 2,032 skins, if the catches of the C. D. Rand and Triumph of about a thousand skins, which were shipped late, arrived in time for the sale. The average price of $15, although not quite as high as last year, is higher than the price maintained before the price rose in 1899, when there was an increase of 80 per cent. in the price brought by the seals taken on the Behring sea island rookeries by the North American Commercial company—the entire catch of which company, by the way, finds a market in the United States, from which the British Columbia catch is excluded—and an increase of 40 per cent. in the price brought by the catch of the pelagic sealing fleet from Victoria. As 23,144 skins were sent to the British market, the returns amount to something like $347,160. In 1899 some of the local sealers were made very glad by the increase, while others who had sold their catches locally—there was no sealing company then—were sorrowful when they heard of the sales, for skins had been sold on the wharves here for $11, which brought $15 and $16 in London. That year the schooner Geneva took 1,500 skins off the coast and two schooners of the fleet cleared $24,000 and $26,000.

The annual meeting of the sealing company will be held on Thursday, and the programme for the coming season will then be discussed, for with the large potlatch on the West Coast attracting the attention of the Indians, there will be few Indian crews shipped unil the first or second week in January. The schooners carrying white crews are getting ready. The City of San Diego has sailed under command of Capt. Folger, and yesterday the Director and Oscar and Hattie were towed into the bay with their flags up and their crews on board. They will sail today, and others are being made ready to follow them.

ORIENTAL LINERS.

Shinano Maru Will Sail This Morning for the Orient—Tosa Maru Due.

Steamer Shinano Maru, the big Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner, which is returning from her first trip to this side—having previously been on the Australian run—will sail from the outer wharf early this morning. She will load a very small quantity of freight here, her cargo space having been taken up by through freight, so much of which was offering that the Norwegian tramp steamer Guernsey, whose master and men won fame by shipping a new propellor in mid-Pacific some months ago, was chartered to carry her overflow cargo. The steamer Tosa Maru, of the N. Y. K. line, is due here tomorrow from Yokohama, which port she left on December 4. Another Oriental liner about due is the steamer Oopack, of the China Mutual fleet, now under charter to Dodwell & Co. She is expected to reach port from Yokohama on Friday. The addition of the Oopack to the Northern Pacific fleet makes a total of nine vessels now flying the Dodwell flag.

COLLIER ARRIVES.

Pleiades Here—She Was in the Storm With Matteawan.

Steamer Pleiades, Capt. Smith, arrived yesterday morning from San Francisco, and passed up to one of the Island collieries to load a coal cargo for San Francisco. The Pleiades brings no word of the missing Matteawan, which she followed to sea on that fatal night of December 3-4, when the southeast gale blew with such violence, the wind reaching a velocity of over 50 miles an hour in this city, and a greater force outside the entrance to the straits. The Pleiades left Tacoma that night at 11 o'clock, with a cargo of coal, and labored terribly when rounding the Cape—the storm being then at its height. She encountered the storm for a greater part of the voyage, but sustained no damage.

NOT INSURABLE.

Speculators Have Given Up Hope of Seeing the Matteawan Again.

The Matteawan is now given up and has been dropped from the overdue list on which she was quoted at 90 per cent., and no one was willing to reinsure her at that. She is now no longer insurable. The reinsurance rates have been advanced on other overdues. The Robert Duncan, 78 days from Wei-hai-wei for the Sound, is quoted at 50 per cent., and the rate on the Anglia advanced to 85 per cent. She is 163 days out from Newcastle for Panama. The German ship Glenricht, 16 days from San Francisco for Portland, is another overdue which, like the Highland Light, Nelson and Pinmore and others, is believed to have suffered misfortune, if not disaster, during the recent storms. She is reinsured at 25 per cent. The Renfield, 75 days from Pisagua for Portland, and the William Mitchell, 148 days from Capetown for Portland, have been dropped from the list, being considered safe. Both were reinsured at 20 per cent.

FROM WEST COAST.

Queen City Brings No News of Wreckage—Nahmint Mines Shipping.

Steamer Queen City arrived from Ahousett and way ports on the West Coast yesterday, after a fast passage. She brought no news of the finding of wreckage, the report from Astoria of the finding of wreckage of the lost Matteawan on the Vancouver Island coast, being undoubtedly untrue. News was given that on Monday the Nahmint mines on Alberni canal began shipping ore from the mines over the aerial tramway, recently established, to the bunkers on the canal side in preparation for the coming of the steamer Manauense, which was given a six-months' charter to carry ore from the Alberni canal mine to the Tacoma smelter. Col. Hayes, of the Nahmint mines, was a passenger on the steamer. Other passengers were Capt. John Irving and W. Clark, who have been on a prospecting tour, and on a visit to coast mines; A.S. Going, the engineer, who is surveying a route for the short railway to be established at the Copper island iron mines on Barkeley sound; W. Price, manager of the iron mines; J. E. Sutton, of the Wreck Bay black sand mines, on which work has been stopped for the winter season; Mrs. Tilden and Miss Tilden, botanists from Port Renfrew, and Mrs. Redfern.

News was brought by the steamer that a large potlatch is to be held about the close of the month at Ahousett rancherie, the messengers having gone by the steamer Queen City to Clayoquot, Ucluelet, Dodger's Cove, Village Island, and the other villages south of Ahousett, while word has also been sent to Nootka, Hesquoit, Kyuquot and other points up the coast, to bid the siwashes of the more westerly coast to the feast. Some of the Ucluelet Indians have been making preparations for the potlatch, and two at least have as much as six hundred dollars in coin to give away, as well as many blankets and much pilot bread and other foodstuffs. It will be a large potlatch.

The steamer leaves again on Friday to go to Cape Scott and the more westerly points on the Island coast.

WILL BE LIBELED.

Schooner Arilla Likely to Be Seized for Wages Due Crew.

The schooner Arilla of Seattle, which rescued the crew of the foundering bark Highland Light, has troubles of her own. She is moored with the sealing schooners in James Bay, and will in all probability be in the hands of the sheriff this morning, seized on account of libel proceedings to be taken against her by her crew for wages due them on account of the trading cruise they made on the schooner. The Arilla left Seattle in June, and on her as a passenger was Mr. Coggeswell, who was interested in the vessel. She had a cargo of lumber and coal for Nome, which was sold at the mining camp, and then the vessel went on a trading cruise to the Siberian coast, to Cape Lisburne, in the Arctic and elsewhere, calling at the Diomedes, St. Lawrence Island, and many out-of-the-way places. At Dutch harbor Mr. Coggeswell was landed together with much whalebone, furs and other goods secured from the Esquimaux and other natives by barter. He came south by steamer, and from that day the ship's company of the Arilla heard nothing of him until yesterday afternoon, when he came over from Seattle, and without offering any money to the unpaid crew, returned again to the Sound last night. Although he knew on December 5 that the schooner was at Hesquoit, he did not communicate with her master, and the crew have now decided to take libel proceedings against her to recover their wages. She will probably be seized today and will likely be sold here to pay the claims due against her.

The Arilla had a hard trip from Dutch Harbor, which port she left on October 22. She was off the Vancouver Island coast on November 6, and was held back by adverse winds. She arrived in sight of the foundering Highland Light on the 16th of November and took off her crew. On her trip from the Behring sea she brought down two Indians from Kyukuot, who had been lost from the schooner Umbrina, and who were thought to have been drowned. Capt. Crowell, master of the Arilla, lost a schooner at Cape Nome a year ago, his vessel, the Harriett, having gone ashore in the blow in which the big barge Skookum was lost.

TO RAISE ISLANDER.

Vancouver Papers Tells of Newly Invented Diving Vessel.

The Hazard and Stearns diving vessel is the latest thing out to raise the Islander, says the Province. The Vancouver paper describes this invention as "an egg-shaped glass vessel some four or five feet in diameter, made of two-inch moulded glass. Inside this there will be room for men to sit or move about. The vessel is attached to a cable and properly weighted sunk to any depth. Air is supplied by tubes connected with pumps on the auxiliary steamer on the surface, and connection kept up by a telephone. A screw propellor and rudder allows the vessel to be moved in any direction beneath the surface, the vessel above changing its position correspondingly as word is sent by the telephone.

A powerful searchlight will play upon the waters and when the submerged wreck is reached an ingenious scheme of detachable grappling irons allows the hull to be taken hold of, and lifted by the wrecking scows on the surface. The egg-shaped glass vessel will stand any possible pressure, being much stronger than steel, and if all that the inventor anticipates comes true, the probabilities of the invention in deep sea photography and wrecking operations are enormous.

SILVER KING SANTA CLAUS.

From Nelson Miner.

Captain Gifford of the Silver King mine, was in the city yesterday. He says things are going along at the mine as well as could be expected and that the men are making the best of the temporary quarters provided. Following out the usual custom Mrs. Gifford will have the annual Christmas tree at the mine this year and the captain has been commissioned to arrange for the visit of the children's patron saint. This year the work of providing for the Christmas tree will be no light matter as the colony of youngsters at the mine has grown from less than ten for the former year to something more than forty.

ACQUITTED.

Toronto Women Found Not Guilty of Manslaughter.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Mrs. Ellen Johnson and Mrs. Emily Smith were acquitted by Col. Denison today on a charge of manslaughter, arising out of the death of an infant named Mary Pugh.

IN THIS LOCALITY.

The medicine dealers in this place say that there is no preparation on the market today that has anything like such an enormous sale as Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. Would this extraordinary demand for Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills continue and gradually increase if people were not being benefitted and cured by their use? Certainly not. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box.

NEW SAW MILL.

Ontario Man Says One Will be Built at Vancouver.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Angus McLeod, of Ontario, is at the Leland. He is a stockholder in the projected saw mill on the Mainland opposite Deadman's island. He is responsible for the statement that the mill will be built in the early spring.

U. S. POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Mr. Smith Resigns and is Succeeded by Wisconsin Man.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The announcement was made today that Postmaster-General Smith has tendered his resignation, and that it has been accepted. Henry Cayne, of Wisconsin, has been offered the position and has accepted.

Always avoid harsh purgative pills. They first make you sick and then leave you constipated. Carter's Little Liver Pills regulate the bowels and make you well. Dose, one pill.

YOUR FAITH will be as strong as ours if you try Shiloh's Consumption Cure and ours is so strong we guarantee a cure or refund money, and we send you free trial bottle if you write for it. SHILOH'S costs 25 cents and will cure Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis and all Lung Troubles. Will cure a cough or cold in a day, and thus prevent serious results. It has been doing these things for 50 years. S. C. WELLS & Co., Toronto, Can.

Karl's Clover Root Tea corrects the Stomach

A STORY OF TREASURE

Some of the Tales of Buried Gold on Newfoundland Coast.

The following will furnish interesting and congenial reading to those who have been watching the preparations making for the cruise to Cocos island in search of hidden treasure. The story reads:

"In those days of unrest in the last century, when the fight for the domination of the island of Newfoundland was continuously waged between the British and French, the early settlers of either nationality alternately buried their money or valuables for the time-being and took elaborate bearings of the place wherein their treasure lay hidden, and through the fortunes of war, never again unearthed them, and died with the secret. And in those days—when fish were plentiful and provisions low, and well-to-do planters were paid in silver and gold, and had no banks wherein to dispose of it—it was no easy matter to secret four of five hundred pounds, especially if it were in the old-time pillar or Mexican dollars, or the cumbersome doubloon that supplied the only means of currency. And when we are told that the old-time shopkeepers used to store silver dollars in barrels, under their counters, incredible though it seems to us, it was a very ordinary sight in the early part of the century. The most ingenious methods that suggested themselves were resorted to, to secret the hard-earned savings, and the simplest and readiest was to bury it carefully in the cellar or garden; but the favorite means was to remove a brick or two from the massive chimneys, put in the coin, and replace the outer bricks. Many a family were made comfortable, in a mysterious manner, by windfalls like these.

Sometimes the public would hear of it, like a recent case reported in Ferryland, where the builders of a new house, it is said, discovered over three thousand dollars in rare old gold and silver coins in an old chimney they had been removing; but oftener the secret was kept, and a poor family suddenly and mysteriously became independent, and only the shrewd gossips guessed at the real cause. But there were treasures deposited in remote places, in large quantities, far removed from the haunts of man. At the time of the American war, many bold spirits had letters of marque from the British, French and American governments. Many of those privateers fought under their flag and did good service for their respective governments, and great damage to the enemy's commerce. But others there were, who, having tasted the sweets of the liberty accorded regular privateers—men after the war long had ceased, developed the license of buccaneers and demanded toll from all comers. There were privateers duly commissioned, who, after a time had lost more than one-half of their original crews, and had replaced them by pressing others into the service, and by utilizing (often with their hearty consent) prisoners taken from captive prizes. These non descript rovers respected no laws but their own, and acknowledged no flag but one that each occasion suited them to fly. After a time the navy of both nations made common cause against these gentry, and eventually succeeded in ridding the seas of these pests. But not without many gallant struggles. At times these bold rovers would seek rest and repairs. Then they'd start for an out-of-the-way harbor or island, in some of the numerous bays around the coast, and there obtain fuel and water, repair damages, and get ready for another cruise. Little Belle Isle, in Conception Bay, was said to be a favorite resort. Here they could obtain easily wood and water; could find shelter on the lee side of the island in any wind, and had plenty of sea room either to pounce on an unsuspecting merchantman or fishing craft, or show "a pair of clean heels" to an over-curious sloop of war. At such times and in such places, those bold freebooters buried their spoil, and, when all danger had flown, came back peaceably in the guise of fishing craft or traders to resurrect and divide it. But often calamity overtook them. Storms suddenly burst on them, or some swift sloop-of-war cornered them, and they were disbanded, lost, sent away as prisoners, or pressed into the King's service; and so it happened that they never got back to the place where the treasure was hidden—and so never had the opportunity of enjoying their ill-gotten booty.

The tale of the discovery of treasure on Little Belle Isle is told and believed by hundreds of the older people in Conception bay. There were for years three large graves on the eastern end of the island, and thousands of fishermen saw them again and again when they landed there. The tale is told that, in a bar room in Oporto, an old sailor narrated to a captain of a Newfoundland merchantman, that the centre grave contained not a corpse, but the gleanings of a crew of freebooters, that had been buried there nearly half a century before. The story goes that on a Christmas Eve, around the Yule-log blazing on his own hearth, while the merry talk went round, he repeated the old sailor's tale, and signified his intention during the coming spring to test its truth. Among the company gathered were two brothers, who were only struggling fishermen, but who drank deeply of the tale of the buried treasure. Next morning they went off, ostensibly bird-shooting on the waters of the bay, and did not return for two or three days. When the neighbors became uneasy about them and were about to institute a search, they returned quietly and mysteriously, after night, and reported they had been ashore on the other side of the bay. After a short time they left their native village, and traveled to St. Johns, selling their land and fishing gear for a trifling sum of money. Some years after, one of the brothers was seen in Philadelphia, where he was living in opulence, under an assumed name. In the spring when the old captain went to Belle Isle, he found the centre grave opened, and nearby was a part of an old oaken chest, with brass bindings. He then caused the other mounds to be dug up, and found the remains of two very tall men, one of whom was supposed to be the orthodox negro, who had been left to guard the missing treasure. Nothing would convince the disappointed captain and his crew, but that the captain's loquacity had robbed them of an immense fortune, and that the absent brothers had gathered in the gleanings of the sea-kings, and were spending it at their ease. Many of the older generations still believe in the existence of fabulous amounts of buried treasure, and many a hard night's work has been put in, digging and delving in places marked by tradition as the repository of buried wealth."

CANNOT SUE C. P. N. Co.

Only Liable for Receipts of Last Voyage and Wreck's Salvage.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer says: "No American can sue the Canadian Pacific Navigation company on account of claims arising from the wreck of its steamship Islander. These claims, aggregating $230,000, will be paid out of $7,560 worth of property, consisting of the freight and passenger receipts for the fatal voyage, and the lifeboats saved from the wreck. An order to this effect was filed on Saturday by Judge Hanford, of the United States District court.

Judge John P. Hoyt, of this city, was appointed by this order to appraise the lifeboats and ascertain the amount of the receipts of the company for the Islander's last trip. On April 17, United States Commissioner Bowman will adjudicate the claims brought before him and apportion the propert yand moneys in question among the claimants.

This order was signed in accordance with a petition filed by the attorneys of the Canadian Pacific Navigation company. The petition is the result of the findings in the Islander investigation at Victoria. These findings exonerate the men in charge of the vessel from any blame for her loss. The petition makes the allegation that the wreck was unavoidable. It quotes the United States admiralty law on the subject, which says that the owners of a vessel lost by unavoidable wreck are exempt from liability beyond the extent of that vessel's receipts for her last voyage, and the salvage left from the wreck. The law in question provides for an appraisal of these values and an adjudication of claims, such as the petition asks for and the order grants.

"The claims made against the Islander by Americans amount to $230,000, and are made by 75 survivors and relatives of persons lost in the wreck. Different attorneys represent these parties. Whether they will abide by the court's order, or will unite to appeal from it, has not yet been determined. The fact that the Islander was a foreign vessel is a new feature in such decisions, and may, it is thought, add some complications to the matter."

FATHER LACOMBE'S VOW.

December 3 a Memorable Date in the Aged Priest's Life.

The Montreal Witness tells the following of Father Lacombe, the missionary whose name is well known throughout all Canada:

December 3 is a memorable date for Father Lacombe, the memorable Northwest missionary, who is now in Montreal. Some twenty years ago he had decided to pass the winter with an encampment of Blackfeet Indians, in order to teach them the Gospel and become more familiar with their language. The Blackfeet were then in open war with the Cree tribe. On the evening of December 2 a heavy snowstorm was raging, and as no sentries had been placed around the camp, the missionary warned the chief that their enemies might take advantage of the stormy night to attack them. No notice was taken of his warning. A few hours later the missionary was aroused from his sleep by terrible war cries, the firing of guns, and the lamentations of women and children. The Crees and Assiniboines, numbering some 600 men, had attacked the camp. Rushing out from his tent, the intrepid missionary commenced to administer to the wounded Indians, amidst volleys of bullets, and, seeing that all the people in the camp would probably be massacred, he went down on his knees and there made the promise that, if the battle ceased, he would, every year, at the same date, offer thanksgiving Mass. Upon rising to his feet, Father Lacombe was shot in the shoulder. At early dawn the Crees retreated, carrying away with them a number of their dead. The Blackfeet had lost 30 warriors. The tragic event is still known among the members of the tribe under the name of "day of the great battle," and yesterday morning the Rev. Father Lacombe said his Mass in accomplishment of the vow which he made during the course of that terrible night.

THE ROYAL VISIT.

London Newspaper Comment on Its Value to the Empire.

From London Daily Chronicle.

There are plenty of people, not all of them confined to foreign countries, who are sighing for the time when the colonies will cut themselves adrift from the Empire, and the evidence that they incline rather to strengthen their bonds with the Mother Country is viewed with considerable displeasure. The political value of the Duke of Cornwall's tour is in its bearing on that organization of the Empire which the colonists manifestly prefer to the sentiment of disintegration which likens the rebellion in Capy Colony to the revolt against Bomba. On Saturday the Duke said that, having traveled over 33,000 miles by sea and 12,500 by land, he had learned "how great has been the progress which the colonies have made under the free institutions they have inherited from the Mother Country, and how vast are the possibilities which lie before them in the future." It is worth noting that the bias of these free institutions is not towards that separation which would gladden politicians who have read the history of the American colonies without understanding it. That the attempt under specious pretexts to lop South Africa off the Empire has roused such strenuous resentment in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, is a sufficient proof that the colonial democracy is not deceived by false precedents and imaginary parallels. So the Duke of Cornwall brings back a message that strengthens the resolution of his countrymen to be neither browbeaten nor benighted. Apart from that, the demonstrations on Saturday testified eloquently to the affectionate interest of the people in the reunion of King Edward and his son, after a mission which carried with it a burden of anxiety as well as pride.

Cast A. Way—Yes, madam, I've been a solicitor for nigh twenty years.

Mrs. Farmkins—A solicitor?

Cast A. Way—Yes'm; I solicits bread an' meat.

BUSINESS POINTER.

C. Bazett, of Duncans, agent for Sutton & Co.'s seeds of Redding, England, has issued a well-illustrated catalogue calling attention to the flower, vegetable, field and grass seeds, he has for sale.

The Kidneys and Uric Acid

Serious Painful Ailments Which Arise from Neglected Kidney Derangements—Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills a Thoroughly Effective Cure.

Uric acid is the name given by medical men to the poisonous matter which the kidneys filter from the blood. When the Kidneys are weak, inactive or diseased, they fail to perform their functions as filters, and the uric acid poison remains in the blood to find lodgment in the weaker organs, and produce the most painful and fatal results.

The symptoms of kidney disease, such as backache, frequent and painful urination, deposits in the urine, pains in the sides and limbs, and headaches, are so familiar that it seems unnecessary for anyone to be ignorant of the approach of this dreaded malady. Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills are ever at hand as a thoroughly effective remedy, as they are for sale by nearly every dealer who pretends to keep any family medicines.

Not only the kidneys themselves become diseased, but the uric acid forms crystals in the joints and muscles, causing the most extreme pain, and what is known as rheumatism, a disease which can never be cured until the kidneys are made healthful and vigorous.

Another form of kidney disease is dropsy and heart failure. In such cases the uric acid turns the blood to water, and causes dropsical swellings, which when in the region of the heart, produce heart failure.

In view of the frightful risks which you run in neglecting kidney derangements, and the undoubted efficiency of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills as a cure for weak, inactive, diseased kidneys, it remains as a duty for you to apply the remedy and be cured. You can be certain of beneficial results, for Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills have stood the test of time, and proven their right to first place as a kidney medicine.

In every town, village and township of Canada there are people who can testify to the extraordinary merits of this great remedy. Ask your friends and neighbors about it, or, better still, try it for yourself, and join the ranks of Dr. Chase's admirers. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box. At all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Company, Toronto.

VICTORIA STORES IN HOLIDAY ARRAY

Display of Christmas Goods Exceed Former Years in Beauty and Variety.

A stroll through the business streets these days is a pleasant way of running the gauntlet for—instead of straining the muscle to escape vengeful blows—one is tempted to linger at every step to feast the eyes on the bright and beautiful objects so lavishly displayed in the store windows. All that modern industrial art and science can produce has been called upon to contribute to the collection and one is dazed with the result, for surely it requires a cool, calculating nature to make a selection from the multitudinous array of articles which appeal to the purse strings of the Christmas shopper. Things useful, pretty, artistic, bizarre—are displayed in endless profusion—every taste is met, every want supplied till the question of what to buy and where to buy it becomes as difficult of solution as a Chinese puzzle, and often the seeker for appropriate Christmas gifts, driven to despair, purchases something at random and reproaches himself forever afterwards for not having given more forethought to his selection. Wise is he or she who in the quiet of home makes mental choice of gifts and sallies forth armed with a list from which a solemn vow precludes departure.

The holiday trade set in a week ago, and may now be said to be at mid-tide; the full will not be reached till the two days preceding Christmas, but as it is the sales people are having a busy time. Merchants in all lines report business as good, far in advance of that of last year, and they anticipate for the next few days a wonderful clearing out of stocks. The holiday specialties this year are more varied and generally of better quality than ever before, the taste of the public leaning more to articles of permanent value than to the lighter and less costly classes of goods.

Proprietors have not confined their displays to the show windows, for every store is decorated and brightened to the extent of its resources, much taste being displayed, in many cases with the most pleasing results.

SPENCER'S ARCADE.

Of Victoria's many fine business houses, there is none more attractive at this holiday season than Spencer's. The store and its capabilities for catering to the wants and tastes of all classes are so generally known that a lengthy description seems unnecessary. This year, however (and which, by the way, breaks all former records in volume of trade,) the big department store has surpassed all former efforts in providing for its customers in the variety and extent of its holiday assortment. The large show windows look like a section from some metropolitan industrial exhibition with their beautiful and artistically arranged displays of Christmas goods, while the interior, especially at night, presents a pleasing picture in brilliant coloring, worked out by the judicious arrangement of the innumerable articles exposed for sale. Strings of evergreens, in which mani-colored incandescent lamps are artfully entwined, depend from the ceiling, forming pretty arches, while the pillars, shelves, stairways and galleries are draped with colored silks and other bright material. Many new plate-glass show cases have been added to the furnishings, which, with their showy contents of glass and silver toilet articles, handpainted chinaware, and a thousand and one nick-nacks of every description, form a great attraction in themselves.

In the mantle department is a rich assortment of cloaks, jackets, silk dress skirts, silk waists, opera cloaks and other garments in the latest designs and at prices that vary to meet the capabilities of every purse. There are some elegant examples of gold-plated work in mirrow and photograph frames, antique in design and very tempting to lovers of the artistic.

Upstairs is a veritable toy land. Dolls and toys of every possible description, mechanical, electric, grotesque, beautiful, they are all there to delight the hearts of the children and revive memories of past Christmases in the minds of the parents. It is the largest and most varied assortment of toys and Christmas story and picture books, ever imported to Victoria by one establishment.

In the shoe department is a special line of Christmas slippers, in velvet and leather, for men, that suggest arm chairs and cosy firesides, the moment one's eyes rest upon them. It would require a special edition of the Colonist to describe in detail the many Christmas attractions of Spencer's, so it is best to attempt no more, but advise one and all to visit the store and see for themselves.

THE WESTSIDE.

Under the management of Mr. Hector, and his capable staff, The Westside has secured a standing second to none in the business world of Victoria. The motto of the establishment is "Progress," and every effort is made to keep the stock up to date and fully supplied with everything which can be found in a first-class metropolitan dry goods emporium. Just now the commodious premises present a more than usually attractive appearance. The store, mantle and millinery departments, are beautifully draped in silks and linens with happy results, as there is nothing gaudy or commonplace about the decorations. One of the great attractions of the store is a splendid collection of linens, of which the Battenberg is the pattern now most in vogue. This is supplemented with a fine display of laces and lace handkerchiefs of the daintiest texture and design.

In the gentlemen's department there is a great variety of gold and silver mounted umbrellas, bathrobes, dressing gowns and jackets, and other articles innumerable, suitable for Christmas gifts.

In the mantle department are displayed a variety of elegant wraps, opera cloaks, coats, silk dress skirts, silk waists and furs.

A specialty is made of ebony, glass and silver toilet articles, and there is a remarkably attractive assortment of hand-painted silk articles, fancy goods and ornaments. The stock of kid gloves is very complete and varied. On Friday and every day from that to Christmas, a bottle of Dufort's Parisian perfume will be presented to every purchaser of a pair of kid gloves—this is the Westside's Christmas gift to the ladies. A pretty gift which is having a large sale is an ornamental box of handkerchiefs, containing a flask of perfume.

As in former years, Santa Claus is paying a visit to The Westside. He is holding a daily reception, to which the children are invited. The management have fitted up special quarters for his accommodation, a beautiful grotto which is entered from Fort street. The grotto is a perfect fairyland, where Santa Claus and his attendant elves receive the visitors and make them welcome. It is nicely decorated with evergreens, which sparkle with ice crystals and snowflakes, and scenes representing the night before Christmas, Santa Claus' reception, Jack the Giant-killer and other attractions dear to the child's imagination. All the work of decorating, scene-painting, etc., was done by members of the Westside staff and reflects great credit on their skill and ingenuity. The visitors are treated to a box of candies, 4,000 of which have been provided, and each is allowed a chance at the fish-pond, from which many pretty toys are recovered. One of the features of the grotto is Santa Claus' postoffice, where hundreds of letters are received daily. Many of these are very amusing. One picked at random from the mail, reads as follows:

Dear Old Santa Claus: I thought I would write you a few lines and tell you that I want a little gold watch and a nice little doll with long, curlie hair, a little doll's bath and a little doll's trunk; and I hope you will have candies again, and I want a little doll's buggy, and that is all, I guess, and how are you getting along, my dear old man, and I guess you have got a wife. It is a good thing if you have, so I guess I will close.

From your little friend,

GERTRUDE.

So good-bye. These are kisses to you:
x x x x x x x x x x

THE LICENSE IS SUSPENDED

St. George's Hotel Bar-Room Must Be Closed For Next Three Months.

The board of licensing commissioners have suspended for three months the license of the St. George's hotel, on the Esquimalt road. When application was made for a transfer of the license from Mrs. Rhodes to Messrs. Roblin and Crombley, a petition was sent in by residents in the district and others, asking that the license be cancelled on the ground that the house was disorderly. Mr. A. Crease appeared on behalf of the petitioners; Mr. J. P. Walls for the owner of the property, and Mr. G. E. Powell for Messrs. Roblin and Crombley. The evidence put in yesterday was to show that the hotel was a necessity. Two witnesses, both residents in the neighborhood, stated that they considered the hotel a necessity for the workmen in the vicinity, many of whom took their meals there. All three lawyers addressed the court, and the commissioners, consisting of Mayor Hayward, Ald. Hall and Mr. T. B. Hall, retired to consider the evidence. They returned in about 15 minutes with the following verdict:

In the opinion of the commissioners, the St. George's hotel (after making due allowance for the class of customers frequenting it), has been badly conducted, and if the license still remained with Mrs. Rhodes, they would have punished her to the full extent of their powers. To inflict the heaviest penalty now would obviously recoil more or less on the owner of the premises and the present holders of the license by purchase. The commissioners, therefore, after carefully considering all the evidence, feel that a lighter penalty than cancellation will meet the case, and now order that the Mayor's temporary permit be ratified and approved, and the application of Messrs. Roblin and Crombley for transfer of license be granted, but suspended for three months. The sale of intoxicating liquors on these premises must therefore cease for three months from this date, and with the further distinct understanding that after that period any well grounded complaint against the licensees will be severely dealt with.

WONDERS OF THE HEART.

All the blood in the human body passes through the heart in about three minutes. The heart beats 70 times a second, 4,200 times an hour, 100,800 times a day, throwing out 2½ ounces of blood a second, 656 lbs. an hour, 7¾ tons a day. It is only when supplied with pure, rich blood that the heart, an organ 6 inches long by 4 inches wide, can accomplish this enormous amount of work and rebuild its own wasted tissues. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is the most effective treatment available for heart affections because it forms new, red corpuscles in the blood and gives to it that life sustaining quality which is necessary to the health of every organ.

PAPER COMBINE.

Press Association and Makers Are Not Finished Fighting Yet.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—(Special)—The fight between the Canadian Press Association and Paper Makers' Association is not yet over. Two weeks ago the paper makers met and raised the prices. Last Saturday the executive of the Press Association met to discuss the situation. Today a deputation from the Press Association interviewed Mr. Fielding here. Judge Aachereau's report of the recent investigation concerning the paper combine is now in the hands of Mr. Fielding, and the interview had to do with future action on that report. When seen concerning the matter, John A. Cooper, secretary of the Press Association, said that the outcome of the judicial investigation was not yet announced, but that the judge's finding would be against the combine. Nevertheless there were so many cross-currents to be considered by the government that it would be some weeks before a decision could be reached.

CONVALESCENCE.

Convalescence is sometimes merely apparent, not real, and especially is this true after such diseases as pneumonia, typhoid fever and the grip. To make it real and rapid, there is no other tonic so highly recommended as Hood's Sarsaparilla.

This great medicine cleanses and renews the blood, strengthens all the organs and functions, and restores health. Take Hood's.

LONDON & GLOBE.

Very Bad Showing at the Meeting in London.

London, Dec. 16.—During a meeting of the creditors of the London & Globe corporation, Mr. Gorst announced that the unsecured liabilities amounted to £1,142,000, with assets of £420,000. At a subsequent meeting of the shareholders, Mr. Barnes said there would be nothing left. Apparently none of the directors, with the exception of Whitaker Wright, knew anything of the enormous transactions of the corporation. The balance sheet for 1900 was a work of art. Some of the entries made inflated the assets to £179,000, and within a few days gold estate shares previously valued at £200,000, appeared at £764,000. Of the reserve, £500,000 had been absorbed, but there was nothing to show of the surplus cash in the bank: £25,000 had been hired from a broker for two days for £5,000. With the exception of Mr. Wright, who had netted a profit of £50,000 in Le Roi No. 2, none of the directors had profited in the corporation's speculation. Mr. Barnes also said that the British-American corporation, which held a large number of Le Rois, was, as usual, made to act the part of Cinderella and sold none of them.

Dealing further with the balance sheet, Mr. Barnes showed how a certain sum of £250,000, first figured as an asset on the balance sheet of the London & Globe company, then on the balance sheet of the British-American corporation, then again on the balance sheet of the London & Globe company, all within two months.

Be sure you get the kind you have always had.—Owing to the great popularity of "The D. & L." Menthol Plaster, unscrupulous makers are putting up one like it. For rheumatism, neuralgia, &c., nothing is better. Made only by Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

Been hunting today?

Yes, said the amateur with the wild apprehensive look in his eye.

Have you shot anything?

I don't know yet. I am waiting for the rest of the party to get into camp, so that we can call the roll.—Washington Star.

"Won't you play something more, professor?"

"Oh, it's too late, madam. We must have some consideration for the neighbors."

"But it would serve them right! They poisoned our dog last week!"—Lustige Welt.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA

Premier Says She Will Soon Displace United States in British Market.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking at the reception in honor of Postmaster-General Mulock here tonight, repeated the statement that no more deputations would go to Washington. Canada could produce all the United States could produce, and in 15 years he hoped Canada would catch up to the United States as a wheat producer, and the Canadian steel industry would rival the United States. Canada in the long run would displace the United States in the British market. He stated that the deficit in the postoffice department his year would be only $150,000.

The gathering took the form of the presentation of an address to Mr. Mulock, congratulating him upon reforms in his department and particularly the two-cent Imperial and Domestic postage the establishment of the Labor Bureau and the Australian Mission.

The chief feature of the speech of the Postmaster-General was a declaration in favor of continuing the policy of the transportation development from the prairies to the seaboard, including the perfecting of the water route and terminal elevators at Montreal.

Public opinion is long in favor of Pain-Killer. For over sixty years the foremost household remedy for cuts, bruises, sprains, and all bowel complaints. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.

NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

May Be Discussed by United States Senate Today.

Washington, Dec. 17.—While the Senate was in executive session today, Senator Morgan made an effort to have the Senate make his bill authorizing the acquisition of the right of way for the proposed Isthmian canal across Costa Rica and Nicaragua, the special order of 2 o'clock tomorrow, but the Senate declined. It was suggested that Mr. Morgan might move to take up the bill tomorrow. He indicated a purpose to pursue this course.

ABSOLUTE SECURITY.

Genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Must Bear Signature of Brent Good

See Fac-Simile Wrapper Below.

Very small and as easy to take as sugar.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. FOR HEADACHE. FOR DIZZINESS. FOR BILIOUSNESS. FOR TORPID LIVER. FOR CONSTIPATION. FOR SALLOW SKIN. FOR THE COMPLEXION. GENUINE MUST HAVE SIGNATURE. Price 25 Cents. Purely Vegetable. Brent Good

CURE SICK HEADACHE

MARRIED.

FARREL—HANBURY—At Revelstoke, on December 11th, W. E. Farrel and Amy Hanbury, both of Revelstoke.

INGHAM—INGHAM—At Fairview, on December 12th, by Rev. Mr. Wright, Leo Ingham to Charlotte Ingham, of Prior street.

RUXTON—JAMES—On December 14th, by Rev. Percival Jenns, E. J. Ruxton to Mary Ward James, daughter of Mrs. S. E. James.

THOMPSON—MacCOLE—At Christ Church Cathedral, on December 10th, Robert William Thompson, of Sidney, to Georgiana MacCole, of this city, by Rev. Canon Beanlands.

BORN.

WOODSIDE—At Rossland, on December 14th, the wife of Frank E. Woodside, of a son.

McDONALD—At Revelstoke, on December 10th, the wife of Stuart McDonald, of a daughter.

DIED.

LEASK—In this city on the 17th instant, William James, only son of Jane and the late J. C. Leask, a native of Victoria, aged 23 years.

PHILLIPS—At Vancouver, on December 15th, Miss Phillips.

HILL—At Vancouver, on December 15th, Erma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Hill.

RAYMOND—At No. 60 Belleville street, on the 9th inst., Elizabeth, beloved wife of John Raymond.

DOUGAN—At Cobble Hill, on December 9th, the son of J. J. Dougan, aged 4 months and 10 days.

THOMAS—In this city on December 14th, Grace Agatha Thomas, a native of Pembroke Dock, South Wales, aged 9 months.

PATERSON—At Vancouver (Central Park.) on December 13th, Margaret Purden relict of the late John N. Paterson, of Patrick, Scotland, aged 74 years.

BURKE—At Vancouver, on December 14th, W. Burke, aged 53 years.

STRAYED—From the Carey road, near Royal Oak, a small red cow, part Jersey, with one horn broken. Kindly send information to 16 Caledonia aven