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SHOE PACKS**
MEN'S .. \$1.75, \$1.50
BOYS' .. 1.25
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One, Two, Three, Four Buckles.

FELT BOOTS
Felt Soles or Leather Soles.

Store closes at 6:30 during Jan-
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MERCHANT TAILORS
68 Germain Street,
Next Canadian Bank of Commerce
ST. JOHN, N. B.

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Wines and Liquors
Wholesale only
AGENTS FOR
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Saint John, N. B.
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Electric passenger elevator and all modern
improvements.
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Felix Herbert Hotel
EDMUNSTON.
Sample Rooms, Livery Stable, Good
Comfortable Rooms and Good Table.
Free Hack to all trains.
Moderate Prices.
J. M. SIBOIS, Proprietor.

FREDERICTON'S KING HOTEL
110 THE
BARKERHOUSE
QUEEN STREET.

Centrally located, large new sample
rooms, private baths, electric lights and
bells, hot water heating throughout.
T. V. MONAHAN, Proprietor.

WAVERLY HOTEL
FREDERICTON, N. B.
The best \$1.00 a day Hotel in
New Brunswick. Rooms with
baths, \$1.50 per day. Electric lights
and steam heat throughout.
JOHNSTON and DEWAR, Prop.
Regent St. Fredericton, N. B.

**DID COMET WARSHIPS
LEAD MEN GREAT LAKES**

There is Much Said in Favor
of the Supposition—Several
Theories Advanced as to
Brilliance of Famous Star.

**THE CLOSTER FANCY
OF THE DARK AGES**

The year of Halley's comet lends some piquancy to the old suggestion that the Star of Bethlehem was a heavenly body of that order. The Literary Digest, in an issue devoted to the comet, takes the stellar phenomenon which moved the magi to travel to the court of Herod as really Halley's comet, which made its appearance in a later well known historic point of time; but the modern Christian, asserts Mr. Waldemar Kaempfert, seeks for a scientific explanation of the Star of Bethlehem "not for the purpose of casting doubt upon the narrative of Matthew, but to give its astronomical support." In his article in the January Cosmopolitan, Mr. Kaempfert reviews the various suggestions that from time to time have been advanced to furnish a natural explanation for what the "celestial fancy of the dark ages" looked upon as a miraculous luminary. In the first place he shows that, since the magi were "astrologers, members of that strange, non-national, privileged priesthood whose office it was to watch the sky each day and each night," "no ordinary astronomical phenomenon could have enticed them from their temples. Kepler was the first to try to explain the stellar phenomenon preceding Christ's birth. "The pole star, that there must have been a conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn at about that time." It was later found that the two planets were in conjunction in T. B. C. but that they at no time overlapped to form a single star. On the contrary "they were separated by a distance equal to the apparent diameter of the moon." It was the late Prof. R. A. Proctor who "finally decided that the wise men might have been guided by a comet."

Discovery of Comets.
Mr. Kaempfert writes: "There is much to be said in favor of the supposition that comets were discovered on days at the rate of two or three a year. Not all of them are particularly brilliant; but it is not inconceivable that in Biblical times comets occasionally appeared that were brilliant enough to strike terror into superstitious hearts. Indeed, the comet which Halley proved to be the same as the one which appeared in the year 1066, and which bears his name and which has revisited the earth at intervals of seventy-five and one-half centuries, was regarded as a harbinger of pestilence and war. To a poetic Eastern people who revered the stars as symbols especially set in the heavens for the guidance of men, comets were undoubtedly awesome visitors. The Chaldeans, Persians and Jews, were astronomically no more enlightened than the medieval Christians, and if at the fall of Constantinople, in 1453, all Christendom was alarmed at the appearance of a comet (a comet which we now know to have been Halley's), it is highly probable that the Orient was less impressed by these and other visitations. Comprising, as it does a nucleus, a 'coma' or envelop surrounding the nucleus and measuring from 20,000 to 1,000,000 miles in diameter, and a long tail which streams behind the nucleus for 60 to 100,000 miles or more, a comet is one of the most mysterious objects in the sky. But whether or not the Star of Bethlehem really was such an apparition no one can affirm with certainty. Astronomers, however, are of the opinion that the idea is not untenable, and that it is less objectionable than the conjunction hypothesis."

A "New" Star in Nova.
Another theory is that which proposes that the Star of Bethlehem was a "new" star or "nova," a star which suddenly flares up in the heavens and fades away after the lapse of weeks or months. Ten appeared between 134 B. C. and the end of the fifteenth century; since that time only two have been recorded. The "new star" is accounted for by the astrophysicist as a "superb cataclysm."

Two enormous suns, chilled to black clinders, but still imprisoning within their frozen shells a fierce heat and compounds of terrific explosive energy crash together in a celestial holocaust. When that catastrophe occurred, each dead sun was rushing through space at the rate of 400 miles a second, and by 700 times that rate a projectile fired from a modern 12-inch gun. Two enormous bodies traveling at such frightful speed cannot be suddenly arrested without in some way disposing of their energy. From our knowledge of mechanics we know that part of this energy is converted into a heat so intense that the fragments of the two shattered suns glow with a dazzling light compared with which our sun is as a candle placed against an electric arc. The remainder of the energy is spent in twisting the fragments around a common centre at a speed of hundreds of miles a second, so that a high celestial pinwheel is created to witness the event.

Celestial Pinwheel.
"That dizzy whirling celestial pinwheel may be regarded either as the centre of a new solar system or as a new-born world—not a rock and sea-world such as ours, but a glowing chaotic mass. Gases and fine dust compose the hot spiral streams of the celestial pinwheel; and the dust, gathered in great whirling clouds, is periodically interposed between the earth and the star, and thus causes those more or less regular obscuration which are so characteristic of many new stars. The effect of this whirling on the mass of gas and dust is to produce a flat disk, intensely hot and dense at the centre, extremely attenuated and cold at the remote outer edge. As soon as the pinwheel formation is gradually obliterated through the action of gravitation and other forces, Evidence enough of these mysterious processes are found in those vast expanses of misty light which are called nebulæ, because of their appearance. These ne-

**ORATORY IS AT
THE FLOOD NOW**

5,600 Unionist Meetings Held
in England in One Night—
Mr. Balfour Makes Great
Speech at Henley.

**CONFINES HIMSELF
TO TARIFF REFORM**

London, Jan. 5.—Last night orators reached flood tide. Yesterday meetings of Unionists and Radicals numbered five thousand six hundred in all parts of the country. It is estimated that verbal reports would fill a whole year's issues of the world's greatest newspaper, the London Times, advertising columns and all. Last night the speakers included Asquith, Balfour, Lloyd-George, Churchill, F. E. Smith, Bonar Law, Lords Curzon, Rothschild and twenty-three other peers, but though the public absorption in the election continues the dominant issue varies almost from day to day. When the campaign opened before Christmas the marching orders given to ministerialist speakers were to concentrate against the lords. That was the winning card, and under the stimulus of Lloyd-George's purple speeches the peers seemed easy prey. But the popular appetite soon tires of one dish, especially if highly priced, and even in Radical circles Lloyd-George's talk last night about the House of Lords as a menagerie working overtime at the circus business falls a little flat.

Earl Stanhope.
Immediately following Lloyd-George's speech the Radical Chronicle caustic criticism of the subject by Earl Stanhope, who was a recent guest of Earl Grey at Ottawa. Stanhope said: "Look at the methods of this chancellor of ours, this dignified successor of Gladstone. If you are a landlord or possess anything of income, he says you are a ruffian, a blackguard if you vote Conservative, and you must be taxed. But if you are a soda water manufacturer, he says: 'My boy, I know you have voted Liberal at every election. You are a benefactor to the race. You shall not be taxed.' Turning next to licensed victuallers our chancellor says you are a monster if you vote Conservative and you shall be taxed out of existence. But the cocoa manufacturers, who are the mainstay of Liberal journalism and the Liberal party, he consoles by the assurance that they will not only go tax free, but will continue to enjoy the incidental protection of the present British food taxes."

As the campaign against the peers weakens, the German naval menace and home rule comes to the front. At yesterday's annual gathering the Unionist Unionist committee at Belfast through the agency of Ulster missionaries in English Scottish constituencies, were stirring demonstrations of their spirit indicated by huge streamers displayed over the hall such as "We will not have home rule." "One with Britain, heart and soul, one life, one flag, one fleet, one throne." "Union between Great Britain and Ireland we will maintain." etc. It only needed a message from Balfour to rouse the meeting to the fullest pitch of enthusiasm. He telegraphed that they had behind them "The same resolute party whose determined resistance to dismemberment of the United Kingdom has twice defeated the policy of home rule."

Home Rule.
On this side of the Irish Channel, however, little is heard as yet of the Unionist cause. The Unionist enthusiasm for it, Unionists have other things to think of. With the German menace it is quite different. Balfour has seldom spoken with more fire than at Henley last night, when with all gravity as ex-premier, he declared on diplomatic authority that the experience of the past four years had convinced Germans that the day was quickly approaching when the British Empire would go down before them. He charged the ministers with keeping the nation in the dark about the astonishing acceleration of German shipbuilding. "They knew it. They told us nothing about it. They took every citizen of this country who was not a member of the cabinet and until the matter was forced out almost by a process of torture was it that the country began to realize that we are now in a position in which we have not been within the memory of living men. Our naval supremacy in our own seas is threatened within the near future. Now what does this imply? We meet as an Empire upon its suzerainty as our navy is supreme. I for one am not content to exist on suzerainty. (Cheers.) I am a great admirer of Germany, for we have to learn from her in many departments. But there is one department, among others, which I am not prepared to learn from her. That is to face the facts. Consult statesmen, diplomats and lesser powers. You will find among them absolute unanimity of opinion that a struggle sooner or later between this country and Germany is inevitable. I do not agree with them, but it is the opinion that we are predestined to succumb in some great contest the occasion for which nobody can foresee to a country which does face the facts, which is alive to its possible, which has little and does much." A German of position engaged in great affairs had, Balfour went on to say, remarked: "Do you suppose we should ever allow Great Britain to adopt tariff reform?" Now, said Balfour, think of the idea that any man of education and character outside this country should have the audacity to say Great Britain was not to settle her own taxation according to her own ideas. It makes my blood boil. (Cheers.)

I don't believe there is going to be war, heaven knows I don't desire it, but remember, absolutely the only way in which you can secure the peace which you all desire, is that you shall to sure of victory if war takes place.

Totally Destroyed.
Mantonas, Man., Jan. 5.—C. A. Agnew's new brick store, occupied by the Mantonas Trading Company, was totally destroyed by fire yesterday. Building and stock were insured for \$10,000.

**AFTER THE COLD
WEATHER LAST WEEK**
you will appreciate a pair of our

HOME COMFORT SLIPPERS

MEN'S .. 75c. \$1.00, 1.25, 1.50
WOMEN'S .. 50c. 75c. 1.00, to 1.50
or if you are supplied with these and feel the need
of out door requisites, we can supply you with

OVERSHOES
for Men, Women, Boys, Girls and Children

SHOE PACS OR LARRIGANS
for Large and Small Boys

HOCKEY AND SKATING BOOTS
for Men and Boys, Women and Girls

Our stock is good and up-to-date as our annual after
stock taking clearance sale disposes of all self warmers,
broken lots and odd pairs.

MAIL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

McRobbie KING
STREET

HUTCHINGS & CO.,
BEDDING MANUFACTURERS

WIRE MATTRESSES, MATTRESSES,
IRON BEDSTEDS, FEATHER
PILLOWS etc.

WHOLESALE and RETAIL
101 to 105 Germain Street.

Make the Whole Family Glad
By presenting a **Columbia Graphophone.**
10 p. c. cut for Xmas if you say you saw this ad.

Maritime Phonograph Co.,
DOCK STREET, SAINT JOHN

**ELECTRIC
SUPPLIES**

**ELECTRIC
NOVELTIES
FOR
CHRISTMAS
PRESENTS**
ALEX. W. THORNE,
Electrical Contractor,
678 Main street, St. John, N. B.
Phone Main 2344-11.

AGOT WISELY
Get a PIANO for New Years

When you make an investment such as a Piano or Organ, see
to it that you buy from the firm who in thirty-six years of upright
dealing have sold in the Maritime Provinces over
14,000 PIANOS and ORGANS
The firm who do not countenance any FAKE SCHEMES, who
GIVE DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR VALUE. This is

The W. H. JOHNSON CO., Ltd.,
Market Square, - ST. JOHN, N. B.

HALIFAX, SYDNEY, NEW GLASGOW.

controlling The GERHARD HEINTZMAN, THE BRINSMEAD, MARTIN
ORME and other standard pianos and organs. Leading talking
machines, records and musical instruments.

We have a few slightly used pianos and organs at BARGAIN
PRICES.

Open every evening from 7 to 9:30 till Christmas.

**MAGIC
BAKING
POWDER**
PURE & WHOLESOME
MADE IN CANADA.
E.W. GILLET CO. LTD. TORONTO, ONT.

**LOVE LETTERS OF POET
TO BE PUBLISHED**

Paris, Jan. 5.—Seventy-nine auto-
graph love letters of the poet Alfred
de Musset, which were deposited thirty
years ago with the National Library,
were opened today. They will be pub-
lished shortly.

The letters were given to the French

nation at the instance of Jules Trou-
bat by the woman to whom they were
addressed on the promise that they
would not be printed until a certain
time had elapsed after her death.

She is described as Mlle X, and it
has been stipulated that her real
name be kept secret.

The dates of the letters run from
1837 to 1848. It is generally believed
here that the mysterious Mlle X is
a woman with whom the poet lived in
intimate relations for eleven years
and who married his brother Paul after
Alfred's death. She carefully clipped
or erased from the letters all portions
which might betray her identity.

News of a Day

Detective Dismissed.

Montreal, Jan. 5.—Police circles are
deeply stirred over the dismissal of
Detective Gorman of the city staff,
now in England under orders to bring
a prisoner back to this country. The
reason given is that Gorman was re-
quested to see Chief Campura before
leaving which he did not do.

Dropped Dead.

Brantford, Ont., Jan. 5.—S. M. Thom-
son, Deputy Grand Master of the
Independent Order of Odd Fellows,
and provincial visitor of the Chil-
dren's Aid Society, dropped dead on
the street yesterday while on his way
to the post office. Heart trouble was
the cause of death. Thomson was in
his 66th year, and leaves a widow.

To Probe Outbreak.

Chatham, Ont., Jan. 5.—Dr. Ten-
ant, government inspector of meats
and foods, is expected here this week
to investigate the outbreak of rabies
in Chatham and townships. Already
six head of cattle, seven pigs and a
dog have died in Dover from the dis-
ease. Dr. Joseph Kine, the veterinarian,
has shot and quarantined all suspec-
ted animals, and a determined effort
will be made to stamp out the epi-
demic.

A Western Romance.

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 5.—Wm. E.
Knowles, M. P. Moose Jaw, Sask., was
married in Omaha yesterday, his bride
being Miss Jean M. Laurie, of this
city. The marriage was the result of
a romance which had its beginning in
Ottawa several years ago. Immediately
after the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs.
Knowles left for New Orleans, where
they will spend their honeymoon be-
tween that city and Havana, Cuba.
Later they will go by boat to New
York, and thence to Ottawa for the
session of Parliament.

Seriously Injured.

Meredith, N. H., Jan. 5.—John Mor-
risey and another man who came
here from St. John, N. B., some time
ago were severely injured in a pecu-
liar logging accident at "Venues" camp,
near West Thornton, according to a
report received by Dr. N. C. Nutting.
The men were working upon a log
pile when it toppled upon them and
it required eight horses and a large
crew of men several hours to extract
them. Both are in the Plymouth hos-
pital and are not expected to live.

Farmers Want Protection.

Winipeg, Jan. 5.—Three petitions,
containing in all 185 names of farm
laborers, have been received by Sec-
retary of the Royal Commission on
Workmen's Compensation for In-
juries Act, asking that farm laborers
be given the same protection as in-
dustrial men employed with machinery in
mines, factories, etc. There is no
consideration at present for agricul-

Local

Misapp Water Power.

The Board of Trade has forwarded
to the City Council a resolution asking
the council to co-operate with the
board in ascertaining the value Sec-
retary stream as a source of power.

Action for Damages.

Mr. E. H. McAlpine, acting for Mr.
Milford Ferris, has presented to the
city a claim for damages for injuries
sustained by his client in a fall over
Rodney wharf, Carleton. On the oc-
casion of this claim may depend other
actions for damages against the city
from parties who have fallen over the
wharf as well as from the relatives
of some who met death as a result
of the mishap.

Two Slight Fires.

Firemen were called out at noon
yesterday for two slight fires, neither of
which caused any great damage. The first
was in a house in Edmund
street, owned by Mr. Traflet and oc-

tural employees handling like machin-
ery. It is claimed that work on farms
is as hazardous as other branches of
employment, and that farm laborers
work both longer and harder.

Sir George Drummond.

Montreal, Jan. 5.—The condition of
Sir George Drummond, president of
the Bank of Montreal, which has been
critical for some time, is now such
that members of his family have been
summoned. One son is returning from
Colorado and another from England.
Sir George, who is 80 years old, has
been in failing health for some months.
He last appeared at a public func-
tion when he presided at the opening
of the Royal Edward Tuberculosis
Sanatorium in October, when His Ma-
jesty formally opened the institution
by pressing an electric key in Eng-
land.

Protest Bill.

Toronto, Jan. 5.—The executive com-
mittee of the Dominion Marine As-
sociation, met yesterday unanimously
voiced complete disapproval of the in-
surance bill now before the Senate,
so far as the clauses relating to mar-
ine losses were concerned. Several
other pieces of marine legislation de-
signed to impose new conditions upon
Canadian shipping interests were dis-
missed. A resolution congratulating
vessel men by the superintendent
dockmasters and men on the La-
chance canal was passed. President C.
J. Smith is the president.

Died Suddenly.

Woodstock, Jan. 5.—Albert Pat-
terson, an old well-known citizen
of this town, died suddenly last eve-
ning at his home. He was in his 68th
year, and a resident here for the past
16 years. He was a native of South-
ampton, and is survived by a widow
and three daughters—Mrs. Geo.
Hearns, of Boston; Nellie, now an in-
valid in the St. John General Hospi-
tal; and Grace, who was to have been
married today to Mr. Charles Aiken,
of Santa Barbara, California. The fune-
ral will be held on Friday; the inter-
ment will be at Southampton. Rev.
H. G. Kennedy, of the United Baptist
church, of which deceased was a member,
will officiate.

Dead in Manchester.

Manchester, N. H., Jan. 5.—Mr. John
H. Whitten, superintendent of the
Stark Mills in New Hampshire, one
of the largest manufacturing concerns
of New England, died yesterday after-
noon in this city. He was well known
in New Brunswick, having married
Mary Elizabeth Meredith, of St. Ste-
phen. She survives him. Mr. Whitten
began life as an employee of the Stark
Mills and rapidly rose from the posi-
tion of a common workman to be su-
perintendent. Most of his time has
been given to this company. His death
was sudden and entirely unexpected.

Occupied by Mr. Joseph Cook.

The fire was caused by a stove in the hall be-
coming overheated and setting fire to
the woodwork. The second alarm was
rung in while the firemen were re-
turning from Edmund street and was
for a blaze in Mrs. T. R. Jones' house,
in Elliott St., caused by thawing
water pipes. The chemical engine
was used to put out the fire.

In the Police Court.

In the police court yesterday John
Maher, arrested for assaulting, cut-
ting and wounding Barbara Gay in
her house on Erin street, was remand-
ed. The woman was badly cut and
was unable to be in court. The case
of Frank Garson, reported for doing
a junk business without a license, was
taken up and evidence in support of
the charge was given by Herman Ab-
stein and Morris Katchalsky. The case
was further postponed for other wit-
nesses to be summoned.