



EXCELLENT WAREHOUSE FOR RENT
Front, near Yonge, 5000 square feet;
well lighted, steam-heated, passenger
and freight elevators.
H. H. WILLIAMS & CO.,
24 Victoria St., Toronto.

PROBS: Partly cloudy and cold; some light local snowfalls.

Wheat

PATTEN CAUGHT IN CORN RISE

Chicago Operator is Said to Stand Great Chance of Losing Millions This Time.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The Record-Herald says to-day:
With the dawn of Christmas Day, James A. Patten, whose recent "corners" in cotton and wheat have made him a dominant figure in the bourses of the world, is entering upon the most desperate speculative battle of his career.

Surrounded on all sides by enemies and facing a rising market, he is fighting fiercely to keep down the price of corn. In spite of his most strenuous efforts the cost of that commodity has risen from 10 to 12 cents above the price at which he sold it. He is known to be between 10,000,000 and 20,000,000 bushels of corn "short."

Unless there is a marked and radical change in market conditions in the near future, his enemies say, the erstwhile "wheat king" will by May 1 next be metamorphosed into the "corn goat" to the tune of \$2,000,000 or more.

Already Mr. Patten has suffered huge "paper" losses. All indications point to these losses becoming greater instead of less. During the last month he has been playing Santa Claus to large numbers of farmers throughout the west and southwest. The farmers saw the Christmas-money possibilities of the corn market about the same time that Mr. Patten did, but from a different angle.

That was last August. Mr. Patten sold corn and the farmers bought. Ever since then the price of corn has been going up. With the beginning of the Christmas season the farmers began to close out their lines at profits of from 6 to 10 cents per bushel and Mr. Patten, with his brother George, who is interested in the deal, has contributed the money which has lent a more than wanted air of yuletide cheer to thousands of rural households.

Cotton Men Join.
The farmers' closing out sales are, however, only a preliminary to what the bulls in the corn market confident-ly expect to come. In the December campaign to keep corn down Mr. Patten and his brother have sold with a lavish hand. They are still selling. Matters have come to the point where their selling has no effect on the market.

Meanwhile a group of corn "bulls," composed of a large extent of corn raisers whom Mr. Patten squeezed severely by his recent incursion into the southern cotton market, have organized to keep the price of corn up and have joined with the farmers in their effort to make things unpleasant for Mr. Patten.

They assert, compared with the price of pork and other provisions, corn is worth from 25 to 30 cents a bushel. They are buying corn on that theory. Mr. Patten is trying to sell as fast as he can.

is "Short" Millions.
Exact figures as to how much corn Mr. Patten is "short" are, of course, not available. That is a secret closely guarded.

Continued on Page 7.

ALD. HOPKINS RETIRES FROM MAYORALTY RACE
Found That Sentiment Favored Giving a Second Term to Present Occupant of the Chair.

Vatican Distrusts Albert's Leanings

Cardinal Merry Del Val Sends Instructions of Warning, Lest Socialist Sympathies Hurt Papal Interests.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—The Petite République prints a resume of an alleged cipher despatch sent by Cardinal Merry del Val, papal secretary, to the prince of Brusselles, saying that the accession of King Albert has created inquietude in Rome, where he is considered a lukewarm Catholic, with anti-clerical, even socialist sympathies.

HOUSE WRECKED BY NATURAL GAS

Two Men at Galt Fearfully Burned by Explosion in Cellar.

GALE, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—The one-time comfortable, well-appointed home of Charles Fleur, aged 40, on Beverley-street, is to-day a ruin, while Fleur and a brother-in-law, Thomas Bliton, aged 35, are in the hospital, charred and blackened beyond recognition, and with little chance of surviving. Terrible injuries sustained at 11 o'clock last night, when there was an explosion of natural gas.

Fleur wanted to replenish the dining room fire. The two men descended to the cellar, where a gust of wind blew out the lamp they carried, as they reached the cellar floor. Fleur struck a match and immediately a terrific explosion followed, starting the entire neighboring structure.

The house was literally blown up, one-half being reduced to fragments. The two men in the cellar received the full shock of the explosion, together with the subsequent fire.

When taken out they were most pitiable objects. They were hurried to the hospital in ambulance and Dr. Charbonneau says they may die.

Other inmates of the house, numbering three, escaped comparatively unharmed in a miraculous way. These were Mrs. Fleur, her daughter, aged five, and her son, aged 10. They were in the sitting room, the floor of which was covered with linoleum. The explosion raised this covering and the two children, thus protected, fell from the sheet of flame that shot up from the cellar, and found vent thru the shattered south side of the house. Mrs. Fleur, however, suffered by the fire.

Investigation so far does not disclose the source of the gas which must have been of sudden occurrence, but it is believed that the gas was in the cellar with lighted matches.

The house was of plaster, two storeys high, and comparatively new and worth \$2500. It was owned by Mr. Bliton, is in Grand Valley and was being a brief visit to his sister.

XMAS AT WINDSOR CASTLE
Four Plum Puddings Sent to Four European Monarchs.

UNIONISTS RELUCTANT TO SILENT NOTE

Careful Arguments of the Peers Are Not Appealing to the English Electorate.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—(New York Sun Cable.)—The Christmas lull in the political campaign is welcome to everybody. Battle will be resumed Tuesday, the peers must leave the arena on January 8, after which they are not supposed to participate in electioneering work so far as addressing meetings is concerned, but between Tuesday and that date the peers are looked for hard work, thirty-five of them addressing public meetings in all parts of the country within that period.

This unprecedented flood of lordly eloquence does not seem thus far to have had any great effect. Lords Curzon and Milner have probably gone through the first weeks of the campaign with the best success in the world. The Unionists are lamentably lacking in men who appeal to the imagination of the electorate.

It is a very curious fact that the Unionists are now relying chiefly on the mysterious factor well known as the silent voter. Certainly the noisy ones who attend their meetings give them little encouragement.

Christmas and the Tariff.
Apart from the budget and the house of lords, New York and Berlin have perhaps been the most prominent features in the political fight during the last ten days. One wonders what kind of ideas the unsophisticated, untravelled Britisher has of Christmas conditions in these two great cities.

The other papers declare that America celebrates Christmas joyfully. Prices are high, but money is abundant. Unemployment is a paradise for workmen, for whom tradesmen have had to stock their shops with goods at twice and three times what they would have been able to afford.

It is needless to say that the artistic writers whose descriptions of New York and Berlin would make those who inhabit them of New York and Berlin are reveling in an universal prosperity and the blessings of protection.

A Poor Estimate.
It is crude, childish stuff and gives some excuse to the German Zeitung which is concluding that "when one reads what is written in England about Germany one must assume that the English electors are credited with judgement before and during elections."

The electoral situation is said to be the reason why Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria will not visit England in the early months of the year. The Bulgarian monarch is said to be in the habit of adding Lady Derby in place of Lady Lansdowne, and Lady Salisbury to the roll of ladies of the bedchamber.

POPE MAKES A CONCESSION
Subscribes to Institution for Emigrants Backed by Quirinal.

ROME, Dec. 26.—Bishop Bonomelli of Cremona, who is on intimate terms of friendship with the royal family, founded some time ago an institution for aiding the spiritual welfare of emigrants which the royal family and the government assisted.

The Pope has now, on his own initiative, contributed \$2000 to the institution. This is the first instance of active, open co-operation between the Vatican and an institution founded under the auspices of the royal family and the government.

MADRIZ STARTS TO CLEAN UP
Orders Arrest of Two Officials, One Zelaya's Relative.



OLD CON. PARTY: Want to borrow my harness to drive to City Hall New Year's ch, Reggie? Well, not this year, son. Not this year.

BECK AT PT. ARTHUR FOR THE POWER FIGHT
Will Address Big Public Meeting To-night in Opposition to the Conmee Scheme.

PORT ARTHUR, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Another big fight over the electric power situation is in progress here, and Hon. Adam Beck will take part in a meeting to-morrow night, at which the issue will be expounded to the citizens in the Gaiety Theatre, with L. Walsh as chairman.

James Conmee and his supporters have already held meetings in the attempt to convince the ratepayers that they should hand over the electric light power franchise to the Michigan Power Co., which Mr. Conmee represents.

The hydro-electric power commission had arranged very favorable terms for the city with the Kaminitz Power Co. under the control of the commission. The agreement had been accepted by the ratepayers, but the bylaw was quashed on the opportunity.

Mr. Conmee seized the question, and offered to make a new contract. He claims to have water power rights under the Dominion charter. The Ontario Government, however, disputes this, and asserts that he has no rights.

Conmee is anxious to make a contract with Port Arthur to give him some standing, and proposes to develop power as soon as he gets the contract. As "no lease or grant has been made to the company," to quote Hon. J. J. Foy's letter, the citizens of Port Arthur wish Foy's letter, the citizens of Michigan to tie themselves up to Mr. Conmee's baseless claims.

The agreement with the hydro-electric commission is for power at the rate of \$2.84 and the agreement with the city preserves its title to the streets and has every possible guarantee of fair dealing. The agreement also ensures the development of Silver Falls by the whole of the power on the Niagara River. There is no doubt that the people will carry the bylaw as they did the previous one.

FREDERICK REMINGTON DEAD
Famous Artist Succumbs to Attack of Appendicitis.

CHAS. LAMARCHE IS DEAD
'END CAME SUDDENLY

NORTH BAY, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Charles Lamarche, ex-M.L.A., dropped dead at Sudbury Saturday evening, shortly after entering the home of his daughter, Mrs. Foster Shields. He had not complained of feeling ill, and there was no warning of death's approach.

Mr. Lamarche was fifty-nine years of age, and was elected to the legislature from East Nipissing in 1902, resigning about a year later in favor of Hon. Frank Cochrane. For several years he had occupied the position of local master of the ship Terra Nova, and the removal of all works, with other minor work, is in progress. The selection of all the members of the scientific staff has not yet been definitely made, but it is gradually getting into shape.

Dr. Wilson, chief of the scientific staff, will also be zoologist and artist, and it is expected that three zoologists will be taken with the expedition. Two, and possibly three, biologists will be included in Capt. Scott's personnel, and steps are being taken to induce a man having special knowledge of marine biology to join the expedition.

The services of C. R. Meares, a well-known traveler, who lately completed a most interesting journey on the Chino-Tibetan border, has been secured for the expedition, and is leaving England almost immediately for Siberia to get suitable ponies and dogs. Mr. Meares will collect his animals at Kobe and shipped for Australia and New Zealand. He will join the Terra Nova in New Zealand.

Land parties probably will consist of 59 men in all, 25 of whom will be at the first station and five at the second station. The position of these stations will be alternately east of west of the barrier, according as circumstances may dictate.

An improved motor sledge of a type tried successfully last year in Norway is being constructed, and Capt. Scott is going to Norway early in the new year to superintend the trials.

4 DREADNOUGHTS FOR ITALY
To Be Launched in 1911—Also Two Scout Cruisers—Cost \$50,000,000.

CAPT. SCOTT PREPARING FOR SOUTH POLE DASH
Siberian Canine Aids and Ponies Will Be Shipped to New Zealand to Join the Terra Nova.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Good progress is being made with the preparations for Capt. Scott's Antarctic expedition—officially designated "British Antarctic Expedition of 1910"—and one member of the staff will leave for Siberia before the end of the year to obtain the necessary dogs and ponies.

Capt. Scott has himself only recently been relieved of his appointment as the admiral, in order that he may devote the whole of his time to the work of his expedition. Work has already commenced on the ship Terra Nova, and the removal of all works, with other minor work, is in progress. The selection of all the members of the scientific staff has not yet been definitely made, but it is gradually getting into shape.

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STORM IN NEW YORK
NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A fall of ten inches of snow blocked the streets to-day and 10,000 shovellers and 6000 trucks were set to work in an effort to clear the roads for to-morrow's traffic. It is estimated it will cost \$200,000 for the job.

\$100 Per Foot
Bloor Street, near Spadina; choice corner lot, suitable for doctor.
H. H. WILLIAMS & CO.,
26 Victoria Street, Toronto.

HUNDREDS MADE HOMELESS BY STORM TIDE

Sweeps Along Massachusetts Bay Coast—Couple Drowned in Bed—Great Damage Over Wide Area.

A heavy fall of snow everywhere piled high by a strong northeast wind, covers New England, most of the middle Atlantic states and a fringe of the mid-west, and many places stalled. Thruout the east wire communication is seriously crippled and cities and country highways are impassable.

Some loss of life is reported. At Boston a great tidal wave crept into a house, drowned a man and his wife in bed, and then crept away. Two men were drowned near Seymour, Conn., when a trolley car plunged into the river. The crew of the steamer Thurman ashore on the Jersey coast, was taken off by life savers.

At Chelsea, so recently devastated by fire, 2500 persons have been driven from their homes by high water.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—Grim winter swept into New England to-day on the wings of a northeast storm with such terrific energy as to cause great damage, much inconvenience, not a little suffering and a few deaths.

The gale drove a tide into Massachusetts Bay which nearly equaled that of the famous storm of 1851. A heavy, wet snow prostrated all wires thruout the southeastern sections, railroad trains were stalled and three persons lost their lives in Everett and Chelsea, by the sudden rise of the tide.

Coming on a full moon, the gale rolled a wave along the coast which, in some places, reached a height of over fourteen feet above low water mark, only being exceeded by that which swept the coast at the time "Milton's Light" was destroyed in April 1837.

In this city, the tide went across Atlantic-avenue on the water front, filling hundreds of cellars and causing an estimated damage of \$100,000. Everett, Cornelius Harkin and his wife were caught in their beds and overwhelmed by the flood, while an infant lost its life in Chelsea under similar circumstances.

In many places along the coast persons were taken from their homes in boats, and hundreds of people and families, from the upper stories of their houses.

In Everett, boats from the Chelsea Naval Hospital, were used to rescue people and families from the upper stories of their houses.

A wireless message from Highland Light says an 84 mile and many Cape Cod for two hours after a velocity which has not been exceeded since 1858.

The tide went completely over Main-street in Provincetown, flooding the cellars of all the houses on the waterfront.

At Lynn the tide made a clean sweep across the narrow lanes which connects Nahant with the mainland, and for several hours that rocky peninsula was an island. The state highway was covered to a depth of four feet with sea water.

On Nantasket Beach in Hull, all the bulkheads from Pemberton to the Atlantic Hotel, were used to rescue away or badly damaged, while a summer residence between Point Alorton and the Nantasket House lost its piazza, and many of its structures were undermined. It is estimated that the damage to property in that town alone will reach \$100,000.

Storm in New York.
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Three deaths in the city were charged to-day to the severity of the storm. The victims were men who had spent the night vainly seeking shelter and food, finally succumbing to exposure. Joseph Hart, 65 years old, died in a pew at a Catholic Church to-day, probably of exhaustion after wandering in the cold.

Plate glass windows were smashed and frail structures overturned in many parts of the city. Hundreds of automobiles were stalled in snowdrifts and many were still in the same plight to-night.

Sixteen inches at Philadelphia.
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 26.—A snowfall of 16 inches, which drifted in places to a height of ten feet or more, completely tied up the city. Hundreds of cars and trolley traffic in this vicinity.

Train Blocked Around Pittsburgh.
PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 26.—All long distance trains on the Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Ohio, and Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroads, both east and westbound, have practically abandoned schedules in and out of Pittsburgh. It may be days before normal running conditions again prevail.