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**Mattresses of all kinds,
Wire Mattresses and Cots,
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The special values we are offering just now in MEN and BOYS' OVER-
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MEN'S OVERCOATS at \$4.00, \$5.00, \$5.25, \$6.00, \$6.50, \$8.00.
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Also a nice line of furnishings to select from.

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We have all styles of Driving and
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lowest prices. Our stock is reliable.
We use the best leather, the best of
buckles, in fact everything that goes
to make perfect harness is here. We
also make a fine line of Collars. We
keep everything needed for the horse,
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Kodaks from \$5 to \$25
Brownie Cameras at \$1 & \$2

Ask to see the new Brownie, takes
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E. G. NELSON & CO.,
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FOR Ash Pungs and Delivery Sleds CALL AT JAMES A. KELLY'S, 640 to 644, Main Street, North End. FALL WOOLLENS.

My stock of Imported and Domestic Woollens now open.

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101 Charlotte St., Opp. Hotel Dufferin, Telephone 1251.

IN A TERRIBLE STEW

Over the Proposed Sale of the Danish West Indies.

BUFFALO, Dec. 31.—A Washington despatch to a morning paper says: Information received here indicates that the Danish government is in a terrible stew over the proposed sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The Washington government thought that everything had been arranged for the signing of a treaty by which possession was to be transferred from Denmark to the United States, but opposition to the sale has developed in Copenhagen which has frightened the new liberal ministry into withholding its consent to the arrangements. According to the understanding in official circles here, the trouble in consummating the deal lies in the inexperience of the Danish ministry. For the first time in many years, the liberals are in power, but they are afraid to take any radical step that may result in a return of the conservatives, who are making the most of the agitation over the West Indian matter. A suggestion that a plebiscite be held in the islands to determine whether the inhabitants want American or Danish rule has been made, but not formally, to the state department or its diplomatic representative at Copenhagen. That this government will not consent to a plebiscite appears to have been determined, so that Denmark has no chance of conciliating her subjects by such a course.

WIRELESS TELEPHONE.

Successful Experiment Conducted Yesterday in Kentucky.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—A special to the Herald from Murray, Ky., says: A successful public exhibition of wireless telephony was conducted here today by Nathan Stubblefield, an eccentric electrician and inventor, who lives about three miles from this town and has for years been conducting experiments in electricity. He was able to talk a distance of from 1,500 to 2,000 yards, which was as far as the trial tests were made. Public tests were held at a continuation of numerous private tests that Stubblefield has made recently. He talked at a distance of nearly half a mile to a neighbor's house on Christmas evening, and has in the presence of a number of reputable and intelligent citizens conducted tests which were convincing for the distance of which the trials were made. Stubblefield claims that it is just as easy to communicate for miles as it is for yards. He contends that the earth by its revolving creates a certain amount of electricity which encircles it like a blanket and by absorbing which the earth has become practically a great magnet. He says that the electrical envelope is capable of transmitting the sound of the human voice and that it is possible, by the proper receivers to send a single message over any space.

VIOLATED EXCLUSION ACT.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The state prison commission in its annual report says: "For a year past the commission has been investigating and considering the condition in the jails of the counties along the Canadian border. These jails during the past year have been overcrowded with United States prisoners, charged with violation of the Chinese Exclusion act. As this law is likely to be re-enacted by the present congress and continued indefinitely, the commission at its December meeting adopted a resolution requesting the United States government to provide a suitable prison of its own on the Canadian border for Chinese prisoners, thereby relieving the intolerable overcrowding of our jails in the border counties."

BRIEFS BY WIRE.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 31.—The department stores here were burned today. The loss is about a quarter of a million.
PORT ARTHUR, Dec. 31.—The last spike in the Canadian Northern railway was driven today.
ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The Sacred Heart College attached to St. Joseph's church, Cohoes, was totally destroyed by a fire, supposed to have been caused by an overheated boiler in the basement, and St. Anne's convent, which adjoins it, was badly damaged. Loss is estimated at \$60,000.

MOUNTED RIFLES.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—The second western contingent of the Canadian Mounted Rifles arrived last night over Canadian Pacific. All are well. They left this morning for Halifax.
OTTAWA, Dec. 31.—Recruiting for the medical army corps will not take place until Monday or Tuesday of next week. Enough applications have been received to man three field companies, if it were necessary.

FIGHT TO A FINISH.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Miss Knight said to a representative of the Associated Press this evening: "There is absolutely no talk of or thought of a compromise of my suit against the Duke of Manchester. The case has gone too far for that. I am promised that the hearing will come off early in January, and, so far as I am concerned, it will be a fight to a finish."

THE WEATHER.

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—Fresh westerly winds, mostly fair; Wednesday, fresh to strong southwest and west winds, cloudy, with scattered showers of sleet; about the same temperature.

HARD TO GET A DRINK.

Portland Is Not a Dry Town, But Is Near It.

Sheriff Pearson's year is almost up. For eleven months now he has been engaged, or his officers have, illustrating how prohibition may prohibit. Personally Sheriff Pearson views the past year as having been a most successful one. He said Thursday to a Portland Press reporter: "I said if I was elected I would honestly try to enforce this law and no man today can say that I have not carried out my word. From all sides there have come to me praise for what has been accomplished. Retail dealers say their business has never been better and men whom I don't know have come in here to thank me for what has been done. The poor devil who has saved the city five thousand dollars during the past year, something never known before. The year to me has been a busy but a successful one. While Portland today is not an absolutely 'dry' town it is harder to get a drink in than it has been for many years. I could have the assistance I need to me from the police force to capture the pocket peddlars we could make Portland much harder to get a drink in than it is."

But as the sheriff well knows rum is being sold here today though it has been driven into the places. Secret hiding places are to be found everywhere. In one instance liquor is kept in a burglar proof safe. In another place one inquires for a drink, is conducted through several rooms and finally faced in a corridor by the man who conducted him, who takes a bottle of what is called "whiskey" from one pocket and a glass from the other. Walk down Center street and if you look right a boy will joggle up against you and say: "Are yer lookin' for beer or hard stuff?" Tell him you want beer and he will lead you through so many dark alleyways that you fear all kinds of horrors and end in a shed, lighted by a lone lantern. There you see a crowd of men and boys silently guzzling beer out of unwaashed glasses. The beer is not of fine quality. A man from Milwaukee wouldn't offer it to a hog without apologies, but one pays his ten cents for it and is glad to get out alive.

A CRUSOE COINCIDENCE.

Which Accounts for the Duration of Robinson's Exile.

Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale calls attention to some quaint and curious features in connection with Robinson Crusoe which have not hitherto been pointed out. He writes: "Readers who are curious in English history must not fail to observe that Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked on his island the 30th of September 1659. It was in that month that the English commonwealth ended and Richard Cromwell left the palace at Whitehall. Robinson lived in this island home for twenty-eight years. These twenty-eight years covered the exact period of the second Stuart reign in England. Robinson Crusoe returned to England in June 1687; the convention parliament which established William III. met in London at the same time. All this could not be an accident coincidence. Defoe must have meant that the 'True-born Englishman' could not live in England during the years while the Stuarts reigned. Robinson Crusoe was a ruler himself on his own island, and was never the subject of Charles II. or James II. He was not a man without a country. He had a little country of his own; but he was a man in a country where there was no king but himself."

SMARTER THAN INGERSOLL.

Robert G. Ingersoll used to be fond of telling how, when he first came to Washington from the West, he once encountered in one of the corridors of the Capitol an old negro woman vigorously scrubbing the floor when she heard anyone coming, and, when the footsteps died away, busily reading her Bible.

He slipped up on her very quietly one morning, and, taking her by surprise with her precious book, said: "Mary, do you believe all you read there?" "I suttanly do," she replied; "every word, Col. Ingersoll." "Do you believe that that God made man out of dust?" "In coase I does." "Say, it happened to rain hard about that time and the dust was gone and there was nothing but mud?" To which old mammy retorted: "Den de good Lawd knowed enough to know dat it was time to make dem lawyers and infidels, Col Ingersoll."—Washington Star.

MINISTER, SPORTING REPORTER.

GLENS FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 2.—The Rev. William A. Wood qualified yesterday for the office of justice of the peace of the town of Neareau, to which office he was elected last spring and which he will assume on Jan. 1 for a term of one year.

The Rev. Mr. Wood was graduated from Colgate University and is an ordained clergyman of the Baptist church, and is now the pastor of a small church at West Mountain, a few miles from here.

He does the religious, court and sporting news for local daily. He is the Warren county representative of Bryan's Commoner and is still a devoted worshipper of the dethroned idol.

He has acquired a high reputation as a referee in various sporting events, and is the manager of the Chahoon indoor baseball team, the champions of northern New York, and is considerable of a player himself. He also is a member of a hunting club and during the open season spends much time after deer.

FRAUD AND FAILURE.

That is What Bishop Potter Says About Prohibition.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—During a discussion of the subject of the opening of Sunday saloons before the Church club, Bishop Potter said that, inasmuch as the "powers that be" had decided against any change in the existing excise laws of New York state the subject was academic. Bishop Potter then went on to describe the law as it exists, saying it recognized drunkenness as a mitigation of crime, and that this attitude of the law was false and vicious.

"That was the first blunder that was made," said Bishop Potter. "The next was in the matter of vicious sentiment. John B. Gough always pictured the drunkard as a victim, who was not a criminal in getting drunk, because he was practically a martyr. That is just as false a sentiment as the other is a false lie, and the whole theory of Mr. Gough's teaching was false and wrong."

Bishop Potter said concerning prohibition: "Wherever it has triumphed it has educated a race of frauds and hypocrites. In Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont today by actual statistics the consumption of certain preparations is larger than anywhere else in the country, one of these is a sarsaparilla which has 17 per cent. of alcohol; another is a compound with 27 per cent of alcohol, another is a bit-ter with 61 per cent. of alcohol, a good claret has 10 per cent. of alcohol, and great multitudes of people who are sworn prohibitionists are the consumers of these things. We are going to persist in this policy, to screw up all the front doors on Sunday and open the back door. We are going to nurse a race of hypocrites, to furnish an opportunity to the police to exact a bonus and to close the door to the manly and Christian method of dealing with intemperance.

"Prohibition is an impudent fraud and an impudent failure."

AGAINST HIS WISHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Prest, Castro of Venezuela has written an open letter, copies of which have been received by officials here, in which he defends the general policy he has pursued.

An indirect allusion is made to the German affair in the president's appeal for united support in defense of the fatherland. The letter was in response to an application which was granted for the release of several journalists imprisoned at Caracas. In the course of the letter Prest, Castro says: "It is painful to observe that the rashness of some, the impatient ambition of others, the mistaken criticism of the leading classes, and the obstinacy of these revolutionary spirits, have sorely tried the virtues of my liberal policy. At a time when I have hoped to see the country happy and its citizens enjoying every comfort, I have the painful duty of advancing repressive measures contrary to my character, my education and all my sentiments."

ARE MORE RECOVERIES.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The state commission in lunacy in its summary of the operations of the fiscal year, states as the most important feature of the work of the insane hospitals the greatly increased number of recoveries. These amount to 1,209, as against 1,029 during the preceding year. In addition to this number 821 patients were discharged from the hospitals in an improved condition and able to maintain themselves in the community. The number of new cases of insanity developing during the year throughout the state was 4,561, or 153 more than during the preceding year. The insane of the state now number 24,300 a net increase of 536 during the year.

KITCHENER REPORTS SUCCESS.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Lord Kitchener, under date of Johannesburg, Dec. 30, sends a weekly budget showing that since Dec. 23 35 Boers have been killed, 237 taken prisoners, and 51 surrendered. These, says the commander-in-chief, do not include De Wet's losses in his attacks on Dartnell and Frlman, when it is reliably estimated, fifty were killed and fifty wounded.

De Wet is still in the vicinity of Langberg. Colonel Spence and Col. Plumer came in contact Dec. 28 with Britz's commando and took twenty-seven prisoners. General Bruce Hamilton came in touch with Grobelaar's commando near Marydale, December 23. He killed four Boers and captured twenty-seven.

CANADIAN OFFICER KILLED.

STRATFORD, Dec. 31.—George Renie, of the inland revenue here, has received official telegram announcing the death of South Africa on December 20th of his nephew, Capt. H. Elliott, while leading an attack on a Boer commando at Gathberg Nek. The Boers were driven out in disorder. Six were killed and fifty were captured. Capt. Elliott was a son of Henry Elliott, formerly of Windsor, Ont.

WITHDRAWN CENSORSHIP.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The Commercial Cable Co. this morning sends the following notice: "We are advised that the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, makes the announcement that the American government has withdrawn the censorship on messages to Manila, but the government claims the right to inspect the messages to which this measure applies."

HOCKEY BOOTS

FOR EVERYONE.

In Black, Tan or Chocolate.
Skates put on free of charge, while you wait, by experienced workmen.
Call and See Them—
The Prices Will
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OVERCOAT
Or SUIT, Try
EDGECOMBE &
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Their
Woollens
Are all of the
Newest Makes
And Mixtures.
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DOMESTIC...
El Oscar,
La Patria,
Thomas Guitierrez.
...FOR SALE BY...
THOMAS L. BOURKE, 25 Water St.

BARLEY BREE.

Your Taste
Is Correct
if tested by Barley Bree
—the ideal whiskey by
the verdict of all connois-
seurs.

JAMES RYAN,

KING SQUARE.
GOING! GOING!! GOING!!!
These Blue Nose Buffalos at
Wm. Peters',
266 Union Street.
Are going off. If you want one
call soon.

Pretty Gifts!

Small fancy goods at 10 to 25 cents.
Were formerly much higher. Come
and see them.
I have a new stock of musical in-
struments. Sheet music, old and new.
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CHAS. BAILLIE,

Tobacco, Pipes, Etc.

Direct importer of Havana Cigar
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AFTER THE FIRE.

As soon as we are through with
the insurance people we will have
a Sale of Damaged Goods at

F. E. HOLMAN'S Store,
King Street, opposite our old
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A. E. CLARKE.