

The Ideal Christmas Gift

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Ten-Inch Disc (two records on one).....85¢
Twelve-Inch Disc (two records on one).....\$1.25

Latest Catalogues on Application

FLETCHER BROS.

Exclusive Columbia Distributors

CALCUTTA POLICE KEPT ON ALERT

Attempt to Communicate With Prisoners in Alifare Jail Discovered

Calcutta, Dec. 2.—The Calcutta police have been actively engaged in the investigation of an extraordinary attempt to communicate with prisoners in Alifare jail. A kite was flown over the prison, where it dropped. As it happened it fell into the hands of the jail authorities, who found thereon a message intended for the prisoners connected with the bomb conspiracy. For some days before his execution, Khudiram Bose was engaged in writing a bulky autobiography. On the night before his execution he put this in an envelope, directed to Babu Kalidas Bose, wakil of Mousterpore, and handed it to the jail authorities, with the request that after his execution it might be handed to the wakil who was his counsel. The wakil has applied for it, and correspondence is going on between him and the jail authorities. The curious announcement is made that Babu Kalidas Bose, out of sheer curiosity, has preserved in a bottle a quantity of ashes collected from Khudiram's funeral pyre, not because he sympathized with his crime, but because it might enable the scientists or alchemists to detect something in it that would tend to make the Anarchist a pinch of the ashes, but "as that would savor of sympathy with anarchy Babu Kalidas has stubbornly refused such requests."

Swadesh meetings are still being held in Beadon-square, Calcutta, but they are comparatively quiet affairs, and show a gradual decline in the number of students attending. On a recent occasion the speakers referred to the main object of the swadesh movement, as the Lancashire mills, ascribing it to the swadesh movement, and the recent house-arrests and prosecutions were supposed to be in connection with the swadesh movement. The speaker, Moulvie Abul Kasim, alleged that the main object of the swadesh movement, of his officers who had been repressive, Moulvie Abul Hossain, in referring to the cotton crisis in Lancashire, said that this was the fulfillment of the promise that a revolution would be brought on among the British mill-owners, instead of in Bengal. The swadesh movement was not the result of Mr. Durendra Nath Bannerjee's speech-making, or any other. The speaker would call it a godsend, and the necessity of aiding by the Hindu devotees, or Sadhakas, in religion, who gave up their devotion midway before completion, must run the risk of going mad, and the speaker contended that what was true of religious devotion was also applicable to devotion to swadesh.

Mr. Harriman's Health.
New York, Dec. 23.—E. H. Harriman's secretary, Albert C. Wells, again denied tonight that the physical condition of the financier was serious. During the few days that Mr. Harriman has remained at home in conse-

quence of what was described as a slight bilious attack, there have been rumors that he was quite sick. It is said that Mr. Harriman is only availing himself of the brief holiday respite from office routine.

In Grip of Winter.

Plattsburg, N.Y., Dec. 23.—Upper New York state, and particularly the Adirondack region, is in the grip of one of the most severe cold spells it has ever experienced so early in the winter. The mercury at Lake Placid registered 22 degrees below today, while at Upper Chateaugay lake it stood at 19 below and at other nearby points from 12 to 18 below. Up-state farmers whose wheat has been dry for months, and who have been depending upon the streams for their water supply, are suffering greatly. Farmers at Ellettsburg have been forced to drive five miles for water.

A FRENCH STATESMAN

M. Pelletan, the Most Absent-Minded of French Politicians

Paris, Dec. 23.—Of all the modern French politicians of note none is more absent-minded than M. Pelletan. And none is a harder worker. M. Pelletan, who was for many years on the staff of a morning paper, has never got out of the habit of working late at night, and his wife, knowing this never allows him to go away without packing a little foot-warmer in his bag, so that M. Pelletan shall not catch cold when he is working late. At recent Congress at Dijon M. Pelletan was the guest of a prominent citizen of Mustarville. He arrived late and unpacked the contents of his bag and put them on the mantelpiece, having only just the time to change his coat and rush off to the Congress. On his return M. Pelletan had some three hours' writing to do. He took his foot-warmer from the mantelpiece, bed packed it and his other belongings into his bag, so as not to have any more when he woke. Next day, after M. Pelletan's departure, his host wrote his article, and before going to bed packed it and his other belongings into his bag, so as not to have any more when he woke. Next day, after M. Pelletan's departure, his host wrote his article, and before going to bed packed it and his other belongings into his bag, so as not to have any more when he woke. Next day, after M. Pelletan's departure, his host wrote his article, and before going to bed packed it and his other belongings into his bag, so as not to have any more when he woke.

Value of Canada's Crops.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—The census bureau tonight issued a statement giving the value of Canada's field crops for the year as \$42,338,000, grown on 27,965,683 acres of land. The northwest wheat crop is valued at \$72,424,000.

Postal Revenue Large.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—The report of the postmaster-general for the year ended March 31 shows a net surplus of \$1,082,801, the best showing in the history of the Canadian postoffice. This surplus is in spite of a very large expansion in the postal service, including the establishment of 446 new postoffices. It is estimated that 398,011,000 letters were posted in Canada in the twelve months ending March 31, an increase over the previous year of 31,912,000.

ROLE OF CASTRO IS SHAKEN OFF

Acting President Gomez in Venezuela Appoints Entirely New Ministry

POPULAR VOICE OBEYED

Member of Castro's Suite Denies Army and Navy Equipment Story

Port of Spain, Dec. 21.—President Vincente Gomez, to whom General Cipriano Castro handed over the presidency on his departure for Europe, has established a new cabinet in Venezuela. He replaced the old ministry, the leader of which was Dr. Jose de Paula, the foreign minister, who has been named as the minister of Education. Castro himself, in the negotiations that culminated in the ousting of the minister of Education, and the severance of diplomatic relations with Holland, with a new body of men, who represent various factions in the state and who have figured prominently in various ways in the political history of the country.

Not only has Dr. Paula disappeared from the councils of the nation, but Dr. Baldo, who is now working in Castro's suite abroad, also has been removed from his political position as minister of Education. Gen. Diego Forjan, the minister of war, who also was war minister in the cabinet of Acting President Gomez in 1906, has been superseded by Gen. Oliver, who took a prominent part in crushing the revolutionists six years ago.

The new cabinet is composed as follows: Minister of interior, Linares Alcántara; minister of foreign affairs, Gonzales Guinaud; minister of Finance, Munoz Tebar; minister of war, Gen. Olivarez; minister of fomento (public works), Dr. Carabano Ojras; minister of public works, Gen. Ojras; minister of public instruction, Dr. Maldonado.

Advices received from Caracas, where the strictest censorship is being observed, indicate that the whole of Venezuela has been in a ferment ever since President Castro left, and that the crisis has reached a new stage when it became necessary for Acting President Gomez to take decisive steps which he did by eliminating from his cabinet those who were closely associated with the Castro rule and under the Castro domination. The revolutionary factions, which gained strength with Castro's presence, and which played a prominent part in the negotiations against the absent president, which took the form of rioting and insurrection, were checked by the show of force, and the revolutionary influence that threatened to sweep the country was overcome in a matter of days. It is said that should not be held long in abeyance.

The establishment of a new government in Venezuela was expected from day to day, and it is probable that it will be accomplished in the near future. The anti-Castro campaign, which began at Caracas and other places in Venezuela, called for the arrest of public works ministers. Before leaving, Castro is said to have claimed Vice-President Gomez his successor, said to the nation: "Surround me with your co-operation in the fulfillment of his mission and I will be myself, and you will have done your duty."

In the same proclamation, President Castro declared to what might be taken as a farewell message: "The Venezuelan nation is already on the road to prosperity and greatness because of the strict fulfillment of obligations and the sound collection of revenues, and because of the state of peace which we enjoy, and which it is your duty to maintain, that my work may endure."

Beyond Restraint.

Ever since then events have moved swiftly in Venezuela, and on Dec. 14th the people of Caracas, unable longer to restrain their passion, arose against Castro. They tore down his own statues and pictures of the president and burned them in the public square. While some buildings and property were wrecked, and the city and gathering strength and fury with every new act of violence. It was not until the 21st that Castro's rule had ended. Castro's position of acting president, was far from secure. It was brought forcibly to his attention that those who were loyal to him, that the must either withdraw from that office or cast aside the title of acting president. Castro's ministers who were still trying to force the Castro rule upon the people. Apparently he chose the latter course. He first declared that he was in a state of defence, thereby securing control of the army, and then appointed a new cabinet, the members of which represent a diversity of factions.

On several other occasions when Castro has turned over the government to the anti-Castro camp, chief among them predicted that Gomez would succeed Castro as president of the republic. He had many supporters from those who were loyal to his candidacy being Gen. Arango, the former minister of war, who worked earnestly to place Gomez in power. While some buildings and property were wrecked, and the city and gathering strength and fury with every new act of violence. It was not until the 21st that Castro's rule had ended. Castro's position of acting president, was far from secure. It was brought forcibly to his attention that those who were loyal to him, that the must either withdraw from that office or cast aside the title of acting president. Castro's ministers who were still trying to force the Castro rule upon the people. Apparently he chose the latter course. He first declared that he was in a state of defence, thereby securing control of the army, and then appointed a new cabinet, the members of which represent a diversity of factions.

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LAIRD OF SKIBO ON STEEL DUTY

Says Industry in States Does Not Longer Require Protection

CHEAPER THAN ABROAD

The Influence of Combination Among Manufacturers on Export Trade

Washington, Dec. 21.—That the steel industry of the United States has reached a point where it does not need protection, but can stand alone in competition, was the feature of the testimony of Andrew Carnegie today before the committee on ways and means of the House of Representatives, which is securing evidence designed to assist it in the preparation of a new tariff bill.

The Laird of Skibo kept the committee and the audience in constant laughter by his ready retorts to the questions asked him. He would not deal in figures, claiming that the more figures were used the more the subject would become "befogged." Mr. Carnegie characterized Mr. Schwab as a genius and Mr. Gary as a most lovable man, but a very shrewd one. He expressed the opinion that wages would not be reduced if the tariff was lowered or removed entirely. He was utterly opposed to an income tax, believing, as he said, with Mr. Gladstone, that such a tax produced a nation of liars.

Chairman Payne took an active part in the examination of the witness when Mr. Carnegie resumed the stand after recess.

Mr. Carnegie said that the cost of manufacturing steel is greater in Great Britain than here. He said that the committee should send experts familiar with the steel industry to the large mills of Europe, to study the question of comparative cost of labor. "They will be received by the foreign manufacturers with open arms," he said.

"It is a condition, and not a theory, that confronts the committee at this time," said Representative Longworth. "It is understood that the President-elect will call a special session of congress for the purpose of enacting a tariff bill, and we must prepare a bill for them to pass on. We have no time to send experts to Europe. What I want to know is what authority besides the testimony given by you and Judge Gary, who I don't think went as far as you do, have for taking the duty off steel?"

Mr. Carnegie pointed out that there is practically no foreign made steel imported into the U.S. "Others parties are not exporting here because they have an international agreement, as your consul says." Representative Hill, of Connecticut, was desirous of learning more of this alleged international agreement between German, English and American steel manufacturers. He also wanted to know about the agreement between steel interests and the railroad companies as to the price of steel rails.

"That is a question you should ask those interested in it," he replied, when asked by Mr. Hill if a combination of the English, German and American steel manufacturers exists. "I do not know, but I have heard it stated that there is such a combination," continued Mr. Carnegie. "You have it from Mr. Miles, who appeared before your committee, I think it is highly probable, I would not be telling the whole truth if I said that I did not think that there was such a combination."

"If the prices of steel were fixed by this combination in London, would it affect that combine here?" was the next question.

"It would, of course prevent competition here," replied Mr. Carnegie. "Do you know of any combination to fix the price of wire nails in the U.S.?" asked Mr. Hill.

"No," Mr. Carnegie replied. "I am not so positive about the existence of a combination to fix the price of nails in the U.S. as I am without knowledge of any combine of any kind."

Representative Bourke, of New York, asked Mr. Carnegie many questions regarding his advent in the steel business. In the course of his testimony about the conditions existing at that time, Mr. Carnegie said that he would not have gone into the steel manufacturing business without the protection of the tariff.

Large Bond Issue.

New York, Dec. 22.—The board of directors of the Chesapeake Railway authorized an issue of \$7,000,000 five per cent bonds. Of this amount \$11,000,000 will be issued at once.

Fireman Killed.

Corwall, Ont., Dec. 23.—A Grand Trunk fireman, William Hargrave, fell from his engine near Lancaster yesterday and sustained injuries which caused his death. His home was in Brockville, and he was about 23 years old.

For Breaking Quarantine.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 22.—William Mahoney and Roselle McCarthy, both residents of Chatham, broke diptheria quarantine two weeks ago and got married. This morning case was fined \$40, and not having the money, they were sent to jail.

Election Petitions Dismissed.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 22.—Judge McLeod this afternoon dismissed the election protests against four New Brunswick members of the Commons. Hon. Wm. Fugleley, Dr. Daniel, Mr. Crockett and Mr. McAllister, because the petitions were filed too late. He ordered the deposits to be returned to the petitioners.

Unlton City, Tenn., Dec. 23.—The state attorneys in the Night Riders' trial this afternoon announced that they would close their case on Thursday. The defence will be an ally for each of the eight defendants. Members of their families will swear that they were at home and in bed during the night of Oct. 19, and that Capt. Rankin was murdered. No attempt will be made to show their parents the nights that other outrages were perpetrated as the defendants are indicted only for the murder of Rankin.

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Store will be open Saturday

For the Xmas Feast

Pure Pork Sausage, per pound.....	20c
Sausage Meat, per pound.....	20c
Italian Chestnuts, per pound.....	25c
C. & B. Plum Puddings, \$1.50, 75c and.....	40c
Home Made Plum Puddings, \$1.25, \$1.00, 75c and.....	25c
Home Made Mince-meat, per pound.....	15c
C. & B. Mince-meat, 75c, 40c and.....	25c
Cranberries, per quart.....	25c
Cranberry Sauce, per jar.....	40c
Malaga Grapes, per pound.....	25c
Bananas, per dozen.....	30c
Celery, per head.....	5c
Pop Corn, per package.....	5c
Table Apples, 4 pounds for.....	25c

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DIXI H. ROSS & COMPANY

Tels. 52, 1052 and 1590. Up-to-date Grocers. 1317 Government Street

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CARVING SETS

Best Sheffield make, from \$1.50 to \$18.00

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From 10¢ to \$4.00

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A complete line at reduced prices

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NEW VALENCIA RAISINS (Large) 2 lbs. 25c	RE-CLEANED CURRANTS 3 lbs. 25c
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Xmas Suggestions

Quick Tapioca Chocolate Custard for Puddings; 2 pkts.....	25c
Pink, White, Chocolate and Orange Icings; 2 pkts.....	25c
Pure Gold Jellies, all kinds; 90c per doz; 3 pkts.....	25c

THE FAMILY CASH GROCERY

Corner Yates and Douglas Streets. Tel. 812

CHOICE SEEDED RAISINS 3 pkts. 25c	NEW BON TON RAISINS 2 pkts. 25c
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JOHN JAMESON'S THREE STAR WHISKEY

PURE POT STILL WHISKEY, made from the finest Home-grown Grain and Cereals and celebrated for its superior quality for MORE THAN 100 YEARS.

JOHN JAMESON and SON, LIMITED, DUBLIN. Distillers to H.M. the King.

Northern Interior of B. C.

Miners and prospectors going into Telkwa, Omineca or Ingleside Camps will find a full stock of mining tools, camp outfits and provisions at my general store at Hazelton, which is the head of navigation on the Skeena River and headquarters for outfitting for above points.

R. S. SARGENT, HAZELTON, B. C.

Hudson Bay Boat Wrecked

Winnipeg, Dec. 23.—The commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company has received information that the company's barque Stork, recently reported from London as overdue from James Bay, was wrecked at Limboon shoals in Hudson's Bay. The crew and passengers were saved and are all well at Moose Factory. The captain of the Stork has reached the railway line, and is now proceeding to London.

DEED.

BORN.—Yesterday, December 18, the wife of Johann Wulffsohn of a son.

DIED.

DOW.—At the Jubilee hospital on the morning of December 1, of stomach cancer, Anna, beloved wife of Hector Dow, machinist.

FOR SALE.—One yearling registered Red Poll Bull. Apply to C. T. Gibbons, Cowichan Station. 435

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Monday, December

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BIG REGATTA ON LAKE WASHINGTON

International Rowing Event in Connection With Alaska-Yukon Exposition

JAMES BAYS TO BE INVITED

Coach O'Sullivan is Already Looking Around For New Oarsmen

Victoria will be requested to enter crews in a regatta which is being arranged to take place on Lake Washington next summer in connection with the Alaska-Yukon exposition.

The James Bay club, while taking up all forms of athletics, devotes itself to rowing more than anything else.

The proposition that the athletes of British Columbia and the western states be brought together in a meet under the auspices of the big fair of 1909 is accorded the most hearty endorsement of the local sportsmen.

Material Available
Already Mr. O'Sullivan is beginning to size up the material at hand.

Referring to the proposed exposition regatta an exchange says: A regatta of the kind which will take place on Lake Washington during the month of May, according to plans now in the making at the university of Washington.

Excited Over Murder
Winnipeg, Dec. 22.—Wrought up to a great pitch of excitement over the murder of two Chinamen last Saturday night and the failure of the police to ferret out the murderer, the local Chinamen have appealed to the imperial Chinese authorities to help unravel the mystery which surrounds the murder and the mysterious disappearance of two Chinamen a year ago.

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CLAIMANTS ARE HARD TO FIND

Government Having Difficulty in Discovering Crew of Sealer

DISCRIMINATION SHOWED

Owners of Two Sealing Vessels Suffer For Benefit of Quoniam Companions

THE "LYING CLOCKS" OF LONDON DISCUSSED

Efforts Will Be Made to Secure Uniformity of Time

London, Dec. 22.—The "Lying Clocks" of London were the subject of a spirited correspondence in the early part of the year.

It is urged by the guild that it is highly desirable that arrangements should be made for the synchronization of a number of public clocks in London and in other large towns.

BOOKS ENTERTAINMENT

Successful Christmas Gathering of People of the District.

The heart of the small boy, and of the little Miss, was made glad on the evening of Friday, December 18, when the annual Christmas tree and entertainment of the school children of the district was held at Cheaters Hall.

During the evening Rifle Club prizes were presented by Mrs. Harry Helmreich to the winners of the "Winnipeg Heilmekel Medal, Louis Godel; Schoolmaster's Cup, J. D. Donaldson; Figure Target, Johnny Whiteman.

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BOOKS ENTERTAINMENT

Successful Christmas Gathering of People of the District.

The heart of the small boy, and of the little Miss, was made glad on the evening of Friday, December 18, when the annual Christmas tree and entertainment of the school children of the district was held at Cheaters Hall.

During the evening Rifle Club prizes were presented by Mrs. Harry Helmreich to the winners of the "Winnipeg Heilmekel Medal, Louis Godel; Schoolmaster's Cup, J. D. Donaldson; Figure Target, Johnny Whiteman.

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The Gift Center

IT IS THE SUPERLATIVE VALUE of Santa's choicest gifts which draws the crush of Christmas gift buyers to our store. Be it gloves, handkerchiefs, neckwear, or any other dainty present, in each line we are giving THE GREATEST VALUE ever given in Victoria and all are marked at special low prices—most lines at sale prices.

Hand Bags
BEAUTIFUL HANDBAGS specially reduced for today's selling:
ALL 75c to 90c values now 50c
ALL \$1.00 values reduced to 75c
ALL \$1.25 values now 90c
ALL \$1.50 to \$1.75 now \$1.25
ALL \$3.75 values now \$2.50
ALL \$5.75 values reduced to \$3.90
ALL \$7.75 values reduced to \$5.00

Gloves
ENGLISH CAPE GLOVES, two dome fasteners, perfect fashion, perfect gifts. Regular price \$1.25. Special Price, 90c
ENGLISH GAUNTLET CAPE GLOVES—The very latest and smartest of gloves, with the new strap dome fastener. Reg. \$1.25. Special Price 90c
ENGLISH GLACE KID GLOVES, 12 and 16 button lengths, greatest value ever given. Reg. \$2.50. Special, \$1.75
DENT'S LADIES' GLOVES, per pair, \$1
MAGGONI GLOVES, per pair \$1.50

Umbrellas
ALL \$2.25 values reduced to \$1.75
ALL \$2.50 values reduced to \$1.90
ALL \$2.75 values reduced to \$2.00
ALL \$3.25 to \$3.75 reduced to \$2.50
ALL \$4.25 to \$4.75 reduced to \$3.75
ALL \$5.50 to \$6.50 reduced to \$4.75
ALL \$9.00 values reduced to \$6.50
ALL \$12.75 values reduced to \$9.00

Feather Boas at Sale Prices
ANGUS CAMPBELL & CO.
The Ladies' Store
1010 GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.

MISSOURI STRIKES AT OIL MONOPOLY
Subsidiaries of Standard Are to Cease Business in the State
Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 23.—Declaring that the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana, the Republic Oil Co. of Ohio, and the Waters Pierce Oil Co. of Missouri, had conspired and combined to monopolize the oil business in Missouri, the state supreme court today issued a decree ousting all three concerns from the commonwealth and fining them \$50,000 each.

THE COST OF HUNTING
Maintenance of Stag and Fox Hounds
London, Dec. 23.—The cost of hunting in the United Kingdom amounts to more than \$18,250,000 per annum, said Mr. Howard Martin in his presidential address to the Surveyors' Institute in London the other day.

Girls Hurt While Coasting
New Westminster, Dec. 21.—While coasting in the vicinity of Third avenue, two girls, Miss Mack, daughter of a C.P.R. engineer of this city, and Miss Hills, of Vancouver, were injured by the falling of a large log.



Handkerchiefs
LINEN LAWN KERCHIEFS, in plain, spot, stripe or check design at 10c
INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS, with or without dainty colored border at 12 1/2c
LACE EDGED, LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS, the perfection of good style, at 35c
REAL LACE, HANDKERCHIEFS, from \$12 down to \$1.50

Neckwear
RUCHINGS, per box, 50c, 35c and 25c
DIRECTOIRE RUCHINGS, at 50c
GIBSON STOCKS, from \$2.75 to \$5.00
LACE STOCKS, from \$1.25 down to 25c
LACE JABOTS, from \$3.25 down to \$1.25
MOTOR SCARVES, splendid values at \$1
PIERROT NECKRUFFS, \$2.75, \$1.75, and \$1.50
BAYADARA NECKCHAINS, \$2.75 to 25c
REAL SPANISH LACE MANTILLAS, \$4.75

Smart Belts
BELTS—The perfection of this season's smartest beltwear—greet you in profusion in our ladies' belt section. There is not a common belt in the lot—each has been selected for Campbell's customers—you know what that means. It matters not what price you pay, you get a really good and down-to-the-minute belt. The receiver of your gift will be pleased. Prices range from 50c

Bearskin Coats at Sale Prices

Results of Yesterday's California Track Events—Entries for Today
Oakland, Cal., Dec. 23.—The results of today's races follow: First—St. Francis; 2, Lady Carroll; 3, Duke of Orleans.

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The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability 27 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One year \$1.00 Six Months .50 Three Months .25 Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

CONVENTIONS AND CAUCUSES.

Canadians borrowed two things from their American neighbors concerning the utility of which, from the public point of view, there may be considerable doubt. They are the party convention and the party caucus. When we say convention we do not mean the organization convention such as are held by the party at less frequent intervals to keep up a party organization, but conventions for the nomination of candidates. By a caucus we mean the meeting of the members of the legislature belonging to any party with the view of deciding how all measures shall be considered, the result being a vote of the members of the House afterwards are not indicative of individual opinion. A quarter of a century ago a party convention in Canada for the nomination of candidates was a very unusual thing. Those who aspired to representative positions issued their cards and did their own work of organizing. It would be a rash man who would affirm that we get better results under the convention plan than we got under the old one. The nomination of candidates is a party business. In very many cases it is all understood in advance who will get the nomination, and except in the case of recognized leaders, the men usually chosen are selected because they are colorless in their politics and perhaps possess some personal elements of popularity. There was a time when constituents returning two or more representatives would have a half-dozen or more candidates. As the campaign progressed these candidates would form groups and have their names printed on the same ballot paper, for in those days we did not have the present so-called secret ballot. Men prepared their own tickets and used those printed by the candidates. Hence when two or more names were printed on the same paper it used to be said that the candidates were named "on the same ticket," which meant that they were helping each other. Now the "ticket," which is no longer a ticket at all, is made up at the party convention. We question the claim of the new system to be considered better than the old one, even in the case where only one candidate is to be nominated. The convention may secure the election of the man the party managers want, but perhaps it is not always well for the public that the managers should have their own way.

As to the Caucus, the Colonist rarely has had anything to say in favor of it. That the government ought to consult its supporters occasionally we thoroughly believe; that on all important measures involving matters of policy it is desirable to secure in advance a promise of adherence from the members of the party, we admit without argument. But we do not think it desirable that the details of a measure should be thrashed out in caucus. The proper place for the consideration of details is the floor of the House, either at Ottawa or Victoria. One reason why the caucus is called together so often to consider matters, that might well be left open, is due to a misunderstanding of the nature of an adverse vote in the House. Let us suppose that the government of the day proposes as a matter of policy to operate a line of steamships and to enter into an enterprise, but the measure when introduced is defeated. The resignation of the government would not necessarily follow. The Premier might decide to make it an issue, in which event he might resign or he might ask for a dissolution; but he would not be bound to take either course. Now, on the other hand, he might let the measure drop and await the further action of the House. A conspicuous illustration of this occurred in a Canadian provincial legislature. The government was defeated upon the Address, but the Premier made no announcement. A few minutes afterwards he was seated on a motion to adjourn, and he then upon announced that he would consult the lieutenant-governor. He did so, and the next day came to the House and announced his resignation. It is an extreme case. If a defeat on a question of policy does not necessarily involve the resignation of a government, much less does a defeat on a question of details. Hence a government is always safe to leave the House free in the matter of details, for it can always withdraw a bill if amended so as to defeat or impair the object for which it has been introduced. These observations are made apropos of nothing in particular, but simply because it is well occasionally to discuss first principles. Neither the Dominion nor the local parliament is in session and while there are a few bye-elections in sight there is not likely to be any convention held in respect to either of them. Now, again, when no one is thinking about any special matter, it is just as well to talk a little about the things which go to make up our institutions, as the constitution of the State of Washington says: "A frequent recurrence to first principles is desirable for the proper understanding of our system of government."

SOME IMMIGRANTS.

The somewhat heated discussion, which was carried on in the press not long ago about Englishmen in Canada has done good. It has led to an investigation, and a correspondent of the London Times has reached the conclusion that the "railway" men, who would be out of place elsewhere, and were helped to get to Canada by some people, who hoped they might do better here than they could even expect to do at home. He describes them as "helpless shiftless wrecks" who are "driven" to fall wherever they go. In another place the correspondent speaks of them as "poor derelicts who never had a chance." He says that Canadians pity them, and help them, but can really do nothing with them. He thinks that the presence of great numbers of these unhappy people in England presents a very grave problem, but one that England must solve, for he regards it as a mistake to suppose that "clearer skies, a more generous space and unvitalized air will transform a man or woman, who has attained full growth from a useless to a useful member of the community." In our judgment the problem presented by the existence of such a class of people in England

is among the most important and most difficult with which the government of the country is confronted. We hear much of the defence of England against danger from without, but nothing of the need of protection against danger from within. Yet the former menace is largely imaginary and at any rate is in the future, while the latter is actual and present today. The emigration of the unfit only makes a bad matter worse. We are much impressed with the idea that private philanthropy, we have to grapple with these unhappy conditions by improving them at home.

BIMETALLISM.

Colonist readers, who remember that some weeks ago, so ago, we printed a letter from Senator Teller to Mr. Moreton Frewen and commented upon it, will hardly share the surprise which the New York Times says was felt in financial circles yesterday when it became known that the Senator's plan had been published in Paris. Commenting upon the letter, the New York paper prints a statement purporting to come from some member of the Aldrich Currency Commission to the effect that Senator Teller was only speaking in the interest of the state, which produces a good deal of silver, but we venture the prediction that a much wider scope than its relation to the welfare of a few mine owners is involved in it. The matter might be easily disposed of, but anyone who has considered the question from the broader standpoint than that of the men, who control the money market, will admit that the subject is one of great ramifications. It is said that Senator Teller may have been prompted in the publication of his personal views on the future of silver as a money metal, it seems as if the member of the Commission, who at the outset of the inquiry says that such a plan as the Senator proposes would be in the interest of the country, and who is unable to see in a matter affecting the monetary affairs of more than half the human race anything more than a plan to help out a few mine owners, is even worse than premature. Publication by the Colonist of Senator Teller's letter and its republication by L'Economiste European, at the beginning of a movement for a reconsideration of the functions of silver as a money metal, and fortunately in this respect, is not a matter which has no politics involved, at least at the outset. The question is one upon which it is desirable that the public should be given the facts, not the mere unsupported opinion of anonymous people. Senator Teller stated a number of very important facts, and drew conclusions from them which appear to be logical. This method of treating the subject can hardly be successfully met by words of general denial. We can readily understand that the New York papers fear to discuss the silver question on its merits, for there are very many potent influences in that city interested in maintaining the existing arrangement.

THE COMING SESSION.

We have been semi-officially assured that the coming session of the Dominion Parliament is to be short and that the programme prepared for it will be neither long nor important. The Insurance Bill is mentioned as one of the few matters that will be brought forward. This is unlikely to be a contentious measure in a partisan sense. Doubtless there will be a good deal of discussion over it, but the measure does not appear to possess any feature upon which a party issue can very well be raised. The bill to adjust the boundaries of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec is not on the face of it appealing to call for a long discussion, and, if it were not that, under the British North America Act, it is the measure of parliamentary representation, one might think that it would hardly receive more than perfunctory consideration. The smaller provinces may, and not without reason, take exception to the lengthening of the yard stick by which the representation in the House of Commons is to be measured. It may be that by extending the number of seats in Ungava, not very many people will be added to the population of that province, and we are ourselves of the opinion that the number could not be sufficient to affect the representation of any of the provinces, but the territory proposed to be added is very large, and we are beginning to learn that it is not so much of a great waste land as most of us have hitherto thought. Therefore it may be that the inclusion of this region in Quebec may some day have the effect of materially reducing the representation of the three Eastern Maritime provinces. The claim has already been set up that the number of members from these provinces ought to be restored to what it was at the time of the Union and never be reduced, a proposition to which we do not think the West would take any exception. The Minister of Justice is going to introduce a bill to prevent the employment of commissions by contractors and others to public officials. On the printing of such a measure there can be no disagreement, but there is sure to be considerable discussion as to the sufficiency of the details to carry out the proposed object. In this connection reference may be made to the Cassels inquiry. The session can hardly pass without a very vigorous discussion, it is as much in the interests of the government party as of the opposition that the matter should be fully thrashed out, and it is of the greatest interest to the country as a whole. This is a matter that can hardly fail to occupy a great deal of the time of the House. It is to be hoped that it will be fully ventilated by the Eastern press, and that the proposed closure rules will call for a good deal of discussion, but it is not easy to see how their consideration can prolong the session very greatly. There seems to be a prospect of some legislation in regard to the Intercolonial railway. A dispatch in the Times of this city last evening said that the Minister of Railways has indicated that he was endeavoring to devise a new plan of dealing with the government-owned line. For some weeks past this subject has been discussed more or less definitely in some of the Eastern papers. A report was current in St. John two weeks ago that the railway might be leased to the Canadian Northern, and it was said that the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Pacific would like to have it. One can easily understand why the Canadian Northern might want it. Those familiar with the geography of the Maritime Provinces will realize how very difficult it might be for that company to connect its lines in Nova Scotia with the rest of the system by an independent line. New Brunswick is not a very wide province. Measured from the Bay Chaleurs to the place where the St. John forms the western boundary, it is only about ninety miles across. It widens

as it extends to the South, but its maximum width is less than 200 miles, of the country is confronted. We extends east, and west through the centre of the province reduces its width materially from the point of the head of Grand Lake to the Intercolonial the distance is under 40 miles and the National Transcontinental Railway will run through that part of the province. East of the Intercolonial no railway is possible, first because of the estuary of the Miramichi, and secondly because every point from which traffic could be drawn is already reached by branch lines of the Intercolonial. Between the point where the Grand Lake unites with the St. John the distance is about 65 miles, and the Canadian Pacific already occupies that territory with two north and south lines and one east and west line. These facts make it difficult to see how the Canadian Northern can hope to reach Nova Scotia except over the Intercolonial. The Grand Trunk Pacific having to pay rental on the part of the National Transcontinental through New Brunswick is hardly likely to saddle itself with the rental of another line, except with the object of controlling the field and of getting a road ready built to St. John and Halifax. The Canadian Pacific would like to have the part of the line between St. John and Halifax, but hardly be very keen about the rest of it, except to secure a market. The suggestion has been made that an independent company should be formed to take the road over. Very great interest will be taken in the matter of the road. Mr. Emmerson stands pledged to have the government take over the trunk lines tributary to the Intercolonial, and to our general mind in the plainest possible terms, many of the people of the Maritime Provinces, upon the Intercolonial Railway, with all its defects, the part of the inducement offered them to be confederated with Upper and Lower Canada, and they will protest very strenuously against the railway being handed over to any private company. For these reasons we imagine that the disposition of the government railway comes up for consideration it will prove to be a bone of contention of a very serious character.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The Montreal Herald prints the following paragraph in its editorial columns: "The administration of Montreal should be placed in the hands of a small executive body chosen independently of the city council, but responsible for the introduction of the budget and for the carrying of it into effect when passed. We wish that our contemporary had said more than this. For instance, it might have suggested that the executive body ought to be chosen from whom it should be chosen, and also if it was in the right to initiate measures in connection with municipal government to be taken wholly out of the hands of the city council. Municipal government is a matter of such great importance that any plan which seems to promise better results than are derived from the existing method, should stand a very good chance of being adopted by the public. There is no matter which bristles more keenly with hard points than that of governing a city. The newspaper, it is one of those things which every one thinks he can do better than the man who is doing it. Everybody wants something done, and thinks what he wants is the most pressing. The Aldermen, have very little money to expend, except that which they get from the taxes of their pockets. They receive something from licences and matters of that kind, but the most of it comes from the city tax. We all contribute a lot of money to the general revenue of the country, but most of it is paid indirectly and we are not conscious of it. The Dominion government might increase our taxation by twenty-five per cent, and most of us would never know it; but if the city council puts on an increase of one-tenth of one per cent, the taxpayer compares his tax notices, sees the difference and complains. Then the nature of the work which a City Council has to do is such that it will give us all the citizens all the time. Hence also there are complaints and criticisms. We shall watch what our Montreal contemporary says in regard to the point made in the above quotation, and in case it may not press the matter any further, we may expect the hope that it will give us all the benefit of the views it may have formed upon a question, which comes directly home to every man, woman and child in every city in Canada. "Et tu, Brute!" Andrew Carnegie has struck a cruel blow at the tariff which enabled him to accumulate his vast millions. The people of Venezuela are apparently taking full advantage of the opportunities created by the absence of the Minister of Finance in kicking up a row out of all proportion to the importance of the tiny republic in the scheme of things. Sir Wilfrid Laurier would be doing a very popular thing if he were to decide to offer the portfolio of Marine and Fisheries to Judge Cassels, who has been proved that milk bottled by the Gaulin Machine will keep in excellent condition for over a month. This is of decided interest and importance to the people of London, Canadians will lose but little sleep over the matter. Fortunately, Canada and its people are not dependent for their success upon the ability of the masses in the Old Country to comprehend the actual situation here in respect to opportunities for settlers—were it otherwise, they would be in a desperate plight indeed. In the interests of Imperial unity, however, it is to be regretted that a number of ignorant people in England are given opportunity to discuss the discovery of themselves, but to grossly misrepresent the loyal Colony. One of these days Canadians will get tired of having their country misrepresented in the British Isles and will cease attempting to set people right as to the actual conditions obtaining in the Dominion. We are glad to take this opportunity of reading the following cable despatch from London which appeared in our issue of yesterday: "A song entitled 'Canada' by the young of the music halls here by Harriet Vernon, asks: 'Why send your sons to Canada?' Tell me, John Bull, where your boys are going to get a job. A couple of dozen Canadians, annoyed at the anti-emigration sentiment of the song visited Ipswich hippodrome with the object of singing the 'Maple Leaf,' but were denied entrance. The Canadian party was led by N. B. Coleock, Ontario government agent." If this music hall libel affords any amusement to the people of London, Canadians will lose but little sleep over the matter. Fortunately, Canada and its people are not dependent for their success upon the ability of the masses in the Old Country to comprehend the actual situation here in respect to opportunities for settlers—were it otherwise, they would be in a desperate plight indeed. In the interests of Imperial unity, however, it is to be regretted that a number of ignorant people in England are given opportunity to discuss the discovery of themselves, but to grossly misrepresent the loyal Colony.

In a letter received at Winnipeg the other day from Sir Hugh Allan that gentleman states that the probability he will accept the position of High Commissioner for Canada, and says that in the meantime he cannot make any other business plans. His selection for this important post will we think, be universally approved of. A remarkably interesting story comes from London. About 50 hitherto unknown water colors and oil paintings by Turner were displayed for the first time at the National Gallery. The water colors were found in a portfolio behind a bookcase which had not been moved for years. They needed only a slight cleaning. The oil paintings were found in a paper parcel in a storeroom. This is the second recent discovery of Turner's works. It is recalled that a score of his pictures were found about three weeks ago.

It is very gratifying to be told, on the authority of an Ottawa correspondent that there will be no suffering among the poorer classes of Canada this winter than last. The reason for this is the fact that the new immigration restriction law kept out of Canada many foreigners, and it was largely among the penniless and friendless new arrivals that the distress and suffering were to be found. Work being thus better distributed, the laboring classes will not be so crowded as in previous years. The London Times in a recent issue had the following letter, which King Edward sent to Mr. Carnegie: "I have for some time past been anxious to extend my acquaintance with you, and your generosity for the great public objects which you have presented to this country, from the day of your birth. Scarcely less admirable than the gifts themselves is the great care and thought you have taken in guarding against the possibility of any selfish motives. How warmly I recognize your most generous benefactions and the great services they are likely to confer on the country. I am sure that the recognition I hope you will accept the portrait of myself, which I am sending you."

The distress amongst the poor in the British Isles this season is reported to be very great. Here is a terrible picture of the problem of underfed children: "At its annual meeting, the London Education committee recommended that power be sought from the county council to draw £2000 sterling, to be expended during the next few weeks in keeping together the bodies of thousands of half-starved waifs who arrive at the schools in anything but a fit condition to learn their lessons."

There appears to be little prospect of a race for the America Cup next year. This is a matter for regret, as the event is undeniably the most attractive measure in connection with the world. But the situation seems hopeless. The main issue is thus described by the London Field: "The New York Yacht Club has adopted the Universal Rule. It should therefore be open for the Royal Irish Yacht Club, or any other recognized body, to challenge for the America Cup under the Universal Rule. So long as this condition is not open, so long will it be that the New York Yacht Club is not doing its best to encourage international competition in the shape of a further race for the America Cup."

A pleasing incident occurred some days ago at the office of the business men of Ceylon in honor of the officers of the United States battleship fleet. In presenting 15,000 pounds of tea to the officers and members of the fleet the chairman of the Planters' association expressed admiration for the unparalleled achievement of marshaling the American fleet in a steady procession from sea to sea. The Ceylon planter, he said, especially in paying it the American flag, and appreciated the absence from its tariff of a duty on tea, and also the new pure food law, which was adding one per cent to the cost of tea. Col. Sir James Sperry, the governor of Ceylon, said that the prosperity of Australia, Hong Kong, and the Straits Settlements was due to the mercantile and industrial success of America would have done the same where Great Britain was involved, except that of benevolent neutrality.

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As a result of some experiments which have been in progress in the Dairy School at St. Hyacinthe, the Quebec government announces that it has been proved that milk bottled by the Gaulin Machine will keep in excellent condition for over a month. This is of decided interest and importance to the people of London, Canadians will lose but little sleep over the matter. Fortunately, Canada and its people are not dependent for their success upon the ability of the masses in the Old Country to comprehend the actual situation here in respect to opportunities for settlers—were it otherwise, they would be in a desperate plight indeed. In the interests of Imperial unity, however, it is to be regretted that a number of ignorant people in England are given opportunity to discuss the discovery of themselves, but to grossly misrepresent the loyal Colony.

TO OUR CUSTOMERS: Compliments of the Season "Numerous indeed are the hearts to which Christmas brings a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many families, whose members have been dispersed and scattered far and wide in the restless struggles of life as a result of the happy state of companionship and mutual goodwill, which is a source of such pure and unalloyed delight, and one so incompatible with the cares and sorrows of the world, that the religious belief of the most civilized nations, and the traditions of the roughest savages, alike number it among the first joys of a future condition of existence provided for the best and happy."

Special Values in Gifts ARE OFFERED YOU HERE TODAY--COME IN EARLY

AND today settles the gift problem. We are ready right up to the last minute to assist you to solve it. You'll find here a host of articles that'll help you in the deciding and you'll find us prepared to make prompt deliveries of your gifts if you so desire. Special values will prevail throughout the whole store today and an early visit is desirable. Odd lines we don't wish to carry over the holiday will be placed on the bargain counters and splendid opportunities to get fine gifts for little money will be in evidence. One feature you shouldn't miss is the

Clearance Sale of China Gift Pieces We are clearing out all the odd lines of holiday china and the greatest china bargains the city has known are offered here today. Hundreds of appropriate gift articles are to be found on these tables. By all means come in and see them and-- COME EARLY

Table with 3 columns of gift items and prices. Items include Regular Values 10c, 15c, 25c, 35c, 50c, 65c, 75c, and \$1.00. Specific items listed include Regular Values 10c (China Pin Trays, China Mugs, Fruit Saucers, etc.), Regular Values 15c (Salad Bowls, China Plates, etc.), Regular Values 25c (Pretty China Plates, China Pin Trays, etc.), Regular Values 35c (Sugars and Creams, Cups and Saucers, etc.), Regular Values 50c (Cups and Saucers, China Plates, etc.), Regular Values 65c (Salad Bowls, Leaf Trays, etc.), Regular Values 75c (Sugars and Creams, Cups and Saucers, etc.), Regular Values \$1.00 (Cups and Saucers, China Plates, etc.).

A List of Elegant Gift Suggestions--Many Others

Table with 3 columns of gift suggestions. Items include CAKE BASKETS (\$4.00 to \$9.00), LADIES' DESKS (\$12.00 to \$30.00), COSY ARM CHAIRS (\$2.50 to \$10.00), FRAMED PICTURES (\$1.50 to \$15.00), OAK TEA TRAYS (\$2.00 to \$6.00), CHESS TABLES (\$5.50), TABLE COVERS (90¢ to \$7.50), DRAWN TEA CLOTHS (\$1.50 to \$20.00), SILK TABLE COVERS (\$2.25 to \$5.50), STERLING SILVER (50¢ to \$1.25), PARLOR TABLES (\$1.50 to \$50.00), CARD TABLES (\$5.50 to \$50.00), LINEN TABLE CLOTHS (\$1.25 to \$22.50), SILK TABLE COVERS (\$2.25 to \$5.50), MORRIS CHAIRS (\$9.00 to \$4.500), LADIES' ROCKERS (\$1.50 to \$10.00), REED ROCKERS (\$5.50 to \$12.00), CHINA CABINETS (\$18.00 to \$75.00), FIRE FENDERS (\$2.00 to \$30.00), FIRE SCREENS (\$8.00 to \$18.00), TABLE NAPKINS (\$1.00 to \$22.50), CUT GLASS (\$2.50 to \$40.00).

FARMER ACCID Joseph B. Charge By the ad gun which muzzle Jos Elk lake, instantly k about 2 o' buckshot st a hidden of which h be summon According Pidgeon, a Chm he at two had n Evans' pla had heard Eke neigh possibly the of getting taken his s was con asking Pldg and he con sented a the house, the muzzle as he starte the front struck the a discharging the gun the and a t which the "Without a andah and his was unable to s tates before assistance, The a and D the time h dead some he'd. The a Joseph E Lake for s was a singe 38 years o who was in hold-up m nira hand a and Saanl victed and ten years. Elk laigh tenore of t Mr. Cadha a meal, left and little m who captu was eating surviving r residing in

Gifts EARLY

Last minute help you of your gifts

Early visit placed on the money will

Great china appropriate gift them and—

Values 50c

Saucers

Values \$1.00

Three pieces

Others

HAIRS every popular we offer usually wide From— 4.500

CKERS hair styles, too. Big ger values, 10.00

CKERS hair styles any stylish own. Big From— 12.00

NETS de range in china cabinet gift. peeper with 75.00

ERS ing of un- the old enjoy the with these 30.00

ENS de range in Decorated styles pre- designs— 18.00

PKINS are another meet with n. Strong at, per 22.50

ASS cut glass, offer the of crystal of range— 10.00

FARMER KILLED BY ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE

Joseph Evans Receives Full Charge of Buck Shot in Body

By the accidental discharge of a shot gun which he was carrying, by the muzzle Joseph Evans, residing near Elk lake, South Saanich, was almost instantly killed on Sunday afternoon about 2 o'clock. The full charge of buckshot struck him in the side causing a hideous wound from the effects of which he expired before aid could be summoned.

According to the story told by James Pidgeon, a blacksmith of Keatings Crossing, and a friend of Evans, the two had met a short distance from Evans' place of abode. The latter had heard a shot fired in the immediate neighborhood and thinking that possibly there would be an opportunity of getting a shot at some quail had taken his gun and come outside. He was about to return to his house when Pidgeon came along the road and the two conversed for some time, Evans asking Pidgeon to come into the house and spend a few minutes. The latter consented and the two walked towards the house, Evans holding the gun by the muzzle. He was in the lead and as he started up the steps leading to the front door the butt of the gun struck the steps, the force of the blow discharging it. From the position of the gun the muzzle was turned almost directly towards Evans' body into which the full charge was poured. Without a word Evans fell to the veranda and when Pidgeon rushed up to him he was covered with blood and unable to speak. He died a few minutes before Pidgeon, who had run for assistance, returned.

The municipal constable was notified and Dr. Hart summoned but by the time he arrived Evans had been dead some time. An inquest will be held this afternoon at the city hall. Joseph Evans has resided near Elk Lake for some two or three years. He was a single man and lived alone in a cabin near the lake. He was about 38 years of age. He was the man who was instrumental in capturing the hold-up man White in the Elk Lake district and under the pretence of taking him to a neighbor, Mr. Cadham, where he could secure a meal, left him there while he (Evans) notified the police authorities, who captured White while the latter was eating at Cadham's. Evans leaves surviving him a sister, Mrs. Gunter, residing in Oak Bay.

NO E. & N. SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Officials Decide to Give the Employees a Holiday

No trains will be run over the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway on Friday—Christmas day. It has been decided by the officials of the road that the employees shall be given a holiday, and in order that there may be no discrimination, the entire force will be allowed to spend the day about the domestic hearth or any other way that may be fancied, enjoying the season's cheer. For years it has been the custom to close down operations of the E. & N. on the 25th of December. There was some question whether the rule would be adhered to this year but, finally, it was agreed that the traditions of the road should not be interfered with.

A double service will be in vogue on Thursday and on Saturday. This means that trains will run at the usual time, 9 o'clock, in the morning and in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. Thus those who have friends at different points along the line with whom they intend spending the holiday, or those ardent sportsmen who contemplate putting in the day by taking a last tramp through the woods in search of game, will have two opportunities of reaching their destination on Friday. On Saturday the same schedule will be adhered to so that the Victorians are not deprived of the habit of visiting any of the different suburban resorts at the week-end will be able to do so without inconvenience. As there is very little freight or passenger traffic moving on Christmas, in the opinion of the officials, the public interests will not be seriously militated against by the decision to allow the company's employees the chance of properly enjoying the historic holiday.

Does Not Carry Letters. The sale of Christmas stamps by the Anti-Tuberculosis association has resulted in a dozen or more people using the Christmas stamp instead of the government's stamp. The stamps sold at the Victoria post office, with the result that the addressees of the letters in question have been called upon to pay double postage as usual when insufficient postage is paid.

Pensions for Teachers. Among the questions which are occupying the attention of the Hon. Dr. Young is that of the participation of school teachers in the pension scheme which the government is going to bring in at the next session of the House. While the matter is not yet determined, it is probable that a way will be devised by which the teachers will be enabled to participate in the benefits of the plan.

Post Office Busy. The post office is a busy place these days. The place is thronged throughout the day, mostly during the afternoon, with bundle-laden people, and the stamp vendors are busier than at any other time during the year. The receipts have been far in excess of previous years, and sales of postage stamps totalling, probably, 25 per cent. more than last Christmas season. The increase in business is noted in every branch at the post office. The money order business was far greater than that done during the Christmas season last year, and the incoming and outgoing parcel post was over a quarter as much more than that of last year, while an almost equivalent increase is noted in the city parcels and letters. The Christmas trade has been heavier than ever before.

BONDS CLAIM TO SEATTLE SYNDICATE

Captain Locke and J. H. Gordon Ob-tain Good Sum For Proposition. The Black Prince mining claim on Bear Creek, Collinson bay, Queen Charlotte Islands, was bonded yesterday by Capt. L. E. Locke, master of the S.S. Albatross, and J. H. Gordon, of Vancouver, to a Seattle syndicate, for \$50,000. The deal was put through by Morris Davis, who is at the King Edward hotel, representing the syndicate. The Black Prince claim was located about fourteen months ago and became the property of Capt. Locke. He sold a half interest in it to J. H. Gordon for less than a thousand dollars. Gordon ran a tunnel into the claim and struck some good ore. It was the examination of this ore by an expert sent to the claim by the syndicate that induced the Seattle men to purchase the property for the price named, and Gordon is \$24,000 richer as a result of his purchase.

PUBLIC MEETING AT OAK BAY NEXT MONTH

Acting Reeve Henderson Will Outline Work of Past Year—The Elections

On January 6th, according to present intentions a public meeting will be held at the new schoolhouse, Oak Bay, at which the councillors will address the ratepayers on the public work of the past year and the plans for the new term. There will be one more regular session of the body presided over by Acting Reeve Henderson before that date, at which the business still in abeyance will be cleared up as far as practicable, and definite arrangements made for the gathering mentioned.

While no resident of the district, apart from the present representatives, has declared his intention to become a candidate at the elections of the municipality which take place on the 19th of next month, there are indications that contests in the wards will be held in at least one or two of the wards.

Oak Bay is divided into three sections, the north, central and south wards. The former embraces all that property lying north of Bowker creek, and now represented by Acting Reeve Henderson and Councillor Heric McGregor. The central takes in that situated between Bowker Creek and McNeill and Saratoga Avenues. Those elected there last year were Councillors Fernie and Noble. The south ward includes that part of the Oak Bay municipality lying south of the central district. It is represented on the council by Messrs. Newton and Pemberton.

The withdrawal of Reeve Oliver and the appointment to his place of Councillor Henderson who will give for Reeve, makes a vacancy in the north ward. In the central ward Councillor Noble, it is understood, will again be a candidate, while Councillor Fernie will retire. There will be another place to fill. Both Councillors Newton and Pemberton intend allowing themselves to be placed in nomination for another term of office and, as far as can be gathered, they will not be opposed.

In the speech to be delivered by Acting Reeve Henderson on the occasion of next month's public meeting, he will outline the important public work done during the last twelve months, dwelling particularly on the improvements to the main thoroughfares and the construction of new roadsways in the endeavor to open up the residential sections of the district. The admirable drainage system installed also will receive attention and reference, it is expected, will be made to the purchase of machinery which will facilitate the repairing of the streets in the future.

In all probability the Acting Reeve will discuss the works to be undertaken next year and under this heading will be the installation of a water distribution system which, not only will meet all present requirements, but will also be so arranged as to provide for the needs of the community as it becomes more thickly populated.

NEW POLICE DISTRICT IN BOUNDARY COUNTRY

Increase in Population Necessitates Redistricution for Provincial Police

Owing to the increase in the police work and the growth of that section in the close proximity of the boundary line a new provincial police district has been formed to be known as the Boundary district. This district will comprise the electoral riding of Grand Forks, Greenwood and Similkameen, and will be formed from portions of the present provincial police districts of Vernon, Kamloops and Nelson. The new district, which has heretofore been under the supervision of Chief Provincial Constable W. T. DeWitt, of Nelson, will be in charge of Chief Constable Charles J. Bunbury, of Kamloops, who will be transferred to Greenwood, where he will make his headquarters. Under him will be about twelve provincial constables stationed at the various centres of population.

With the increase in population and the close proximity of the boundary across which, of late, criminals have entered the province, plied their trade and disappeared, it has been found necessary to concentrate the police work as the great extent of territory over which Chief Constable DeWitt has been forced to supervise, has proved too unwieldy. The new district will make the twelfth into which the province has been divided.

Preparing New Offices. The offices formerly occupied by the Inspector of dykes, who is now located in the basement, are being prepared for the new minister of works. They open off the same corridor as Mr. Fulton's, and are next door to the surveyor-general's. The rooms are being panelled in cedar and consist of a good sized office, and a smaller outer office and ante-room. In the meantime, Mr. Taylor will be accommodated between the treasury and the office of the assistant, and Mr. Gamble's quarters.

THOMAS TAYLOR M.P.P. A CABINET MINISTER

Appointment Announced After Yesterday's Meeting of the Executive

Thomas Taylor, M. P. P. for Revelstoke has been chosen to fill the much discussed vacancy in the cabinet created by the provision of an additional portfolio at the last session of the legislature. There has been a general belief for some time past that Mr. Taylor was the man who would be selected by Mr. McBride as his most recent colleague, but the matter was not officially settled until the executive meeting held yesterday, after which it was given out that Mr. Taylor would be the one to take the place of Works, and that he would take the oath of office today.

Mr. Taylor was born in London, Ont., in 1885 and there received his education. In 1897 he married Miss George Larson, and at one time held the position of inspector of mines. He has been a member of the legislature since 1900. He was elected as a member for Revelstoke at the general elections of that year, and again at the general elections of 1903 and 1907. At the last session of the legislature, acts were passed separating the portfolio of lands and mines from the development of the province had so increased the business of the department that the change was necessary. Hon. F. J. Fulton will be Chief Commissioner of Lands.

BRITISH OPINION

In his speech at Warrington, says the Morning Post, the Irish Secretary emphasized the necessity of rapidly completing the process of transferring the land in Ireland from the hands of the landlords to those of the tenants. As to the expediency of effecting this great revolution there can hardly be two opinions. Now that the operation has commenced there is no possibility of any attempt to impede its being continued without seriously aggravating the present evils and increasing the potential danger of a social disorder. But, while there will be general agreement as to the need for promoting the transfer of land, it is by no means certain that the Secretary's new Bill will serve to advance this object. Apart from the merits of the scheme, the fact that it has been introduced so late in the session is distinctly unfortunate. By postponing so long his measure for dealing with the questions involved, Mr. Birrell has encouraged the belief in Ireland that it was only the cattle-driving agitation and the threat of more serious trouble that have spurred him to action. Confirmation has thus been given to the vicious circle to obtain attention from an English Government it is first necessary to plunge Ireland into disorder. Again, the late introduction of the measure has given ground for the suspicion that it is put forward as a sign of goodwill, not as a serious effort to settle the difficult problems requiring its enactment. A measure is thus found to be handicapped from the start.

The Dublin Evening Telegraph publishes the following:—A propos of the 200,000 German troops are being massed in Alsace-Lorraine and the temporary barracks were being erected in various parts of the two provinces, the following extract, taken from a letter to one of our readers, shows that the French Government is not without the possibility of having to meet another Teutonic invasion. The writer of the letter referred to is an eminent Irishman, who has been in France since 1866, and resident in France since that period. In the course of his letter the writer says:—I am once more very much downhearted. I have seen, Patrick, has joined the army, and he was away on the frontier—where it is fearfully cold—for the past six weeks, right in front of the German line, and at a moment's notice, and at the moment when war was on the point of breaking out. So you may imagine I have been in a state of terror ever since. I would not mind so much if he had training enough to use the French Lebel gun. To cap all, the other boy, Alexander, is ordered out for next year. Glory be to the Lord! I think I am getting up a small Irish Brigade on my own account. Hoping I won't have to realise Davis's lines:—

For in far foreign fields, from Dunkirk to Belgrade, Lie the soldiers and chiefs of the Irish Brigade.

Two brothers, James and Andrew, already lie at St. Owen after the war of 1870. But for all that I'm not browbeaten. After all, it is only a duty to the country—and we do not forget that the French came over to fight for us. I fear, however, the war is only put off. The Germans are seeking a quarrel, and the French won't stand any more nonsense."

Austria, says the Daily Mail, seems determined to persist in the dangerous game of keeping alive the controversy in the Near East. Her attitude towards Turkey and Serbia approaches within measurable distance of provocation. Not content with depriving the Sultan of sovereign rights over Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria resents the form in which the Emperor Franz-Joseph will signalise the sixtieth anniversary of his reign by giving his sanction to a step so insensate. To demand that the Government of Turkey should insist on the payment of the red turbanous of Austrian manufacture when they have decided on the fez of local make is to set for the new regime in Turkey a problem which might well baffle the authority of an older and more settled Constitution. Encompassed by difficulties at home and abroad, the Ottoman Empire has a moderation that ought to appeal to the good sense, if not to the justice, of Baron Aehrenthal. He has tried bullying and lecturing, and the menace of withdrawing the Ambassador has been appealed to France to use her friendly offices. But he has neglected the obvious remedy, and the Austrian authorities give assurance that they will be willing to submit to a conference the regularization of their annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the problem of the bosack would solve itself.

Mr. Charles Willard and Miss Ella Sothers, Willard, of New York, are stopping at the Empress.

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BISHOP OF COLUMBIA AT COURT OF REVISION

Men Over Fifty Years of Age Will Take Appeal to Police Magistrate

(From Thursday's Daily). The Right Reverend Bishop of Columbia put himself on record yesterday before the court of revision by paying for the tax on a property which was exempt by law as a very back-stair's way of getting a vote. Bishop Ferris, apparently, is entitled to a vote as the representative of the church property, but he desires his personal vote as a householder. He said that he was perfectly willing to pay for the tax, but being over the required age he had been informed that it could not be received. Eventually his lordship decided to test the matter by an appeal to the magistrate.

Joseph Pelron was another of the protesters against the ruling of the court of revision which denies the vote to men over fifty, who have not paid the \$2 tax, and he quoted an opinion of Judge Spinks, the county court judge at Vernon, who had decided that the Bill, of which only one copy was over the required age he had been informed that it could not be received. Eventually his lordship decided to test the matter by an appeal to the magistrate.

The city solicitor advised the court of revision that the list of names on the list brought by the city road tax collector, who had a list of all the applicants who had not paid the tax, there were also a number of people who appeared in support of their right to vote in response to notices which had been sent them.

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Mr. Mann paid the \$2 for him, and not for the road tax. Mr. Mann paid for a number of his friends during the morning, and by the time the sitting was over, he professed to be in a condition bordering on bankruptcy. The court sat all the morning, and by the time the sitting had closed the list was ready to be certified to by the mayor. There will, however, be an appeal taken to the magistrate by the men over 50.

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Lady Northcliffe's box, worth \$75, was stolen from her trunk in the S.T. Regis, New York, and the clumsy thief smashed several hats.

FORTY YEARS in a FISHING BOAT

THE TALE OF AN ANCIENT MARINER



It was an Ancient Mariner,
And he stoppeth one of three;
"By thy fishy scent and cold grey eye,
Now, wherefore stoppest thou me?"

He held him with his glittering eye:
"Give me a smoke," quoth he,
"Twas then was told this truthful tale,
Which I pass on to thee."

(From the Poets.)

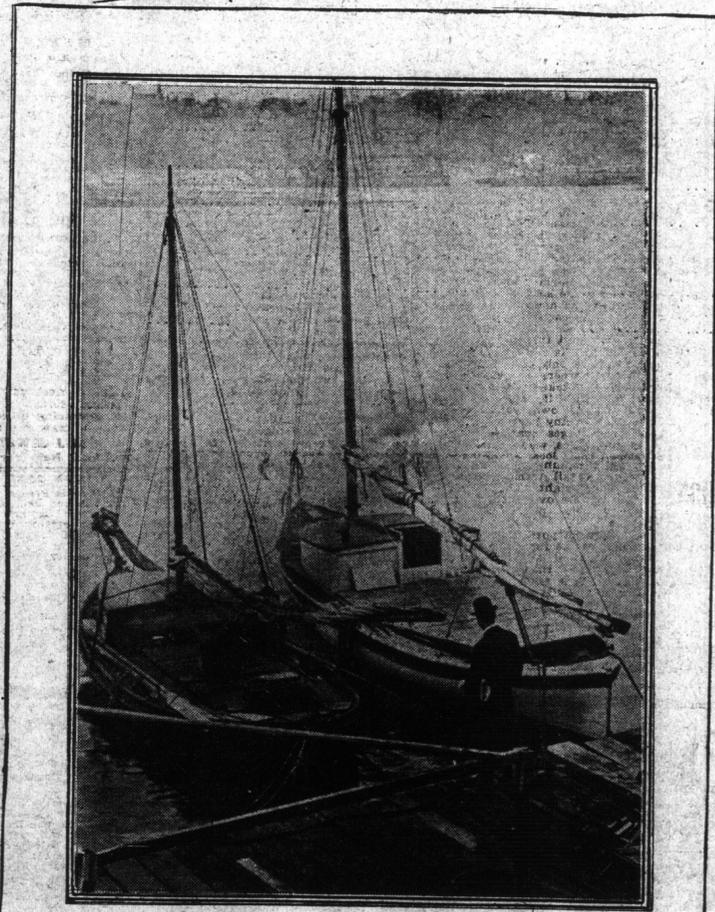
HIS name is Tony—that is all. Once, a long time ago, he had another name, and the "Tony" was the more pretentious but less convenient "Antonio." That was, as I have said, a very long time ago, for Tony has been living in a fishing boat in Victoria harbor for forty years past, and all that time he has been content with the two-syllabled title. There was a family name once, but that does not matter now, as Tony will tell you, if you ask him. Any relatives he has are as far away as Palermo, quite out of the reach of a fisherman unschooled in letters. Besides, the mission of a name is to identify one, and certainly "Tony" identifies Tony, the fisherman.

Forty years in a fishing boat! That is a record it would be hard to beat in these waters. There wasn't very much Victoria when Tony came here as a sailor on a British merchant vessel, and decided to go into business for himself in the uttermost West. The fishing fleet was smaller than than it is now, and the fishing business—as Tony has practiced it—considerably more profitable. This last point, in fact, is a burning issue with Tony. If you want an utterly frank and, above all things, enlightening commentary on the Oriental immigration question, go to him. Grizzled veteran that he is, he has two pet grievances of his own—Japanese fishermen, and the decadence of the human stock in this generation. "When I was young," says Tony, "there were none of these things."

In forty years' time Victoria has made gigantic strides, as the Colonist has endeavored to show in its Jubilee edition. The city has grown to its present extensive proportions from the nucleus of a Hudson's Bay post. From a fur-trading establishment of one hundred souls, there has been evolved a proud metropolis, the Mecca of the world traveller in quest of the ideal scenery and climate, a commercial port that stands high in the eyes of the world. All these things Tony has watched from his conning-tower, the tiny hatch that leads to the tiny cabin on his tiny boat. But many of the changes have held for him only a vague interest, as is natural with a man whose world is bounded on the one side by the cod banks in Haro Straits, and on the other by the little fish wharves by Turret Rock, where the Chinamen come down to buy the fisherman's catch. He can speak with confidence of the shipping of the city, for that has all come under his notice down there on the bay. You cannot stick him on the development of the boat-building art, even if his own house-boat is a perfect example of the models of 1868 or thereabouts. Strange to say, he is not at all in favor of all this progress, for, he says, it interferes with his business. An interesting character is Tony, and some of his rude philosophy, worked out all by himself in his cabin, where he has nursed his rheumatism in proud seclusion for some years back, is worth while setting down here.

The first time I met Tony, which was in the course of a tour on the waterfront last summer, I learned that he had an abiding dread of cameras and all picture apparatus. Newspaper men of all kinds are included in the ban, and there is a reason for this. It would not be fair to divulge here the sad secrets of Tony's past, that partly explain his love of solitude. If he has the Mediterranean weakness for the stiletto, that is, after all, his own affair. So it was on the basis of an ordinary "local color" seeker that I gained admittance to Tony's fishing vessel, and on the basis of tobacco that we became almost friends.

He is an old man now, Fisherman Tony. Like many of his race, he has seemed to "grow down" with advancing years, while retaining much of the supple strength of his youth. As I climbed down the rickety steps that lead to the fish wharves, I caught sight of his grizzled head peeping out of the hatchway of the fishing boat. It was the stocking-cap—the "tuque" of the French-Canadian habitant—that first caught the eye. Then a sharp, almost distinguished face, with bristling, pointed moustache, and more or less severe and military mien, attracted the gaze, and held it.



THE HOME OF TONY THE FISHERMAN

Tony is hardly the sort of man you would expect to find under Turret Rock. He offers a study for a Michel Angelo. He grunted a surly response to the easy "good morning." Then, when I attempted to board the boat, he withdrew a little into his cabin, grumbling to himself. It was the camera, of course. "You take away," said Tony. "I no like." So the offending machine was taken away, and Tony grew more affable.

We sat out on the weather-beaten deck, and talked of several things, mostly, of course, of Japanese fishermen and the morals of the age. I had tried the cabin, crawling painfully through the tiny hatchway to the squalid interior, but one minute there was enough. Tony's domicile is compact and probably convenient, but ventilation is a stranger to it. And the fisherman has his own peculiar views on cleanliness. So we returned to the outer air, where the fish-tainted atmosphere was like rose leaves by comparison. The substance of Tony's story can be given, although his unique accent cannot be reproduced.

"Yes," said the old fisherman, as he puffed at his blackened clay pipe, "yes, I am here since more than forty years, here in this boat. It is my home, and it is good enough for an old man. No, there is not much room, but I have my bed, and my stove, and I need no more. When I was young I learned to live simply, when I was in the navy of Greece. That training was good for me.

"It would be a fine thing if all these youngsters of today had to spend four years on a warship, learning to be men, and eating black bread and olives. Yes, that is good for boys. "See me—I am eighty years of age, me, and I can still work my boat myself and bring in my catch with the best of them. When

you are eighty years old, eh? If you are not dead you will be helpless. So with all the rest of this generation. They are no good—bah! They sleep too warm, and eat too well, and drink, drink! When I was a boy I did not go to saloons, I tell you. If we did, our fathers would give us something to remember for many days. They are too easy with the fool boys of this country. They know how to train boys in Greece, hard work and discipline, but, above all things, discipline."

Moralising on this theme, the favorite grievance of an old fisherman whose boat had been bombarded from time to time by small boys, Tony had waxed unusually eloquent. Evidently somewhat ashamed of the outburst he retired into his shell at the end of it, biting at his pipe with a haughty air that became the old man well. And he communed with the pipe to the exclusion of other matters until the talk turned to fishing, and the Oriental invasion of that field. Then Tony came into the field again, primed for slaughter.

"How do they expect a white man to live in this country?" he demanded. "When I come here first, forty years ago, it was a white man's country all through. The fishermen had a fair field, and shared the profits of our work with white men. Now, see the difference! Thousands of Japanese have come, and the fishing is going into their hands. They are crowding us out. Soon there will be none but Japanese in the fishing. I do not like the laws of this country! In Greece they would do better."

And Tony, almost speechless with indignation, lapsed into Homeric expressions of ire, unfortunately wasted on Saxon ears. In fact, the incident all but ended that interview, for the fisherman, embittered as he is by years, rheumatism and untoward experiences, is

prone to vent his wrath on the object nearest to hand, and the interviewer was in great disfavor just then. However, tobacco is oil upon troubled waters, and as the minutes passed Tony's ruffled spirit grew calmer, and he began, little by little, to take an interest in the situation again.

The talk went back to the time when, a mere boy, he took service in the navy of his native country, leaving, when his service was ended, to enter the merchant marine of England. Those were great days, when the raw Greek boy sailed the round of the world, entering strange tropical ports that held greater wonders to his eyes than he had ever dreamed of back among the vineyards of Hellas, and meeting with the glorious adventures and the gruelling hardships that spell life in capital letters "when we are twenty-one." It was in the course of his sea-faring career that Tony, then a man grown and nearing middle life, sailed around the Horn in a Hudson's Bay ship bound for this port, and had his first glimpse at Victoria. The glamor of tramping the world had faded by this time, and Tony wanted to settle down and make a home. The new country offered allurements he had not seen elsewhere, so he gave up the "tramp royal" life to become a fisherman.

To other men Tony's idea of settling down might appear strange enough. There is cold comfort in a decked fishing boat that is about the size of the Swampscott dories of the New England coast. For a day's fishing the craft might be tolerated, but Tony lives aboard, winter and summer, eating, sleeping and cooking in a cabin some six feet by six. That life, mark you, has been his for forty years past.

The harbor has been rimmed with modern wharves and docks. Great liners pass in and out where the Beaver was a marvel in Tony's prime. Like the city, the waterfront has been transformed. And so Tony the fisherman, who is pathetic in his adherence to the old order, has crept away from all the monuments of development and moored his boat down by Turret Rock, where there has been little change in all the forty years. And there the old man sits all day long, when the fishing is not good, or his rheumatism is troublesome, pondering on the wave of change that has left him stranded, the derelict of the past.

His boat, once the pride of the local fishing fleet, is now, like the owner, an antique. He built it with his own hands when he came here forty years ago, a staunch little yawl, tubby and serviceable, of well seasoned lumber and good stout beams. Filled with distrust of the land, he built the boat that it might also be a home, fitting up a square cabin in the stern, like a large-sized rabbit hutch. And now, if Tony has one enthusiasm, it is that old boat, weather-beaten as it is, and black with age and with the smoke from the stove-pipe chimney. He may well be proud of it, for it has saved his life more than once in the course of his rough fisherman's life. Once, in a storm off Trial Island, a squall caught the vessel, when its stern was lifted from the water, overturning it completely. All one night Tony clung to the bottom, until the mast caught on a shoal, and held the boat fast, clear

of the rocky shore. Tony chose the lumber for that mast himself, and he had faith in it. That night's faith was justified, for the well-seasoned stick held firm as an anchor; and the storm abated in time to save the fisherman from being broken up on the rocks.

Three or four times after that first visit I called on Tony down by Turret Rock. He never warmed to any great extent, but each time he seemed not quite displeased to see me, and we sat on the deck of his boat and chatted for an hour. Finally, when the Jubilee Edition of the Colonist was issued, I happened to be down that way, and it occurred to me that the Old Man might care to hear something of the publication, and to look over the pictures that show the contrast between the Fort Victoria of 1858 and the Victoria of today. So I called down, and together we went over the pictures.

He was keenly interested in the front page design that showed Victoria fifty years ago. "I saw that," he declared. "It was not very different when I came. It was a fine place for a man."

In the picture of boats, fishing boats, and others, he was also interested. In fact, the visit was a success, I thought, almost to the end of it. It was certainly interesting to watch the point of view from which Tony regarded the growth and progress of Victoria. All others were proud and delighted with this advancement, expressing their feelings in terms more or less enthusiastic, depending on temperament. Tony, on the other hand, regretted the entire evolution, and expressed his regret frankly and pathetically.

Go down to Turret Rock and you will find in Tony that one grace worth all others in life, originality. Down by the bay, off Store street, you will find the fleet, a row of vessels moored at the fishy fish-wharves, where the Chinese fish-dealers keep the cod and crabs alive in open fish traps. On either side are boats with tents stretched above them in lieu of decks. These belong to the Chinese and Japanese fishermen. To the centre you will see a battered dory, black and weatherbeaten and ancient, with much smoke issuing from a crooked stovepipe on the cabin. That is Tony's dwelling-place, and if you are lucky, he will talk to you there.

You had better go yourself, for, I regret to say, I can tell no more stories of Tony. We are no longer friends, and it all came about through the incident during our last interview of which I did not speak above.

We had looked through the paper from cover to cover, and all was well. Suddenly, Tony turned to me with suspicion in his eyes, and asked me who I was.

"Why do you come here?" he demanded. "Why do you bring me papers? Are you one of those people who write for the papers? Tell me!"

Sorrowfully I admitted my guilt—sorrowfully, because I knew that the confession was the end.

"Go away!" said Tony, then. "I never want to see you more!"

And I went.

W. E. PLAYFAIR.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY

Some Wonderful Values Offered

Only one day left in which to sell all Toys, all Xmas Books, all Xmas Slippers, all Xmas China, all Pictures, all Fancy Boxed Candy, all Fancy Baskets, all Fancy Leather Goods, also splendid opportunities to purchase Gift Furniture at unusual prices. See the SPECIAL TABLES of all kinds of XMAS GOODS AT REDUCED PRICES for this morning at 8.30 a.m. You will get the best bargains by shopping early.

Xmas Eve Sale of Slippers

If you have delayed making your slipper selections, here's a chance to buy what you want considerably below the regular price. Tonight we will clear out a big lot of Fancy Xmas Slippers.

- COMFY SLIPPERS—One of the newest slippers for the Xmas season is the Comfy felt mocassin slipper made of heavy felt, with leather covered, pure carded wool soles, cushion heels. Come in pale blue, black, brown and red. Reg. \$2.00 and \$2.25. Tonight **\$1.50**
- BALANCE OF INDIAN MOCASSIN SLIPPERS, fur bound, undressed kid, of genuine Indian manufacture:
Ladies' and Gents', reg. \$2.00. Tonight **\$1.50**
Infants', tonight **75¢**
Children's, tonight, \$1.00 and **\$1.25**
- MEN'S SUPERIOR QUALITY VICI KID OPERA CUT SLIPPERS, black and tan, reg. \$2.50. Tonight **\$1.75**
- MEN'S SUEDE CALF OPERA CUT SLIPPER, American manufacture, hand turned soles, tonight **\$3.50**
- WOMEN'S WHITE KID, strap slippers, turn soles, tonight **\$1.75**
- WOMEN'S PATENT COLT, or Vici Kid Pumps, hand turned soles, Cuban or French heels. Tonight, \$3.50, \$3.00 and **\$2.50**

Hair Brushes at Special Prices Today

We have just received a consignment of Hair Brushes, popular priced ones, that should have been here long ago. We have marked them very close to insure selling them in the limited time that we have left.

- HAIR BRUSHES, with light and black backs. Extra special values at 50c, 35c and **25¢**
- HAIR BRUSHES, with rosewood backs. Special value at **\$1.00**
- METALLIC HAIR BRUSHES, specially priced at 50c, 25c and **15¢**

CLEAN-OUT OF TOYS

All Toys must be sold today. Prices like these will certainly move them out quickly. On sale this morning at 8.30 o'clock.

- HORSES AND RIGS**
HORSES AND RIGS, regular \$4.75. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$3.50**
HORSES AND RIGS, regular \$5.00. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$3.75**
HORSES AND RIGS, regular \$7.50. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$4.50**
HORSES AND RIGS, regular price \$10.00. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$6.75**
- TWO ELECTRIC RAILWAYS**, were \$8.50. This morning 8.30 a.m., each **\$4.50**
TWO IRISH MAIL TANDEMS, regular \$12.50. This morning 8.30 a.m., each **\$9.50**
- ALL ANIMALS**, such as Sheep, Dogs, Goats, Camels, Lions, Bears, Cows, etc., half price. One large Sheep, regular price, \$9.50, 8.30 this morning **\$4.75**
ONE LARGE SHEEP, was \$8.50. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$4.25**
- DRESSED DOLLS**
DRESSED DOLLS, worth up to \$2.00. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$1.00**
DRESSED DOLLS, regular \$2.50. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$1.50**
DRESSED DOLLS, regular \$4.50. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$2.50**
DRESSED DOLLS, regular \$5.75. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$3.50**
DRESSED DOLLS, regular \$10.00. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$4.50**
DRESSED DOLLS, regular \$15.00. This morning 8.30 a.m. **\$7.50**
- TIN HORSES**, regular 50c, this morning 8:30 a.m. **25¢**
SANTA CLAUS, regular 25c, this morning 8:30 a.m. **10¢**
WONDER GUN FOR BOYS, shoots rubber balls, regular 75c, this morning 8:30 a.m. **50¢**

Today in the China Dept.

We intend making today a record one in the China Department. The various special tables will be loaded down with splendid values. Articles will be offered at prices today that formerly brought much more, in some case twice what is now asked. This is in keeping with our policy of offering bargains on Christmas Goods before the holiday rather than after.

We have tables of special values in China, running from near the main stairway right into the annex. The tables offering the best bargains are the popular priced ones at \$1.00, 75c, 50c and..... **25¢**

Today in the Book Dept.

If price will do it, we intend making a clean sweep in this department. Christmas Books for Children, Toy Books and other Fancy Books for juveniles, Gift Books for adults, Christmas Calendars and Cards, in fact everything of that kind will be offered at special prices.

It would make too long a list to mention all here, but advise strongly that you watch the special tables. They will contain goods at prices not offered before. We will have a particularly strong lot of values on sale this morning at 8.30. Special tables at 15c, 25c, 50c and..... **75¢**

Women's Wool Shawls

These Shawls make splendid gifts, always being a comfortable reminder of the giver. We have all sizes, weights and colors, such as white, grey, black, red and cream. A big assortment of prices, starting at..... **75¢**

Have You Got Presents for Everybody?



If Not, There is Still Time

POPULAR PRICED GIFTS FOR EVERY ONE

Prices Range from 25c and Upwards

<p>At 25c FANCY CHINA CHILDREN'S BOOKS WOMEN'S WOOLEN GLOVES WOMEN'S CASHMERE GLOVES WOMEN'S NECKWEAR WOMEN'S HANDKERCHIEFS FANCY GIFT BOOKS BOOKS FOR BOYS BOOKS FOR GIRLS CHRISTMAS CALENDARS CHILDREN'S WOOLEN GLOVES WOMEN'S HOSIERY CHILDREN'S HOSIERY WOMEN'S BELTS FANCY BROOCHES BOXED STATIONERY PICTURES PERFUMERY HAT PINS MEN'S NECKTIES MEN'S SOCKS MEN'S BRACES MEN'S HANDKERCHIEFS BABY'S BOOTIES BABY'S BIBS POCKET KNIVES WOMEN'S APRONS CHILDREN'S PINAFORES</p>	<p>At 50c FINE LINEN TOWELS BABY'S BIBS WOMEN'S HANDKERCHIEFS POCKET KNIVES</p> <p>At 75c BEAUTIFUL CHINA FANCY SLIPPERS FLANNELLETTES WOOLEN SHAWLS WOMEN'S APRONS BOYS' KID GLOVES CHILDREN'S BOOKS BOXED STATIONERY BOXES OF SOAP</p>	<p>At 75c PERFUMERY WOMEN'S FANCY NECKWEAR WOMEN'S HANDKERCHIEFS BOOKS OF ALL KINDS MEN'S FANCY BRACES WHITE UNDERSKIRTS WOMEN'S BELTS CHILDREN'S DRESSES MEN'S NECKWEAR MEN'S FANCY SOCKS MEN'S GLOVES WOMEN'S FANCY HOSIERY CHILDREN'S KID GLOVES FANCY BOXES OF CANDY WOMEN'S APRONS CHILDREN'S PINAFORES POCKET KNIVES</p>	<p>At \$1.00 HANDSOME CHINA WOOLEN SHAWLS FANCY WAISTS CHILDREN'S DRESSES WOMEN'S CORSETS NEW WHITEWEAR WOMEN'S UMBRELLAS CHILDREN'S UMBRELLAS FANCY BOXED STATIONERY WOMEN'S FANCY NECKWEAR BEAUTIFUL BOOKS FANCY HANDKERCHIEFS WOMEN'S KID GLOVES BOYS' KID GLOVES MEN'S NECKWEAR MEN'S MUFFLERS</p>	<p>At \$1.00 MEN'S SHIRTS MEN'S FANCY BRACES LINEN NAPKINS FANCY SLIPPERS CHRISTMAS CALENDARS FANCY BOXES OF CANDY FANCY APRONS CHILDREN'S PINAFORES WOMEN'S OVERALLS MEN'S FANCY SOCKS</p> <p>At \$1.50 MEN'S KID GLOVES WOMEN'S KID GLOVES MEN'S UMBRELLAS WOMEN'S UMBRELLAS</p>	<p>At \$1.50 LACE HANDKERCHIEFS LEATHER HAND BAGS SILK HOSIERY FANCY WAISTS SATENE UNDERSKIRTS WOOL SHAWLS CORSETS MEN'S NECKWEAR MEN'S MUFFLERS MEN'S SHIRTS MEN'S SWEATERS MEN'S FANCY BRACES GIFT BOOKS LEATHER BAGS BOYS' SWEATERS LINEN TOWELS TABLE LINEN LINEN NAPKINS FANCY CHINA FANCY LAMPS SPLENDID CUTLERY CHILDREN'S DRESSES DAINTY WHITEWEAR FANCY NECKWEAR</p>
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See Broad Street Windows for Xmas Gift Suggestions in Furniture

CAKE STANDS, each \$1.75, \$2.50, and \$4.75	TABOURETTE in Early English oak \$4.50	MAHOGANY ARM CHAIR \$11.00	MUSIC CABINET with desk \$17.50
DUTCH PICTURES \$2.50	MUSIC CABINET, in the Golden oak \$7.50	PARLOR CABINET, in mahogany, each \$12.00	MAHOGANY MUSIC CABINET, each \$17.00
DUTCH PIPE RACKS \$2.50	BRIC-A-BRAC CABINET in mahogany finish \$10.00	DESK CHAIR, in mahogany \$13.00	PARLOR ROCKER \$17.50
SMOKERS' HANGING WALL CABINETS \$5.00	ROUND "TIP-UP" TEA-TABLE, each \$10.00	RECEPTION CHAIR, in velvet, each \$13.50	MAHOGANY DRAWING-ROOM CHAIR \$18.50
TABLE BOOK RACKS, \$1.00 and \$3.00	CENTRE TABLE, in the Golden oak \$11.00	RECEPTION CHAIR, in tapestry, each \$12.50	CELLARETTE, in Early English oak \$18.75
EARLY ENGLISH OAK TABOURETTE \$5.50	CENTRE TABLE, in mahogany, each \$5.50	MUSIC CABINET, in mahogany, each \$14.00	NEST OF CARD OR TEA TABLES \$20.00
NEST OF TABOURETTES \$7.50	OAK MAGAZINE STAND, each at \$10.00	WRITING TABLE, in Early English oak \$14.50	MAHOGANY MUSIC CABINET, each \$19.00
UMBRELLA STAND \$5.50	GOLDEN OAK HALL SEAT, each \$10.50	WRITING TABLE, in the Golden oak \$14.50	GOLDEN OAK CHINA CABINET \$21.00
BIRCH MAHOGANY MUSIC CABINET \$6.00	MAHOGANY DESK CHAIR, at each \$12.50	MISSION WRITING TABLE, each \$14.50	CARD TABLE, in the golden oak, each \$21.00
BIRCH MAHOGANY PARLOR TABLE \$7.00	RECEPTION CHAIR in mahogany \$12.50	DRAWING ROOM CABINET, each \$15.50	DRAWING-ROOM ROCKER, each \$26.00
PARLOR TABLE in golden oak \$7.00		MAHOGANY MUSIC CABINET, each \$15.50	MAHOGANY TEA TABLE with tray, each \$28.00
MAHOGANY CENTRE TABLE, each \$7.00			

Candy in Fancy Boxes and Baskets for Christmas Gifts

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

Boxes and Baskets of Candy Packed to Order for Christmas.

VOL. L. NO.

COMM TO

Reports on Present

CONFERE

Disagreement

Ottawa, Dec. 10.—The Inter-Continental Commission, appointed April 8, 1900, and the United States Commission, appointed April 10, 1900, are today in session at the Ottawa Hotel. The commission is composed of the following members: Canada, Sir Charles D. O'Brien, and the United States, Mr. J. M. McKim. The commission is to report on the results of its mission to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State. The commission is to report on the results of its mission to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State. The commission is to report on the results of its mission to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State.

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WILL

Great North

Vancouver for the southern cut-throat and busy street worth before month, and to turn the Great North as soon as of the rail the cut-throat the attention it is pay to run from Vancouver time about the business of seed its bush period.

Shipments of coal mines over completed all shipments this year.

Christmas dinner in London, Queen, Wales, and Sandringham. King will have dinner.

Chicago his mother night. He is a very good father. The revolution heart, the house for chamber.

London, London turned that paper farmer of of Ontario farms in the price But should get out.