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Leather Goods AT COST

We are selling our entire line of leather goods at cost. Pocket Books, Card Cases, Purses, Cigar Cases. Now is the time to make your holiday selec-

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Christmas, 1902, Is Gone

and we hope everybody has enjoyed it to the utmost.

We Thank the Public

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> During the New Year, 1903

Asheville Hardware Co.

On the Square

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Asheville

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Be sure and look at our line of Sweaters, Smoking Jackets, Hats, Gloves, Neckwear, Shirts, Suspenders,

Handkerchiefs, &c.

Suitable for Presents for Men and Boys.

41 Patton Avenue.

TO END BLOCKADE OF THE PORTS OF VENEZUELA

Diplomatic Step by Secretary Hay Now That Dispute is to Go to Hague Tribunal.

TRUCE TO BE MADE WITH THE ALLIES

Minister Bowen to Be Summoned to Washington for This Purpose.

Washington, Dec. 26.-With the agreement of the parties interested to refer the Venezuelan troubles to the Hague tribunal Secretary Hay has already undertaken the diplomatic steps to secure the raising of the blockade and the resumption of diplomatic relations between Venezuela and the powers. The absence of representatives of only consented to submit the question the allies from Caracas is an embarrassment which will tend to delay settlement and Hay has sought to overcome it by suggesting to the allies that they instruct their ambassadors in Washington to arrange the preliminary protocol here with the representative of Venezuela.

None of the allies will permit its diplomatic agent who recently withdrew from Caracas to return there, while Castro declines to agree to the ultimatum presented to him upon the severance of diplomatic relations and it is therefore out of the question for any of the allies to treat with the Ven-

THE OIL HEATER.

Buy the Banner and then you are SURE you have the best there is. J. H. Law, 35 Patton Ave.

Get a Nice Pair Opera Glasses

For use during the opera sea-

We have some beauties at

\$1.50 to \$20.00

Mckee The...

54 Patton Avenue

Sometimes take a practical view of things and give their wives Christmas presents of value. Boyce's Perfect Steel Ranges are leaders in this line. We also have Coal Vases, Fire Sets, Andirons, etc., all very acceptable at

W. A. Boyce

11 South Court Square.

For Sale Or Exchange.

A beautiful modern country home lear Bingham school. House 9 rooms, 0 acres of land in high tate of cultiation. Will sell or exchange for city roperty. We are offering splendid alue in two business properties on atton avenue and Main street. Thesere all choice values.

Natt Atkinson & Sons Co., Real Estate Dealers.

Just Received

A car load of Flower Pots, and owing o delay in shipment from factory will all at greatly reduced prices. If interested call at once as they are bound to go. The I X L Department Store, 22 Patton avenue. Phone 167.

ezuelan government. Hay has also endorsed to the allies and to Venezuela the recent suggestion cabled by Minister Bowen that he come to Washington and endeavor to arrange a truce. The chances are regarded as favorable to an agreement by Venezuela and the allies that the preliminaries be arranged here. Should the protocol for resumption of diplomatic relations and raising the blockade be signed here the representatives of the allies will be instructed to return to Caracas and they could with propriety then enter upon the negotiations of the protocol defining the character and scope of the arbitration. They are now on board the warships in Venezuelan waters and it would only take them a short while

to return to Caracas. Berlin, Dec. 26.—A semi-official note COAL SCARCITY published today says: As in the case of the Italian note, the British and German notes on Venezuela, presented December 23, declare that if President Roosevelt does not accept the post of arbitrator, the powers would be prepared, subject to certain reservations, to submit the matter to The Hague

AGRREMENT REPORTED TO THE CABINET.

Washington, Dec. 26.-The Venezu elan question was discussed at th cabinet meeting today. Secretary Hay reported on the results of his cable correspnodence with the governments at London, Berlin, Rome and Caracas In accordance with the 'suggestion made several days ago by President Roosevelt, through Secretary Hay President Castro of Venezuela was reported to have agreed to submit the ty and high price of coal. differences , between his government and the powers to the arbitration of The Hague. The European powers not to arbitration, but, while they had to be conducted by President Roosevelt, they had assented to his suggestion that the matter be referred to The Hague. The presentation of the case met with the hearty approval of the members of the cabinet.

ARRESTED FOR PASSING COUNTERFEIT MONEY

Two Men Who When Searched Had Many Bogus Half Dollars.

Chief of Police Fullam early last evening arrested two young men, who gave their names as Henry Smith and Oscar Pressley, for attempting to pass counterfit money. It seems that they entered the store of J. B. Swartzberg & Son on South Main street to buy an overcoat. They agreed to take one giving as payment \$1.50 in three 50 cent pieces. The search also revealed the fact that one of them had a pistol upon his person.

"I just wish I could find the fellow that gave me this stuff," said one, "I would just fix him. I tell you I would." But it seems that each told a different tale as to where he obtained his money. An officer stated that it is the worst counterfeit he has

They will probably be given a hearing before United States Commissioner

JOHN M'CALL OF MARION TAKES HIS OWN LIFE

Unexplained Suicide of a Hard Working Young Man.

Marion, N. C., Dec. 26.-About three o'clock this afternoon John Mc-Call shot and killed himself in Thomas' barroom. He was a quiet hard-working young man the son of Samuel Mc-Call. He had told others during the day that he was intending to kill himself. The cause for the rash act is unknown, not so far has there anpeared any reason for it.

MRS GRANT'S WILL

Left an Estate Valued at \$234,065 to Her Four Children.

Washington, Dec. 26 .- The will of the late widow of General Grant was filed for probate this afternoon. The estate is valued at \$234,065. General F. D. Grant is executor. The will directs that the estate be divided equally among the four children of the de-

A WORD OF THANKS. I desire to thank my patrons for their liberal patronage for the year just ending, and wishing all a happy ing, of the new school house. and prosperous new year, and solicit ing their continued favors. Respectfully,

L. BLOMBERG. cigars, tobacco and The leader in sporting goods, 17 Patton avenue. Established 1887.

Biltmore Firewood. Phone 700.

A FEW

more left of those handsome

HANDWORK DOLLS.

You get them only at

HESTON'S Phone 183. 26 S. Main.

SETTLES OVER ALL THE LAND

With Accompaniment of Snow in Portions of the Middle West.

ADDS 7 O SUFFERING

Washington, Dec. 26.—Reports from all parts of the country are that today has broken the record of the year in intense cold. Zero temperatures occurred during the night and early morning in many parts of the west. There were heavy falls of snow in Ohio and all the-lower lake regions, the high winds causing the snow to drift and impeding railway traffic. Throughout the south the lowest temperatures of the year for that section tion at the next meeting." were recorded for the 24 hours ending at 8 o'clock this evening. In many cities in the north, including New York and New England towns, the suffering was intensified by the scarci-

COLDEST DAY IN ATLANTA. Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26.-This was the coldest day of the winter in this city and vicinity. The mercury reached 18 degrees above zero during the night, and has moderated but little today and has moderated but little today. Jacksonville, Fla., reports 38 above and Savannah 34. Freezing temperature extends as far south as a line running east and west through the central portion of the cotton belt.

BELOW ZERO IN IOWA. Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 26.-The cold weather record of the season was broken this morning when the official report showed seven degrees below. This is the coldest day of the year. A high wind has prevailed and much suffering has been reported owing to the extreme scarcity of fuel. BELOW ZERO AND COAL SCARCE

Kansas City, Dec. 26.-Advices received today indicate severe weather throughout Kansas and Missouri Hutchison, Kan., reports the coldest weather in years, the thermometer at CHAMBERLAIN SPEAKS that point registering five below zero. At Atchison five below is recorded. At Mexico, Mo., a coal famine confronts the people of that section.

FOUND IN WRECK

Unexpected Discovery in Debris of the Wrecked Train

at Trinidad.

Denver, Dec. 26.-By a collision of freight trains on the Colorado Southern road near Trinidad Christmas evening it is known that thirty lives were lost. The first reports gave only six fatalfties but it is now learned that a large number of coal miners were beating their way to Trinidad on one of the trains. Fifteen corpses were dug out today and one miner was barely alive. He died shortly after.

SWINGING SIGNS TO BE REMCVED?

Aldermen Take Up the Question-Interest to Be Paid on City Bonds.

On account of the holidays the board of aldermen met yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock instead of at 7:30 in the evening as usual. The first matter brough to the attention of the board was the request of Judge George A. Shuford of the school board and Superintendent Tighe that heating apparatus be installed in the new West End school and the Bailey street school, particularly the latter. No action was taken, partly on account of a lack of funds. Another reason is that it is the opinion of the board that the school bonds issued provide for the equipment, as well as the build-Charles E. Waddell requested the

Choice Lots

On Charlotte Street For Sale.

Opposite the Manor and Albemarle Park property. The owner has heretofore refused to sell these desirable lots, but we can now name a very reasonable price, either as a whole or divided into four lots. Total frontage 252 feet; depth 194 feet.

Wilkie & LaBarbe SOLE AGENTS.

No. 23 Patton avenue.

board to extend an invitation to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to hold their next annual session in this city. The invitation was extended. This body held its last annual meeting at Great Barrington, Mass., and Sault St. Marie is endeavoring to secure them next. Time was extended in W. L.

Baird's proposition that a list be made of all unlisted property which is now subject to taxation. The board suspects that there is a great deal of taxable property which is not on the

A summons was read of suit brought against the city in the case of the Reynolds property, a brickyard in which the city has an interest, and the matter was referred to the city attorney. Notice of this suit was filed some time ago in the office of the clerk of the Superior court. The mayor stated that the Battery

Park bank is willing to loan the city the money for the January interest on the city bonds, and on motion it was ordered that the mayor and clerk execute the city's note for \$14,000, payable in 30 days.

It was ordered that the tax collector make out a deed to R. S. Mc-Call for property sold.

motion was made and carried: "Resolved, That this board consider requiring the taking down of all swinging signs on North Main and South dead and injured is as follows: Main streets, Patton avenue and Court square to be left open for considera-

Public sentiment has for some time been against these unsightly and dangerous signs, but this aversion was brought to a head by an unfortunate accident, the falling of one of the ger of 23d battalliion, skull fractured, signs upon a lady. It was argued that several of the larger cities of this and other states have prohibited such signs.

DESTROYED BY FIRE

The Church Near by Had a Narrow Es cape from the Flames.

Special to the Gazette. Morganton, N. C., Dec. 26.—Between 3 and 4 o'clock this afternoon the rectory of the Episcopal church here was burned, the building being almost entirely destroyed. There was a high wind and for a time it seemed that the church, which is near, could not be saved. The furniture from the rectory was saved, but was badly damaged.

IN SOUTH AFRICA

Pleads That Equality Be Accorded to Boers by Brittons.

Durban, Dec. 26.-Joseph Chamberlain was the guest of honor at a luncheon here today. He said that the late war decided that the British must be paramount. He urged his hearers to do nothing to revive ancient animosity, but to accord to the Boers equality and ask them frankly to take the hand of

> We desire to wish everybody the

Complinents of the Season

and thank you for your liberal patronage and favors during the past year.....

Company,

Leading Jewelers,

Ger. Church St. and Patton Ave

Large boarding house unfurnished, "The Brexton," No. 11 Starnes avenue, \$50.00 per month; recently painted; good

For Sale: Beautiful Suburban house, with 60 acres of land water and sewerage.

Aston, Rawls & Co

1814 South Main street.

ARBUCKLES FIRE

They Were Buried Beneath the Walls of the Lofty Building

BATTALION CHIEF AMONG THE DEAD

New York, Dec. 26 .- In the fire which burned the Arbuckle sugar refining plant factories in Brooklyn this After some discussion, the following morning, three firemen were killed, two were badly injured and \$450,000 of property was destroyed. The list of

Dead: 'Michael O'Toole, fireman of ngine company No. 55, on water tower: Thomas Jeffries, fireman, water tower No. 6, crushed out of recognition: Battalion Chief Thomas Coppinarm and leg broken.

Injured: Thomas McCarthy, fireman, engine company No. 68, on water tower, right leg fractured and right hip erushed; William McCooley, citizen,

The dead and injured were all mempers of the company in charge of water tower No. 6, which Battalion Chief Coppinger has assumed charge of. It had been drawn directly under one of the walls. Suddenly the wall was seen to bulge, and before the men could move it crashed directly down upon them. The firemen were buried beneath it, and the water tower and ladders were smashed to pieces.

BRYAN IN MEXICO

Mexico City, Dec. 26.-William J. Bryan, who has just arrived here, is being shown much attention by the government officials and members of the American colony. It is stated that he is to have an audience with Diaz and the minister of finance tomor-

The Handsomest Place

On Montford avenue can be bought at a bargain on account of the owners having decided to leave town. The house has all modern improvements and the grounds are the handsomeest, for their size, in the city. Let us

show it to you. H. F. Grant & Son. REAL ESTATE AGENTS,

48 Patton avenue.

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Phone 347: Come and inspect my line of Imported and Domestic Suitings

before buying elsewhere. Gen-

tlemen's Riding Breeches and

The Tailor

The Best 5c CIGAR

Livery a Specialty.

In town Is undoubtedly the

We sell large quantities for

gifts. Come in today and try

MICHELSON'S

ON THE SQUARE.

COLD CREAM

Fresh cold cream, fine for skin and complexion, 15 and 25c per jar. HOLIDAY PERFUME.

We offer a choice assortment of holiday perfumes and sachet powders. They are of the best quality, daintily, boxed and very reasonably priced.

Grant's Pharmacy

Grant's No. 24 cures cold, 250.