

COMPARING FOOTING

Japan Completing Final Preliminaries.

NO LIMIT ON THE BONDS

Britain Gives Assurance It Will Take the Loan.

EXECUTIVE CHIEFS CONFER

Manchurian and Korean Questions Are Considered on All Phases, but Nothing Regarding Deliberations Is Made Public.

YOKOHAMA, Dec. 30.—The government is completing the final preliminaries for placing the country on a war footing. Imperial ordinance authorizes the government to make an unlimited issue of treasury bonds to provide war funds, creating a special council of war, and fixing the imperial headquarters.

In the event of war, if a special issue of war bonds is made, it is understood that the bonds can be floated in England, whence it is said assurances have come that the money would be forthcoming.

The ministers and executive chiefs discussed the situation for three hours yesterday (Tuesday), but nothing regarding their deliberations was made public.

The ordinance issued yesterday by the cabinet council authorizing a guarantee of the principal and interest of an issue of 10,000,000 yen debentures for the purpose of expediting work on the Seoul-Fusan Railway, and which provided for all possible military expenses for the protection of the railway and other interests, also authorized the government to utilize 10,000,000 yen, the proceeds of the Chinese War indemnity, which hitherto has been devoted to educational and other purposes, as a war fund. In addition, authorization is given to issue treasury notes repayable in five years, and to raise loans repayable in two years to an unlimited extent.

The Seoul-Fusan Railway by this action becomes virtually a government enterprise. The government guarantees the capital of 10,000,000 yen and 6 per cent interest, and will nominate the directors. The new military council will be composed of ministers of war and marine and the chiefs of the military, naval and general staffs and leading generals and admirals. Thus, under the emergency arrangements, the naval and military staffs are placed on the same footing. It is stated that at yesterday's luncheon the emperor unreservedly invited the senior statesmen and the councilors to give their advice on the emergency situation.

The promulgation of the ordinance has had great effect in calming public anxiety.

RUSSIA IS MOVING FOR WAR. Troops Are Moving Toward Peking, and All Is Excitement on Ships.

PORT ARTHUR, Dec. 29.—The Russian troops here are being placed in a state of readiness for war, and feverish activity is manifest among the ships in the harbor. Provisions, arms and ammunition are being loaded on all of the war vessels. All of the troops in barracks here are ready to take the field at a moment's notice.

Detachments of Russian troops are slowly, but steadily, moving southward, until now the Russian forces are within 100 miles of Peking. These soldiers are equipped for a quick dash, and if hostilities break out, it would not be surprising to find them making a forced march to take possession of the Chinese capital.

It became known here tonight in a dispatch from Shanghai that the Empress Dowager has issued orders to Vice-roy Yuan Shi Kai, who is now in supreme command of the Chinese army, to make another attempt to have the Russian troops withdrawn from Manchuria. It is believed he will threaten a China-Japan alliance should Russia decline to make any concessions. This will have little effect on the Russians, as it is conceded China could hardly be expected to maintain neutrality should war break out. General Ma has been ordered by the Peking government to resist any further withdrawal of Russian troops into the province of Chi Li.

RUSSIA INCLINED TO YIELD.

China Demands Concessions or She Will Join With Japan.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail reports that Russia is more inclined to make a concession to China, who, in regard to Manchuria, says he learns that unless Russia pays consideration to the Chinese demand, China will join with Japan. The correspondent also says that Yuan Shi Kai, who has been entrusted with the task of negotiating with Russia has a decided predilection for an alliance with Japan, and that the Empress Dowager also favors one.

The Mirror asserts that Japan's note to Russia demands a material guarantee of honest intentions with regard to Korea by a reduction of the Russian fleet in Far Eastern waters to half its present strength.

Russia Calls on Volunteers.

MOSCOW, Dec. 29.—Twelve batteries of the Grenadier brigades of field artillery, stationed in and around Moscow have been selected for service in the Far East, and have received new guns which the Russian artillerymen say are superior to the French field pieces. The early departure of three of these batteries is expected, which will place 300 field guns, with the latest equipment, at the disposal of Victory Alexieff.

It is said here that all the volunteers living at their homes who, as graduates of high schools, are privileged to serve only a year with the colors, have been ordered into barracks.

No extensive movements of troops eastward have been reported here up to the present.

Japan Has Bought Much Flour.

STOCKTON, Cal., Dec. 29.—The Japanese Government has been buying flour from Stockton and other Pacific Coast mills since last August. J. M. Welsh, president of the Stockton Milling Company, is authority for the statement. Shipload after shipload of flour has been shipped from this coast to Japan during the last four months, and Japan has a stock of flour now on hand sufficient to supply her army and navy for a one-year war at least. Buying has been done quietly, but has been done by the Japanese Government direct.

A report is current that cattle are being bought for Russia and horses for Japan.

France Has No Fear of War.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—It was asserted author-

COMING IN RAPIDLY

Five Piano Clubs Now Being Organized at Ellers Piano House.

Buying Pianos for Less Than It Usually Costs to Rent One. Thirty High Class Makes of New Pianos to Select From. A Saving of Nearly Forty Per cent on Each Piano Guaranteed to Each Member. Come in Today.

Over four hundred fine, new pianos were sold inside of five weeks in the Fall of 1902 by Ellers Piano House on the co-operative club plan, which was then for the first time introduced in Western piano selling. The idea originated in Philadelphia, and is a plan that appeals at once to the best judgment of practical people. Five hundred pianos can be sold in five lots a great deal cheaper than they can be sold in the regular retail way to five hundred individual buyers.

It is the same principle of selling large quantities to a single firm applied to selling one hundred pianos to as many people who unite in one club for that purpose.

Two Months of Preparation.

Over two months of most painstaking preparation have been devoted to these five new piano clubs. Over a hundred thousand dollars' worth of strictly standard, brand new, fully warranted pianos are involved, among them the most costly of Klais, and Chickering and Welles, together with such famous makes as the Yose, the Hobbart M. Cable, the Hallett & Davis and twenty other high-grade makes.

Better than Last Year.

There is no question now as to our ability to sell these clubs. We are now able to wait now for others to join, nor until the club is filled to get his or her piano. Members of those clubs do not even have to know now who the other members of the club are. Selection is not limited to a few makes. The entire Ellers Piano House line is included in these clubs. The instruments are here in Portland and in the hands of the piano men, being coming in each day at the rate of two or more carloads, and one day last week nine carloads arrived in one day. When you have chosen your piano, and made the initial payment the piano is delivered promptly, accompanied by the manufacturer's guarantee and also by Ellers Piano House "Money back if not satisfied" plan. The price of the piano ranges from \$125 a week (or \$5 a month), to \$150, \$200 and \$250 a week, or corresponding amounts if you prefer to pay by the month.

A Few of the Prices.

It is impossible for us to make detailed mention of prices here. Suffice it to say that pianos for which ordinarily \$225 and \$250 are asked are now \$115, \$125, \$150 and \$175 for the regular \$225 and \$250 styles.

In Class B are found the choicest of Marshall & Wendell, Ricas & Son, West and the beautiful Bailey pianos, \$150, \$175, \$200 and \$225. These are positively the lowest prices ever seen in print. Corresponding reductions prevail also in Clubs C, D and E.

Remember when you deal with Ellers Piano House you are dealing with the strongest, largest and oldest established piano firm, who sell instruments at all times on the same basis. It is made possible only by the many unique and up-to-date advantages they employ. Sale commences each club on a new basis tomorrow. Earliest buyers have the pick of the largest, finest collection of pianos ever seen in Portland. Ellers Piano House, No. 351 Washington street, corner Park.

Open evenings till January 1.

It is today that the French government does not believe that war between Russia and Japan will break out. It is declared the Japanese note which Russia is now considering is not a ultimatum, and it is further asserted that it does not even suggest a date within which a reply shall be made by the Russian government. One of the diplomats accredited to Russia says the Russian government considers the Japanese reply to be "rather satisfactory."

Russia May Create Monopoly.

MOSCOW, Dec. 29.—The government is considering making the sale of tea and sugar a state monopoly, as proposed by M. Witte, while Finance Minister. There is much opposition to the proposal on the part of the tea trade and the growers, but the government is not deterred, as pointed out in M. Witte's last budget, are believed in well-informed circles to make the adoption of the proposition probable.

Russia Contracts for Meat.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Negotiations by cable are in progress between the Russian government and the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Company, of this city, for about 1,000,000 pounds of meat meat for immediate shipment to Port Arthur. An official of the firm said today the contract was practically closed, and that it called for the delivery of the meat at San Francisco January 22.

LAWMAKER COMMITS SUICIDE

Present Ontario Government Loses a Vote, and May Resign.

TORONTO, Dec. 29.—Andrew Patullo, M. P. of Woodstock, Ont., committed suicide today at London, England, where he had been visiting. By his death, the majority of Premier Ross in the Ontario Legislature is reduced to two, and the resignation of the government is possible.

Czar Will Visit Italy.

ROME, Dec. 29.—It is asserted that Prince Oursoff, the new Ambassador from Russia to Italy, in presenting his credentials to King Victor Emmanuel, announced it was the intention of the Czar to visit Italy next Spring in return for the Italian monarch's visit to Russia.

Loubet to Visit Rome in April.

ROME, Dec. 29.—It is announced that President Loubet will visit Rome in April next.

CUSHMAN OPPOSES MOVE.

Wants Two Instead of One Republican Convention in Washington.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU. Washington, Dec. 29.—Representative Cushman has arrayed himself against the movement started in Washington by B. D. Crocker to hold but one state convention next year. Cushman is recommending to Republicans generally that two conventions be held, one about June 10 to select delegates to the National convention at Chicago, and one about September 10 to nominate a full state and Congressional ticket and adopt a state platform in harmony with the National platform.

Roommate of President Grant.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Rev. Father George Deshon, head of the Order of Paulist Fathers in New York, died of heart disease tonight, aged 59 years. Father Deshon, who was a playmate and roommate of General U. S. Grant at West Point, graduated in 1852, but retired from the Army with the rank of Captain in 1853, and was ordained a priest four years later.

Augustus a year you've been making a bid for Mrs. Ross's hand?—Angle-I have. Did you know that I had reserved the right to throw out all bids?—Yorkers Statesman.

The Different Store Olds, Wortman & King OUR TWENTY-SIXTH Annual Clearance Sale and White Fair

MARK THE CLOSE OF THE MOST PROSPEROUS YEAR IN OUR ENTIRE BUSINESS HISTORY. THIS STORE, WHICH TODAY IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS THE VERY PINNACLE OF STRAIGHTFORWARD BUSINESS METHODS, HAS CALMLY AND SAFELY SAILED AHEAD WHILE OTHERS HAVE FLOUNDERED IN STORMS OF COMPETITION. AS A RESULT OF THIS VAST BUSINESS MANY LINES OF GOODS HAVE BECOME GREATLY REDUCED. AS IT IS OUR DESIRE TO HAVE ALL STOCKS AS LOW AS POSSIBLE BEFORE TAKING OUR ANNUAL INVOICE WE HAVE INCLUDED EVERYTHING EXCEPTING A FEW ARTICLES ON WHICH THE MANUFACTURERS CONTROL THE PRICE IN THIS GREAT HOUSECLEANING SALE.

SPECIAL—Clearance Silks and Dress Goods

Never before in the 26 years of our store house cleanings have we offered such inducements in our Silk and Dress Goods departments as you will find this year. We have reduced the price on every piece of Silk, Dress Goods or Lining in the house, during this great Clearance Sale. We have gone through the entire stocks, sorted out all odd pieces and placed them in different lots on bargain tables.

- Lot 1—Consists of plain and fancy silks; regular values up to 85c; special Clearance price.....**39c**
- Lot 2—Consists of plain cream and white basket weaves, colored novelty fancies, also colored all silk satin duchesse; regular values up to \$1.25; Clearance price.....**55c**
- Lot 3—Consists of plain colored Peau de Soie, neat stripes, checks, polka dots, Persian patterns and novelties of every kind; regular values up to \$1.50; special Clearance price.....**64c**
- Lot 4—Consists of new novelty lace stripe effects, also canvases weaves in a beautiful assortment of colors; regular values up to \$1.75; special Clearance Sale price.....**72c**
- Lot 5—Consists of imported Persian novelties, Dolly Varden and Oriental designs, broadened satins, embroidered novelties and more antique velvets; regular values up to \$4.00 per yard; Clearance Sale price.....**\$1.59**

EXTRA CLEARANCE BLACK GOODS

Lot 1—Consists of fancy figured jacquard Mohairs and Brilliantines, nub and rice-faked Etamines, Henriettes, etc.; values up to \$1.00 per yard; special Clearance Sale price.....**49c**

- Lot 2—Consists of lace striped Etamines, lattice Etamines, bourette Etamines, Sackings and Canvas Cloths; regular values up to \$1.50 per yard; special Clearance price.....**79c**
- Lot 3—Consists of Twine Cloths, Crepe Serges, Satin Berbers, striped Melrose and Turkish Mohairs; regular values up to \$2.25; special Clearance Sale price.....**\$1.19**
- Lot 4—Consists of Cravenettes, Chevots, Zibelines, unfinished Worsteds and rain-proof Sicilian; regular values up to \$2.50 per yard; special Clearance Sale price.....**\$1.69**

COLORED DRESS GOODS SPECIAL

- Lot No. 1—Consists of Canvas Cloths, all-wool Challies, Novelty Plaids and fancy black Fabrics; splendid values up to 85c; special Clearance Sale price.....**27c**
- Lot No. 2—Consists of plain and novelty Zibelines, Plaids, Etamines, Canvas Cloth and Waistings, 50c to \$1.25 values; special Clearance Sale price.....**38c**
- Lot No. 3—Consists of French Melanges, Henriettes, novelty Zibelines, Albatross, Canvas Cloth and Plaids, 85c to \$1.50 values; special Clearance Sale price.....**49c**
- Lot No. 4—Consists of silk and wool Gloria Sublimes, all-wool Crepe de Chine, Granite and Novelty Suitings, \$1.00 to \$2.00 values; special Clearance Sale price.....**69c**
- Lot No. 5—Consists of novelty embroidered Zibelines, camelsuit Suitings, Plaids and English Serges; values \$1.25 to \$2.25; special Clearance price.....**73c**
- Lot No. 6—Consists of French novelty Zibelines, Priestley's Cravenettes, novelty Etamines, Scotch and English mixed Suitings, Plaid Zibelines, \$1.50 to \$3.50 values; special Clearance Sale price.....**89c**

Clearance Undermuslins

In our annex—Second Floor—we have on display the largest assortment of dainty Undermuslins ever shown by a Portland house. These include all kinds and qualities from the plain muslin to the most elaborately trimmed French hand-embroidered. All our domestic Muslin Underwear is made in roomy, well ventilated factories, under state supervision, by skilled labor, with modern machinery; they are generous in size and well proportioned. All of our Undermuslins included in the Clearance Sale.

- Misses' Skirts of good quality muslin, with 9-inch cambric flounce, regular price 65c; Clearance.....**47c**
- Misses' Skirts of very fine cambric, deep flounce, trimmed with tureen lace edging and insertion, regular \$1.10; Clearance.....**73c**
- Ladies' Skirt Chemise of fine cambric, embroidery trimmed at yoke, neck and sleeves, tucked flounce and embroidery edge; regular price, \$1.25; Clearance.....**97c**
- Ladies' Drawers of fine cambric, deep-tucked, lawn ruffle, with Valenciennes lace; regular, 65c; Clearance.....**47c**
- Ladies' muslin or cambric Gowns, square and V-shaped neck, embroidery and lace-trimmed at yoke, neck and sleeves; regular price, \$1.00; Clearance.....**69c**
- Ladies' heavy muslin Skirts, flounce with cluster of 7 tucks; regular 65c, at.....**49c**
- Ladies' knit Petticoats, with fancy striped border, silk-embroidered finished edge; regular price, 75c; Clearance.....**49c**
- Ladies' black merized Petticoats, 14-inch umbrella flounce, nicely trimmed with 8-inch Vandyke ruffle and 2 rows of 1-inch juby trimming; regular price, \$2.25; Clearance.....**\$1.49**
- Ladies' extra fine quality Flannelette Gowns, high neck and kimono style, neatly trimmed with 1½-inch wide embroidery; regular price, \$1.85; Clearance.....**\$1.29**

ROYAL WORCESTER CORSET SPECIAL

Every season we offer at special reduced prices our broken lines in this world-famous brand of Corsets. Among these are 50 different styles, nearly all straight-front corsets, covering the entire range of fashionable corset wear, including the "Bon Ton" and "Sapphires," sizes for all, colors, drab, brocade, black and white. For convenience we have arranged them in three different lots—

- Lot 1—Regular price \$1.25 to \$3.50; Clearance.....**\$.98**
- Lot 2—Regular price \$5.00 to \$9.00; Clearance.....**\$3.75**
- Lot 3—Regular price \$10 to \$15; Clearance.....**\$6.49**

Ladies' and Misses' Walking Suits at Half

We have placed on sale something like one hundred and fifty Ladies' and Misses' finely tailored Walking Suits at just half price. These come in fancy mixtures, browns, blues, greens, navy, oxfords and castor. Some are lined with silk, some with satin—all are new, nobby and strictly up-to-date. The opportunity of the season to get a fine garment for little money.

- \$28.50 values go at **\$14.25** \$40.00 values go at **\$20.00**
- \$30.00 values go at **\$15.00** \$42.50 values go at **\$21.25**
- \$32.50 values go at **\$16.25** \$45.00 values go at **\$22.50**
- \$35.00 values go at **\$17.50** \$50.00 values go at **\$25.00**
- \$38.50 values go at.....**\$19.25**

Domestic and Linen Aisle

- Richardson's heavy homespun unbleached all-linen Damask; Extra Clearance, 65c yard; real value, 90c.
- All-linen 22x22-inch Napkins, guaranteed to wear, value \$2.50; Clearance.....**\$2.19**
- Extra size lunch and breakfast fringed Tablecloths, size 58x104, value \$1.75; Clearance, each.....**\$1.29**
- Teacloths, all-linen, fine satin finish and hemstitched, 36x36 inches, value \$2.50; special.....**\$1.78**
- Same, 45x45 inches, value \$3.50; special.....**\$2.69**
- Richardson's washed huck Towels, size 22x44, value 35c; Clearance.....**24c**
- Richardson's all-linen Irish huck Towels, size 18x34, value 18c; Clearance.....**13c**
- Good, heavy muslin Pillow Cases, sizes 36x45, value 12½c; Clearance.....**9c**
- Best quality unbleached Sheets, 72x90, each.....**45c**
- Best quality unbleached Sheets, 81x90, each.....**50c**
- All-wool Waistings, value 50c; Clearance, 36c yard; these come in all the new colorings.
- 36-inch dark-colored Percales, our 12½c quality; Clearance, yard.....**8c**

Great Linen Clearance

This is the Linen event of the year. Everything in our vast stock of first-class table linens sharply reduced in price. Richardson's famous Irish Table Damask, by the yard or in separate cloths. Satin Damask Table Sets of cloth and napkins. Hemstitched Table Sets of cloth and napkins. Fringed Table Cloths and Napkins to match. Hemstitched plain and fancy embroidered Tea, Tray and Carving Cloths.

- Here are a few of our Extra Clearance Specials in Linen Sets, with Napkins to match—
- 2x2 yards at.....**\$6.15**
- 2x2½ yards at.....**\$7.00**
- 2x3 yards at.....**\$7.95**
- Separate Cloths, 2x2 yards.....**\$3.08**
- Separate Cloths, 2x2½ yards.....**\$3.96**
- Separate Cloths, 2x3 yards.....**\$4.80**
- Special Clearance Reductions on all our Sheets, Pillow Cases, Shirts and Muslins, by the yard.

VEILINGS AND NETTINGS REDUCED

- All our pattern Veils, 50c value at.....**42c**
- All our pattern Veils, 75c value at.....**63c**
- All our pattern Veils, \$1.00 value at.....**85c**

RIBBONS—CLEARANCE

Special fine satin Liberty Ribbon, worth 30c, to clear out line.....**14c**

ALL OUR UMBRELLAS REDUCED

- \$1.00 values at.....**\$.85** \$4.00 values at.....**\$3.49**
- \$1.50 values at.....**\$1.25** \$5.00 values at.....**\$4.40**
- \$2.50 values at.....**\$2.19**

OSTRICH BOAS

Finest line in the city.

\$17.50 values for.....**\$15.40** \$25.00 values for.....**\$22.00**

\$22.50 values for.....**\$19.80** \$35.00 values for.....**\$30.75**

We place on sale a new lot of wide Valenciennes Laces, with insertions to match, worth 15c to 35c; while they last.....**11c**

CLEARANCE LADIES' GLOVES

Jouvin Kid Gloves, washable gloves, one-clasp Plympton and two-clasp Plympton—worth \$1.60, \$1.75 and \$2.00; special.....**\$1.29**

MAIL ORDERS RECEIVE OUR PROMPT ATTENTION

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S HANDKERCHIEFS

We have about 40 dozen Handkerchiefs which were slightly mused in our show windows—these we have sorted out and placed on sale at about half their actual value.

EMBROIDERIES ON SALE

This is the time of year to begin your Spring sewing. We remembered this fact and have secured the choicest selection of fine embroideries ever offered over any local retail counter. As these all go in with the Clearance Sale, it is to your interest to take advantage of this great sale, so be on hand early and get the choicest at the lowest possible prices.

Millinery Specials

We have on hand a few choice pattern hats which we have reduced to a price that will close them out at once. **\$25 values go at \$7.50**

Extra Shoe Specials

Fine hand-made pattern Shoes in French kid, patent kid and fine French patent calf, button or lace, military full Louis heels, \$5 and \$6 qualities, at.....**\$3.85**

\$2 and \$3 Party Slippers, one, two or three straps, beaded or plain.....**\$1.78**

Common sense Comforts, congress or lace, \$1.75 kind, at.....**\$1.38**

LADIES' NECKWEAR

Fancy stocks made of Mousseline de Soie, trimmed with fancy braid, have a good style to them, are very neat, with stole end; also fancy turnover, with embroidered front tabs, worth 25c to 35c; Clearance price.....**15c and 18c**

All goods bought on account the rest of this month will be charged on the January bill

WILL BOYCOTT RAILROAD

organization will declare a boycott upon the big railroad system and will prohibit its members from patronizing it in any way.

UNION LABOR PLACES SANTA FE ON THE BLACKLIST.

Refusal to Recognize the Telegraphers' Organization Means War to the Knife.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The Call tomorrow will say:

The Santa Fe Railway System has been placed upon the blacklist of the American Federation of Labor, and all those who are affiliated with that organization will be instructed not to ride upon the lines of that corporation or ship thereon after January 1.

This action was taken by the central organization of the American Federation of Labor at the request of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, and is due to the fact that the Santa Fe System has never recognized the telegraphers' organization since the strike on that system years ago, which the telegraphers lost. The Order of Railway Telegraphers is connected with the American Federation of Labor, and it is now announced that immediately after the first of the year the general

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Chicago Livestockmen Deem Strikers' Proposition One-Sided.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—A positive refusal to arbitrate was the decision of the joint association of livestockmen tonight, on the proposal submitted by the striking livestock drivers. The drivers asked that the adjustment of the whole difficulty be placed in the hands of former members of the Chicago Board of Arbitration.

The reason given by the livestockmen for their refusal of the proposition of the drivers was that the selection of the arbiters by the drivers gave the employers no voice in the matter.

Many desertions from the union were reported today. At the headquarters of the Livestockmen's Association, it was said that fully 60 strikers had applied for their old jobs and had been put back to work.

CITY TO MAKE WAR ON UNIONS

Chicago Fire Department Says Men Must Give Up One or the Other.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Chief Musham, of the Chicago Fire Department, will compel

Elevator Men to Go on Strike.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—A strike which will cause discomfort to about 400 people will be inaugurated here at 6 o'clock tomorrow, when the elevator men of 125 downtown office buildings will quit because their union scale of 37½ cents per hour has been denied. Unless the scale is agreed at the hour stipulated, not an elevator will be run and thousands will be obliged to walk up hundreds of steps to the offices in sky-scrapers.

Jury is Finally Secured.

GEORGETOWN, Colo., Dec. 29.—A jury in the Sun and Moon dynamiting case from Idaho Springs was secured this afternoon, and the taking of testimony will begin tomorrow.

Steel Plant Will Reduce Wages.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 29.—A report was current today that the Jones & Laughlin

NO MERCY FOR THE SICK.

Burglars Take the Last Cent of Invalid Woman.

Burglars entered a lodging-house at 28 North Seventh street at 1:30 this morning, and after searching one room and securing \$25 in cash, became frightened and left.

A sick woman occupied the room that they entered.

"What do you want?" she asked.

"Keep still, and we will not harm you," they replied. One addressed the other as "Oscar," and was nervous all of the time.

"Hurry, Oscar," he insisted several times before they left. On the bureau was a purse in which was \$25. The bold robber who answered to the name of Oscar picked up the purse, but could not open it.

"I am sick and have nothing in the world but the money in that purse," pleaded the sick woman.

"Then we will not take it," said the

EMPEROR FALLS DOWN STAIRS

Accident to Francis Joseph Creates Great Alarm in Vienna.

VIENNA, Dec. 29.—Reports which reached Vienna today of an accident to Emperor Francis Joseph created much alarm. It appears that during His Majesty's customary Christmas visit to his daughter, the Archduchess Maria Valeria, at Wals, he was ascending a stairway when his spurs became entangled in the carpet. He fell forward, but arose immediately without assistance.

The Emperor's doctors say his injuries are quite unimportant, some muscles of the back being slightly strained and the forehead bruised. The doctors recommend that His Majesty shall rest for a few days.

"I believe he made a fortunate out of action," "Indeed? What kind of action?" Wall street rumors.—Puck.