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MILLER'S CHRISTMAS TREE.

FOR THE CHILDREN.



OUR PLAN.—With each \$1 purchase for cash between now and Christmas we will give a coupon that will entitle the holder to a present from our tree. The purchaser may claim the present, or the coupon may be given to any child in Salem, who can secure the present by presenting the coupon at the Old Cent Store on Christmas morning.

There will be a variety of presents of equal value, each coupon holder taking choice of the articles on the tree.

Something of value may be sent to deserving families by securing 25c worth of more of coupons, for which we will give anything in our stock to the value of your coupon.

Candy at wholesale prices, for schools or Christmas trees. Stock fresh and as cheap as anybody. Give us a call.

J. J. MILLER,

156 STATE ST.

SALEM IMPROVEMENT CO.,

LIME, CEMENT, SAND,
And All BUILDING Material.

95 STATE ST.

BE SURE AND CALL AT THE

Union Bargain Store
AND SEE THEIR WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF

HOLLIDAY GOODS,

TOYS, DOLLS, FANCY GOODS,
Albums, Decorated China—in fact presents for the old and young. In addition to the most complete holiday stock they have all lines of staple and substantial goods, all at prices to suit the times. New lot of Shoes to suit all. Children's Shoes 45c to 60c. Ladies' Shoes 90c.

GRAY BROS.,
Hardware, Wagons, Carts, Road Machinery
AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.
Latest Improved Goods and Lowest Prices.
N. W. Cor. State and Liberty Sts. SALEM OREGON

Artificial Teeth
INSERTED

WITHOUT PLATES.
Roots and badly decayed teeth recrowned with either gold or porcelain. Nothing but first-class work done.

DR. CONTRIS, DENTIST.
Parlors over Gray Bros.

The Willamette Hotel.

LEADING HOTEL OF THE CITY.

Reduced rates. Management liberal. Electric cars leave hotel for all public buildings and points of interest. Special rates will be given to permanent patrons.

A. I. WAGNER.

RED FRONT LIVERY STABLE.

E. C. HANSEN, Manager.
A Full Supply of Horses and Buggies on Hand. Horses Boarded by the Day, Week or Month.
Corner Commercial and Trade streets, SALEM, OR

J. A. Rotan, the Furniture Man!

After moving into his new store, 210 1/2 Commercial street, he carries a complete line of Furniture, Carpets, Mattings, etc. The prices are low, and the quality is guaranteed. He has a large stock of goods, and is prepared to take orders for any article in his line. He is also a dealer in the best quality of goods, and is prepared to take orders for any article in his line. He is also a dealer in the best quality of goods, and is prepared to take orders for any article in his line.

CHINA ASKS FOR PEACE

The Japanese Fleet Leaves Port Arthur.

WAR IS PRACTICALLY CONCLUDED

Other Important Foreign News Items.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 21.—It is reported this evening on good authority that direct peace negotiations are progressing between Peking and Tokio. The Japanese fleet has left Port Arthur and steamed southward. Its destination is not known.

WAR PROBABLY ENDED.
LONDON, Dec. 21.—Important dispatches received here from Tokio indicate clearly that, practically, the war between China and Japan is ended. Whatever instructions have been conveyed to the commanders of the respective military and naval forces from the governing powers of the two empires is not told in the advices, but the assurance given in quarters known to be thoroughly cognizant of diplomatic affairs, that the empire of China has been prevailed upon to hasten the commissioners to Japan, and that these envoys will have such power of concession as will without doubt enable them to bring about an immediate and thorough end to hostilities. Details of their authority are not given, but the presumption is not ignored in diplomatic quarters that the concessions asked by the Japanese government have met with the acquiescence of the reigning powers of China.

A Dastardly Murder.
TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 21.—At 3:30 a horrible murder was discovered in this city. Mrs. A. D. Matson was found dead on the floor of a room of her house. The body had evidently been there for at least ten days, as it was stiff and cold and there has been no life about the house for ten days.

A boy who delivers milk at her house had noticed that the can he left about ten days ago had stayed on the back doorstep and he gave an alarm to the police. Mrs. Matson lived alone, her husband being in California. The entire top of her head was crushed in as though she had been struck dead by one fearful blow.

Mrs. Matson was for several years a member of the city board of education and took an active interest in the schools. She was generally supposed to have considerable money and owned five or six houses. The only person who seems to know anything about the case is a deaf and dumb colored man named George Coight, who saw two men, probably on the evening of the 11th, enter the window of the murdered woman's house and afterward saw them run away.

Newcastle Mine Sealed.

SEATTLE, Dec. 21.—The Newcastle mine which took fire on Monday has been sealed up and abandoned and the Oregon Improvement company will open a new slope at another point on the vein. Notwithstanding this action the company's loss will not be nearly so great as first believed. General Manager Smith placing it all told inside of \$100,000. A great many of the miners will be thrown out of work for the present and the supply of coal will be temporarily limited. Mr. Smith visited the mine yesterday and said on his return at 6 o'clock: "We have decided, as less expensive and more certain, to open a new slope at some other place. We have all the machinery for the work and it will not be such a great undertaking. We have a slope down now 200 feet and we shall push that right and day. There will be a limited supply of coal for ten days, after which the output will increase constantly until we have an output equal to the past. There is no longer any danger of fire reaching the surface, as every opening has been closed up."

Two loaves for a nickel at **Strang's Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder** World's Fair Highest Award.

NEWS OF THE DOMINION.

New Members of the Canadian Cabinet Going to Montreal.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 21.—Honorable Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Charles H. Tupper, Hon. John Costigan, W. B. Ives, A. R. Dickey and Dr. Montague left last evening for Montreal to be sworn into office by Lord Aberdeen. These are all the ministers who are changing departments and who require to take the oath of office. The only one who requires re-election is Mr. Dickey. It is understood that his election will take place at once. Dr. Montague and Senator Ferguson will merely be required to take the oath of privy councillor.

OTTAWA, Ontario, Dec. 21.—The new cabinet has at last been formed, and the official list given out, for the first time, stands as follows:

Prime minister and president of the privy council, Mackenzie Bowell; postmaster-general, Sir Adolphe Caron; minister of marine and fisheries, John Costigan; minister of finance, George Eulas Foster; minister of justice, Sir Charles Herbert Tupper; minister of railways and canals, John Graham Haggart; minister of militia and defense, James Colbrook Patterson; minister of the interior, Thomas Myrnes Daly; minister of trade and commerce, William Bullock Ives; minister of agriculture, Auguste Reul Auger; secretary of state, Arthur R. Dickey; without portfolio, Sir Frank Smith, D. Ferguson and Dr. Montague; not in the cabinet, solicitor-general of Canada, Joseph Curran; controller of customs, Nathaniel Clarke Wallace; controller of the inland revenue, John Fisher Wood.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The morning Post says that the reconstruction of the Canadian cabinet is satisfactory evidence of the stable condition of political affairs in the Dominion. When Sir John Macdonald died, enemies and despondent friends prophesied the gradual success of the policy which intriguing Republicans had striven for. Two ministers have come and gone without any check on the policy of the great political master, and a third is marshalled under another old pupil.

The Hamilton Mystery.

SEATTLE, Dec. 21.—The mystery surrounding the disappearance of Robert Hamilton, ex-secretary of the Odd Fellows' relief committee, who jumped his bonds during the latter part of September, rather than answer to the charge of embezzlement, was cleared away yesterday afternoon by the discovery of his badly disfigured and decomposed body in the woods about four blocks east of Broadway, nearly midway between the public school and Frank Pontius' addition and the city park. He had undoubtedly committed suicide and from the failure to discover any weapon in the vicinity it is presumed that he took poison. There is not the slightest doubt about his identity and the only question to be definitely settled is the means of death.

Another Soulless Trust.

PENDLETON, Dec. 21.—Missouri river and coast packers have formed a combination on general packing house products and will withdraw all stocks from interior points, such as Pendleton and Walla Walla. All packers are in the trust and the only coast distributing points will be Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and Tacoma. The agreement affects all interior jobs and so operates as to increase the price per pound one cent to consumers, except at terminal points.

Ivachoe Heard From.

TACOMA, Dec. 21.—A special to the Ledger from South Bend says: A report comes from North Cove, Washington, that a board bearing the name "Ivachoe", the name of the ill-fated vessel which left Seattle September 20th for San Francisco with coal, has been found on the ocean beach near that place. The wife of the keeper of Willapa bay light found it partially buried in the sand, the gilt letters of the name having attracted her attention.

Two loaves for a nickel at **Strang's Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder** World's Fair Highest Award.

THE CURRENCY BILL.

Carlisle's Pet Measure Sh-lived by a Caucus.

MOST UNPOPULAR BILL IN HISTORY

A Substitute to Be Introduced by Springer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Carlisle currency bill now before the house of representatives will be withdrawn and a substitute presented. This decision was reached after a caucus of the Democratic members of the banking and currency committee quietly held last night, and followed by a conference between Secretary Carlisle and Chairman Springer today. The substitute has already been drawn and will be offered by Springer today or tomorrow, but certainly before the holiday recess, as the desire of all concerned is to get it before the country prior to adjournment. It differs very materially from the original Carlisle bill.

In all the 53 congresses that have existed since the adoption of the constitution, there has never been a bill presented of such far-reaching importance as this, and backed as it is by the administration, which had so few influential friends upon the floor of the house, or was viewed with such suspicion by the men who are supposed to lead the house, but who really try to keep in harmony with the majority.

COLORADO SILVER MEN.

Resolve to Affiliate Only With a Free Coinage Party.

DENVER, Dec. 21.—There was a large attendance of representative men at the convention of the Colorado Silver League. After a hot discussion, the following resolution was adopted, with only two dissenting votes:

"That the word 'non-partisan' be stricken from the constitution and by-laws wherever it appears, and that the members of the Colorado Silver League refuse to affiliate or work with any political party which does not nationally declare unequivocally in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1."

Ed. R. Holden wanted the convention to endorse the People's party, but this it refused to do. C. S. Thomas, Democratic national committeeman for Colorado, in a speech, said:

"If, when the presidential nominations are made, the men who are now backing Cleveland and sanctioning every move that is made by Carlisle in regard to the financial question, come to the support of the party which elected Mr. Cleveland, that party will meet political death and will sink into oblivion. And if, on the other hand, that same element, Wall street, shall be the sponsor for the Republican nominees, that party, too, will meet the same deserving fate."

O. G. Merriox was re-elected president of the league.

For Silver.

SALT LAKE, Dec. 21.—The leading bankers and business men of this city held a meeting to discuss the Baltimore plan for regulating the currency. It was the sense of the meeting that in any currency plan acted upon the warring part thereof should be the re-monetization of silver.

Against Secret Societies.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Montague held, the apostolic delegate, says any information concerning the recent letter to Bishop McDonnell, affecting secret societies, must come from the bishop. The delegate says his only office in the matter was to transmit the communication exactly as it came from Rome, and that it involved no action or ruling on his part. He was asked if the law of the church was to be placed on other secret societies than the Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows and Sons of Temperance, but he declined to give any information.

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS.

A Life Exile for Translating the Scripture.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Rev. Seth Sweeney, of Indiana, who was consul general to the Ottoman empire during Harrison's administration, was in the city. He came bearing a petition representing 300,000 Christian women—the Woman's Christian Board of Missions—praying the sultan for the release of Sahag Mahdissian, an Armenian life exile at Mooruk, in the oasis of Fezzan, in the desert of Sahara. Mr. Sweeney presented the petition yesterday to the secretary of state, asking his friendly offices in forwarding it to Minister Terrell at Constantinople and requesting him to present it to his majesty in behalf of the ladies. The story of Sahag's offense is as follows: Some years ago he was teaching for the American missionaries in an interior town in Turkey. A young man of the village came to him with a writing in Armenian and asked him to translate it into Turkish. Sahag did so without inquiring as to the motives of the writer. The young man took it and wore it upon his breast in the market place. It was a passage from the scriptures proclaiming the coming of the kingdom of Christ. The Turkish officials naturally concluded that it meant the overthrow of the Ottoman empire and arrested the young man for conspiracy. The trial developed the fact that Sahag translated the paper, and although, shown to be perfectly innocent of any conspiracy, he was sentenced to life exile into Africa.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Armenians of London and Paris, in recognition of Mr. Gladstone's letter of sympathy and encouragement, will present a silver and gilt chalice to the Hawarden church on his 85th birthday.

The Daily News correspondent in Vienna says the Christian Armenians are about to ask for an autonomous government, similar to that formerly given to East Roumania. Failing to obtain this, they will ask for institutions similar to those of Crete. A deputation of Armenians will call upon the commission of inquiry to impress upon its members the necessity of procuring Christian government of some sort of Armenia.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Secretary Gresham was waited on by representatives of the Evangelical Alliance, who presented to him a petition of the alliance, urging this government to take steps for the protection of American citizens and for religious liberty in Turkey. Resolutions of various religious bodies were also presented through those citizens. The secretary received the gentlemen very courteously, and his reply was extremely gratifying to the deputation.

Bold Postoffice Robbery.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 21.—The boldest and most successful burglary that has taken place in this city for a long time occurred yesterday. The postoffice was robbed of about \$1000 in cash, stamps and a gold watch. The robbery was evidently the work of local crooks, as the location and general business methods were familiar with whoever did the work. The postoffice has been doing a big money-order business since the closing of the Centralia bank, which accounts for the large amount of cash on hand. There is yet no clue to the robbers, but a number of people are being shadowed and it is thought probable that the thieves will be caught. The safe in the postoffice was blown open.

NEWS PAPERS CONFISCATED.

Italian Taxpayers Resisting the New Excise Law.
ROME, Dec. 21.—Three newspapers were confiscated today for publishing the proceedings of a meeting of the League of Liberty, an anarchistic society. A number of taxpayers have decided to refuse to pay the new taxes, and will test the validity of the law.

Everything you want cheap at the Fair for 25c cash, 214 Commercial street.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE