

After-Xmas Clearing

Every vestige of Christmas goods is relentlessly blue penciled with tremendous mark downs—all soiled, mused or imperfect goods sacrificed almost unbelievably. Odd lots, broken lines all fall before the mighty onslaught of the price cutter. Monday will be a day of unparalleled opportunities for all who love bargains.

BENNETT'S

100 S. & H. Stamps With Coal
100 stamps with each ton ordered Monday—any of following kinds Capitol Coal—lump or nut, "the best that burns", ton... \$6.50
Domestic Lump, per ton \$5.25. Domestic Nut, ton, \$5.00
This offer Monday, only. Both phones.

Pre-Inventory Sales

Shelf-clearing, room-making is the one object in view. The order has gone out to every buyer and manager to rid the stocks of remnants, odds and ends, before the annual stock-taking, Dec. 31. "Sell at any price" is the command. Must start the new year with an absolutely clean stock. Every department whether advertised or not is taking part. Truly it's a week of golden money-saving chances.

Books

A book clearance extraordinary. The tremendous book selling, the jostling crowds, careless handling, etc., has left us with thousands of books that are slightly injured, soiled, earmarked, etc.; books of every character, standard and gift editions, all assembled in one big lot—positive values up to \$1.00—choice, Monday... 19c
Children's Books—Unlimited variety, slightly soiled from handling—values to 50c on table, at... 5c
Stationery—One of the biggest after Christmas sales ever put on fancy boxed stationery, slightly imperfect from the Holiday rush: values to \$2.00, for... 39c
Post Card Albums—2 extraordinary values much less than reg. 19c-39c
CALENDARS HALF PRICE.

\$25 buys our finest Suits and Coats, worth to \$75



Any Woman's Suit in the store absolutely worth up to \$75.00, for \$25.00. **MONDAY** Any Woman's Coat in the store, none reserved, values up to \$45.00.

Suits All our finest suits must be closed out before inventory, Dec. 31. Tomorrow we give you unrestricted choice of all our handiwork cloth suits in the house, not one reserved, suits worth \$35, \$45, \$50 to \$75. Positively most merciful knifing of prices Bennett's ever made. Come early—**\$25** choice

Coats It has been freely acknowledged Bennett's have the largest line and most stunning styles shown in Omaha this season. We offer these superb models now, including magnificent broadcloths, fine chevriots, coverts, etc., black and all best colors, absolutely finest \$30, \$35, \$45 coats, **\$25** none reserved, choice

Any Girl's Coat—Choice of hundreds of heavy new stylish coats of the best kinds, all colors, absolute clearance, any coat worth to \$75.00, none reserved... **\$3.95**

Furs, Third Off—Any piece of fur, neck-piece or muff, the season's newest and most reliable furs, mink, Jap mink, black lynx, wolf, fox, etc... **33 1/2 Per Cent Off**

Toys

Commencing Monday toys will be on sale at lowest prices we have ever made. Don't carry over a dollar's worth if price will sell it, in the order. Not a thing has been overlooked, everywhere at every counter you buy toys at big reductions. Some a quarter, some a half and some even more off regular prices.

Games too, half a hundred kinds all go at sharp price savings. Dolls are cut in price with a determination to sell every one this week if possible. Good choosing for early buyers—**Great Reductions** Better come Monday..

Hardware

Monday in the hardware there will be several great sales. Our entire stock of nickel, copper and brass goods will be on sale at a fourth off. Line includes chafing dishes, 5 o'clock teas, trays, coffee machines, etc.. Another important sale consists of a thousand pieces of Turquoise Blue and White Enamelware, comprising every kind of kitchen utensils. These are high grade goods offered now for less than we have ever known before. Grasp this saving opportunity Monday. All in a great one day sale. **25% Off**

China

You have bought your gifts, now here's the chance to replenish your own china closets at wonderful price savings. The greatest china store in the west offers bargains unprecedented this week. Big as our values were before Christmas, they are totally eclipsed now. Great one-price tables refilled and replenished with fine French China Bric-a-brac, Vases, Stets, Ceramic Pottery, china of every description sold without regard to real cost or value. Wonderful bargains are arranged on tables at **5c 10c 15c 25c 49c 98c \$1.50** Positively every piece worth two, three and four times these prices.

Handk'fs

The sale of soiled, mused and tumbled handkerchiefs left from Xmas trims and bargain tables continues until every one is cleared away. Inventory day, Dec. 31st, must find the stock rid of them. Can't quote prices on any lines, but the reductions will be of such a nature that there will be a scramble to get the goods. It will pay you to buy a whole year's supply now. Every kind of handkerchief from the cheap to expensive ones and all at prices averaging reductions of a half and **Less Than Half** A few more real French Kid Gloves worth \$1.50, for... **.98c** Blacks and Tans mostly.

Pictures

and Pyrography tremendously sacrificed. A world of beautiful and desirable lines. The picture stock includes oil paintings, pastels, water colors, carbons, platinum, half-tones, etc., best subjects. Pictures appealing to all tastes and for all purposes. We offer now our entire stock, without a single exception at 1/2 less than our regular low prices. In pyro goods—buy \$2.00 Pyro sets for... **\$1.49** Plate Racks at half—\$1.00 Taborettes for... **.49c** \$3.00 Umbrella Racks... **\$1.00—25c** Gas Pens, Etc... **10c** Any Framed Picture, choice of thousands **25% Off** Monday...

Slippers

Monday a very special sale of evening slippers for women, beautiful, dainty effects for theater, dancing and party wear. Pink, Blue and White Calfskin Sailor Ties, hand turned and with Cuban heels. Our regular \$4 quality, Monday, at pair... **\$2.69** Four-strap Patent Vamp Slippers for evening wear, French heels. Our regular \$2.50 quality, Monday, at pair... **\$1.59** Velvet Kid Slippers with one strap and bow; very soft; Cuban heels, our \$1.75 quality, Monday, pair... **\$1.39** Kid Slippers for home wear, D'Orsay style for women, red and black kid. Our \$3.00 quality, Monday, pair... **\$1.89**

Groceries

Bennett's Capitol Flour, sack... **\$1.50** And 75 Stamps
Bennett's Golden Coffee, lb... **.30c** And 30 Stamps
Teas, assorted, per lb... **.15c** And 50 Stamps
Full Cream Cheese, pound... **.85c** and 10 Green Stamps
Domestic Swiss Cheese, pound... **.85c** and 10 Green Stamps
Capitol Baking Powder, pound... **.85c** and 10 Green Stamps
Franco-American Soup, quart... **.20c** and 10 Green Stamps
Burkham's Corn Chowder... **.20c** and 10 Green Stamps
Walker's Chili Con Carne, two cans... **.20c** and 10 Green Stamps
Boswell's Married Gals' Raisins... **.80c** and 20 Green Stamps
Sweet Cauliflower Pickles, quart... **.80c** and 20 Green Stamps
TOMATO SPECIAL—Large cans "Best We Have" brand, worth 15c, at, do... **\$1.30**
Per can... **.30c**
RAISIN SPECIAL—1,000 pounds in pound packages, fancy seeded Raisins... **.15c**
And 30 Stamps
Japan Rice, splendid quality, pound... **.60**

PRINCE FRANCIS IS SMITTEN

Sister of Mrs. Astor Creates Big Sensation in London.

DUC DE CHAULNES BRIGHT STAR

His Arrival Gives Former Miss Shonts Highest Aristocratic Social Position in the French Capital.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Never was an American debutante boomed here as Nora Langhorne has been. "It positively makes one wild," said the budding daughter of a famous Irish peer to me the other day, "to hear the fuss which the advent of young Mrs. Astor's sister is creating. I have seen her photograph and I don't see there is anything extraordinary about her. She was expected over last year. I do wish she had come for then she would have been disposed of—married, I mean. Instead she lands the very year I am about to make my debut. It's just hateful of her. Father heard at the club," she went on, "that if she were a royal princess her appearance would not cause half so much excitement. The men are wild to see her. That confirmed bachelor, Prince Francis of Teck, was just raving about her. It seems he caught a glimpse of her in her sister's box at the theater the other night."

Awaiting Her Presentation.

At the great ball the bachelors gave one night lately there was much weeping and gnashing of teeth as Nora did not come with Mrs. Astor. That lady is determined that her sister is not to be seen about much until she has in the orthodox fashion made her appearance in court—a clever stroke on her part for the fact that she is being kept back makes people all the more anxious to see her. Mrs. Astor intends to take a big town house directly after Christmas in order to launch Nora Langhorne in the most elegant style possible. She means to give a magnificent ball, the grandeur and brilliancy of which will take the wind out of the sails of every other hostess for some time to come. It is understood among the Astor's friends that no one of lesser rank than a peer must presume to glance in the direction of Nora. It won't by any means surprise them if the Serene Highness already referred to were to lay his heart at her feet. But have the Langhorne's other day from Paris and had made the acquaintance of his small grace, before her departure said "he was the very sweetest thing that eyes ever rested upon." From all quarters he has been inundated with gifts. Tiny bangles of precious stones, safety pins in jewel-

gold and silver cups, diamond rattles and goodness knows what else are being sent to him. Many are from utter strangers and many have arrived anonymously.

Henceforth his mother (who was, it will be remembered, Miss Shonts) will be one of the grandes dames of the Parisian aristocracy, a position out of which no one can now do her. The presence of the little duce decides the fact that his mother will henceforth make her late husband's native land her headquarters. Before the tragic death of the late duce there was a movement on foot in his wife's family to buy back the magnificent ancestral estates of the De Chaulnes family and present them to him, but negotiations were cut short by his death. Now it is said on excellent authority that the Shonts are more anxious than ever to acquire back the home of the child's parental ancestors. The De Chaulnes are among the oldest nobility of France, but, as was well known at the time of the duce's marriage, they are very poor. The young duchess was thought to have fairly well known in London and their friends would have liked to have had the wedding take place here. Instead, however, it will be solemnized in Cumberland, where the bride's father has a seat called the Iron Hall.

The story goes that there is no man who shows as gifts like an American bridegroom and the presents which Miss Brocklebank has had from the Pittsburgh young man are stunning and the envy of every woman who has seen them. Diamonds, sables, lace, historic jewels—everything that the most fastidious girl could pine for has been placed at her feet. Talking about these exquisite gifts society debutantes say that in view of the fact that British men are now nearly all hard up and decidedly mean to boot, they consider it would be very advisable to create the fashion in favor of American men who have been far too long overlooked by enterprising British mammas and their indefatigable daughters. There seems to be a determination here to bring the American man to the front whether he likes it or not. Rarely has even a royal patient been

moved about with such precaution or such luxury as has been bestowed upon Mrs. Almeria Paget, who is one of the foremost Americans in London and a member of the royal set. For several months now Mrs. Paget has been seriously ill, something being at death's door. Like the usual American she is so full of energy that she makes a very bad patient and directly she gets a little better she defies doctors and nurses and does something wildly indiscreet. She has had pneumonia, pleurisy, congestion of the lungs and a variety of other troubles all in the last few months and was so weak from the effects that two doctors and three nurses accompanied her to Egypt where she now is. For the most part the trip was made by special trains and special boats, every precaution having to be taken to save her exertion. The patient is making a fair recovery. The patient is making a fair recovery. The patient is making a fair recovery.

Tax Upon Timepieces.
A little over 100 years ago every clock, either inside or outside a house, was taxed \$1.5 a year. If you were lucky enough to own a gold watch and it came to the official notice you were compelled to add £50 to the public exchequer. If your spending money were limited and your timepieces sported only a silver case, the sum of \$1.75 was demanded of you. Furthermore, your jeweler was compelled to pay a tax of 80 cents a year for the privilege of selling such luxuries to you.

One of the most curious of all taxes was that imposed upon windows. This ranged from \$1 for one to six windows to \$20 for twelve months for 180 windows. The quite natural result of this tax was the closing up of many windows with bricks. Parliament promptly devised a trick worth two of that and imposed a tax of \$1.25 upon every 1,000 bricks. The legislators "put the lid on it" however, when they imposed a tax of \$5 a year on everybody who used hair powder.

ENGLAND MUST RAISE WIND

Chancellor of the Exchequer Has Thankless Task Ahead of Him.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, has one of the biggest and most thankless tasks of his political life ahead of him. It is nothing more or less than the devising of new methods of taxation to meet the rapidly increasing national deficit. As he himself has picturesquely described it he must "look for new henroosts to rob" and predictions are now in order and are being widely made as to the particular quarter of the barnyard he will turn his attention to. Various schemes have been put forward, more or less authoritatively, but in almost every case it was evident that the wish was father to the thought. As far as the chancellor himself is concerned he has but to examine the old records of the department over which he rules to find an almost endless variety of means of "raising the wind," all of them tried and found useful by his predecessors in office.

months after the passing of the law: "Much clamor against the chimney money and the people say they will not pay it without force."

It was not until October, 1866, however, that it was successfully "moved" that the chimney money might be taken from the king and an equal revenue of something else might be found for the king, and people be enjoined to buy off this tax of chimney money forever at eight years' purchase, which will raise present money, as they think, £1,600,000, and the state be eased of an ill burden and the king be supplied of something as good or better for his use.

The new postoffice building is being constructed according to the Hennebriquet system—a French invention, though it differs little from the American application of the same principle. Great iron rods extend throughout the frame work, and around these cement is poured, being kept in place by boards until it is quite solid. It is claimed that the concrete solidifies quite to the hardness of stone, and the structure will last as long, and bear as much weight as the strongest stone buildings.

The new postoffice wing has tremendously deep foundations, as it was found that the soil near St. Paul's cathedral, where it is situated, was not of the character to support a great building, unless the foundations were exceptionally well laid.

Considerable mystery has surrounded the putting up of this new postoffice wing. The work has been delayed a long time and although it should have been done until quite recently, the secret of the delay is to be found in the fact that the English government was so hard hit over the Boer war that they could not enlarge the post-office until it had recovered its financial equilibrium. The government has been promising to give out this work for so long, and it has been so much delayed that people began to think nothing would ever be done. In the final adoption of the Hennebriquet system, the expectations of out-of-work builders, bricklayers and contractors have been sorely disappointed. Though several deputations have waited on the government and requested that an ordinary stone building should be put up—similar to the new war office—the request was turned down owing to reasons of economy. The cost of the new building is to be, on completion, \$1,500,000.

LONDON'S "POURED" BUILDINGS

Concrete Construction Great Mystery to Cockneys to Whom It Has Been Shown.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—"Poured buildings" or reinforced concrete structures are the latest wonders in London just now. Though this process of putting up buildings has long been known in America, its advent in England is of recent date, and, for various reasons, it is attracting a great deal of public attention.

the government has been more influenced by questions of economy than by anything else, and the "poured building" fills the bill at about one-third less cost than an ordinary structure, even in brick. In stone, of course, the difference is almost two-thirds less in favor of pouring.

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Now that the government has gone in for "pouring" their buildings, private contractors will take up the work. There are already three or four big "pouring" buildings in London, the largest being at 25 Victoria street, a great office structure, but so far, the British contractor has not taken to them very favorably. He was hard to convince that they were not of a flimsy character, but it only needed the government to set its seal of approval on the process to give the new scheme a chance.

A Bachelor's Reflections.

When a woman describes what a lecture was like it sounds as if she had been to the dressmaker's. There's nothing a woman admires so much in a man as the way he can open a telegram without fainting. A man can growl over the bill for matches unless the family burns electricity and they are used to light pipes and cigars. If the woman has the tenderest heart in the world it will grow hard to somebody else's baby that people think as pretty as hers. There's hardly anything a man can do about more enthusiastically than all at a dinner.

SOCIAL FAME FOR THE PRICE

Press "Puff" Easily Secured in England by the Person with Money.

EASIEST WAY TO DISTINCTION

Persistent Efforts in that Direction Open Sesame to Most Exclusive Circles—The Royal Enclosure.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—"Fame, nowadays, simply means more press notices," says an English society dame who has recently denounced the practice of paying for "news" items in the columns of the big London dailies. It is not generally known that anyone—however obscure—can buy as many "lines" as he, or she, wishes in the society columns of any big London paper. Thus "Mrs. Smith-hyphen Smythe" can have her daughter's marriage to "Jones-de-la-Jeemes" announced in the same column in which the king's visit to Marlborough may be recorded. Of course it comes high, but if you wish to butt into society you have to have it. For instance, here are the rates for such notices in the principal sheets.

Fame at so Much "Per."
Six lines in the Times will cost the social swimmer \$7.50, while the Daily Telegraph only allows four lines to appear in the body of the paper for \$5, extra lines costing \$1 each. Thus you can buy fame at so much "per" in the paper that claims to have the largest—really and truly—circulation of any 3-cent paper in the world. The Daily Mail, well knowing that publicity is one of the essentials to social fame, and that wealthy people must have it no matter what it costs, boldly charges \$2.50 per line, and gets it. All the other big London papers make exorbitant charges, and even the out of town papers with big circulations charge golden apples from the social boodle tree.

In the expense bills of those who participate in the London "season," newspaper advertising figures as one of the largest items. Some of these accounts run into \$100 a year. Of course the inopportune English newspapers do not run "reading notices" departments, and they would probably refuse to do a page write-up even at a fabulous price, but by judiciously spreading your advertising over a lengthy period and disguising your "notices" so cleverly that the ordinary reader does not recognize the manufactured product, you can specify such as much money in another way without laying the paper open to the charge of venality.

Some of the newspapers charge four or five times the rates here quoted for inserting unimportant paragraphs between announcements connected with the king and royal family. The rates vary in accordance with the importance of the royal personage. Of course it costs more to be next to the king or queen than to appear near a duke.

Getting Next to the King.

Another phase of the money side of social advancement. On payment of sums ranging up to \$2,000 you can get into the "royal enclosure" at the races. This is managed by persons in high places who need money. Several blue-blooded but impetuous members of the aristocracy have an inherited right to tickets to all functions in which royalty is expected to mix. They get these tickets from the lord chamberlain's office, and though they do not want to go to these affairs themselves, the tickets have a high commercial value. The nouveaux riches are most anxious to "circulate" in the royal set and the next best thing to actually being a member of the exclusive is to appear to be one. Not long ago, King Edward asked the name of a lady to whom he stood quite close in the royal enclosure at Ascot. The lord chamberlain's secretary was greatly embarrassed to find that the lady in question held a ticket which she had "acquired" from a member of the aristocracy. After that incident, the lord chamberlain adopted the custom of marking the tickets to many royal functions as "not transferable," but even this has not put a stop to the custom.

Money for Introducing.

There is another very flourishing "line" for the depleted pure aristocracy, and they work it for all it is worth. This is "introducing." This system is taken advantage of by many wealthy Americans. For instance, on payment of a fee to a certain high society dame, you can be guaranteed an invitation for a week-end on board the yacht of a real lord of Cowes in the height of the season. Many social entrees have been made from the saloon deck of some lord's yacht. The people who engineer these "little matters" are supposed to be absolutely beyond approach, and it requires the greatest tact—and naturally the highest of fees—to bring them off successfully. "Introductions" cost anywhere from \$4,000 a year up to \$10,000, according to the particular "set" into which one decides to force his way. Memberships to "exclusive" clubs are also obtained at fixed fees.

Another extremely popular form of achieving social distinction is the employment of a press agent to manage publicity booms of a mild order. It is the duties of this agent to see that his principal is invited to all the swell affairs, and to interview the reporters, giving them information in which the name of his particular client figures largely. In this way a large amount of free advertising is obtained. Many press agents are women quite a number of them occupying semi-important positions themselves in society.

Pointed Paragraphs.

An ex-husband is apt to think that all-money means all the money. By standing up for yourself others may be prevented from sitting down on you. If some women haven't anyone to talk to they chew gum so their jaws won't get rusty. A woman who wants to make soap has no kick coming if her neighbors give her the eye. About the man who thinks he knows it all the worst thing is his inability to keep his mouth shut. The coat may not make the man, but it certainly helps some when the mercury is flirting with the zero mark. Perhaps nothing makes a girl so angry as the thought that a young rascal thinks she would not resent being kissed. A health journal has an article on "How to Lie When Asleep." What we need is a few pointers on how to induce people to tell the truth when awake.—Chicago News.