AS USUAL, THEY'RE SAYING CHRISTMAS TREES ARE SCARCE

And Hist! This Is Another Secret-They're Going to Be More Expensive Than

SHOPPING TIME SHRINKS

Only Eighteen Days Left in Which to Complete Your Gift Buying

Including today, there are only 18 shop-ping days before Christmas.

This is a secret-don't tell anyone, it might discourage the growing spirit of Christmas in the air, but-oh, dear!-Christmas trees are scarce. They never were so scarce as they are this year and they're going to be expensive, ever so much more expensive than ever before, so probably there won't be enough money to buy one for that new baby and he will have to be cheated into believing Deember 25, 1916, is his first Christmas and that this one coming three weeks from

today is not his first Christmas at all. Who is this crepehanger that prowls about every year just about this time with hard luck stories about the Maine woods and the dearth of eligible Christmas trees? Isn't it about time to murder him in his hed? He emerged into stories about December 4, 1822, and he about December 4, 1832, and he to still talking gloom.

THE PERENNIAL GROUCH.

He is the man that says mean things like this; that he'd like to have every day in the year a Christmas day and he can't see why one day should be more can't see why one only such as worthy of honor than any other; or that Christmas trees shed little green things all over the carpet and make an awful lot of work for somebody who has to go around sweeping them up; or that candy is very bad for children and does nobody by the dentists, who patch up. at but the dentists, who patch up any good but the dentists, was paten up the children's candy-torn teeth and roll in honest men's gold when the Christ-mas season is over—and a good thing when it is over, says this crepehanger, who always says Christmas trees are correct his year and are going to be

expensive.

Of course the trees are scarce, as all valuable things are. There were only 25,500 of them in the 48 carloads which have arrived in the freight yards at 19th street and Allegheny avenue. There were e carloads in the yards last year and in 1913 there were nearly 100 on this date in December. All right; who cares?

SHOPS ARE LOOKING UP. In spite of the treeless prospect, there in spite of the treeses prospect, there is evidently a pientiful supply of presents to hang on the trees, as the shop windows bear witness. There are quite a number of fine things to buy. The most interesting are those a man buys for his girl; they are flowers, books, candy, furs bracelets, rings, silver jingling things to hang on a chain, watches, very tiny ones that stop going on December 26, but are all right when they are fixed up at the feweler's and then keep perfect time forever after (the only reason they stop the day after Christmas is because they get mauled too much Christmas Day), and small dors and many other things. and small dogs, and many other things. But of course in some of these cases the girl has to be married to the man before she can accept this or that present, but one never knows just which is which. Vases are all right, but are risky unless you have good taste, which is no reflection on you; but it takes a lot of training for some people to acquire good

And all these things ought to be pur chased before December 15 if possible or account of this "Do-your-shopping-early" crusade; and if they are not remember there are only is shopping days before

TILT IN "BANANA TRUST" SUIT

Lawyers in Lively Argument Over

Admission of Evidence

Judge Thompson in the United States District Court heard a three-hour argu-ment today by attorneys on both sides of the "Banana Trust" suit over the admis-sion into the evidence of testimony re-garding profits made by the Bluefields Steamship Company from January 1, 1898, to September 3, 1809. The defendant in the suit, the United Fruit Company, is bating against the admission of the testi-

mony.

George Wharton Pepper and Moorfield
Storey bore the brunt of the fight against
the admission; the other side of the battle
was taken by Thomas F. Gain, Francis
shunk Brown and John S. Hummer.
Judge Thompson had enough authorities
cited for his investigation to keep him
busy most of this week-end.

The plaintiff is said to have made a 135

busy most of this week-end.

The plaintiff is said to have made a 135 per cent. profit on the capital invested. In Mr. Pepper's outline of the facts he gave \$155,000 as the approximate profit on an investment of \$15,000 in two years.

"It would be pushing things a little too far," said Mr. Pepper, "to assert that such a lucky strike as that can be made the basis of computation."

The United Fruit Company's counsel contended that the carinus were in too

contended that the carnings were in too short a period to be taken as a basis of what might have been carned in the 10 years during which the Bluefields Steamship Company was under the control of the United Fruit Company. The Bluefields Steamship Company's

counsel, on the other hand, sought to show that if such enormous profits could be made in the years the Bluefields Company was uncontrolled. It could have made even larger profits in the succeed-ng years when general conditions, it was legio, were even better, had it been inabjected by the United Fruit Com-

Judge Thompson will announce on Mon day his decision as to whether or not he will permit the evidence.

-VICTROLAS-A SUITABLE GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS Take Advantage of This Special Offer. Most Liberal Terms for the Holdays. BOLID OAK CABINET GOLDEN FINISH \$39.00

CABINET, worth \$16 RECORDS, double-face, own set \$4,50

Total \$39.00 M. GOODSTEIN 5207 Market St. Open Evgs.

SUPPORTS ARICOSE VEINS, ULCERS
Wink Ankies, Swollen Lere, Etc.
ARE EVENLY SUPPORTED
BY THE USE OF THE Cortiss Laced Stocking

A WAIL FROM WILKES-BARRE

Who said "It pays to advertise"
Was in his day and data wise;
But two there are alive today
Who care not what they have to pay,
O'er train and datas. O'er train and statue one can glost; The other hired an ocean boat, One spent his all, the other much, With the whole world to get in touch, If all the nations you would thrill. There are but two can fill the bill-And the other one is Ford.

You must admit it's rather tough To have another steal your "stuff," But Jenlousy's too small for me-I wish him well, across the sea, He might have taken me along, Twould make the party doubly strong, Increase in potency for good That noble load of squirrel-food. Of all the bugs in Freedom's air, Just two the nation cannot spare-And the other one is Ford.

Wilkes Barre, December 3. BUTCH.

MAYOR INSISTS HE WAS WITHIN LAW

Blankenburg Says Grand Jury Decision Fails to Recognize Facts

Mayor Blankenburg, in replying to the nction of the Grand Jury in urging the court to censure him for his action on election day, declared today that the Shern law "certainly appears to author ize police officers to arrest criminals at the polling places on warrants."

'It would be interesting," he continued

"to know who wrote the presentment of the Grand Jury to the honorable court. It would be even more interesting to hear the minority report which the court would not allow to be filed in this mat

"A Grand Jury must have strange ideas of what constitutes "secreey in voting" and a fair election when It finds nothing to criticise in the wholesale marking of ballots by political workers. In one affidavit presented to them it was shown that 79 voters out of 90 in a division had received assistance.

"The Constitution of the State requires The Constitution of the State requires that 'secrecy in voting be preserved.' Is that Constitution obeyed when three-quarters or more of the voters at a polling place receive assistance and thus are compelled to show their vote?

ompelled to show their vote?

"The Grand Jury refers to removeds of voters between registration and election day, intimating that the warrants used on election day were based on such facts. This is a wrong impression... Had the Grand Jury seen fit to summon the policemen who made the canvass which leadened these satisfaction frought they disclosed these registration frauds they would have learned that the warrants were not for persons who had registered properly and then removed, but for persons who had been guilty of a crime in their original registration, and the jury would have found this fact substantiated by from three to six policemen who had investigated each case in advance. "These were the criminals we sought

and the only time and place to catch them was at the polls on election day, when they might seek to consummate their first crime by the commission of a second.
"One phase of the presentment of the

Grand Jury pleases me very much, and that is that it exonerates Director Dripps and praises the conduct of the Director and the police on election day.

VARE TO BUILD 158 HOUSES

Senator Will Erect Homes on 41/2-acre Tract at Cost of \$800,000

Senator Edwin H. Vare has purchased Senator Edwin H. Vare has purchased a 41/2 acre tract in South Philadelphia on which he will erect 158 small modern dwellings at a cost of about \$500,000. This is a branch of the contracting business which the Senator so far has left un-

OVER SHIP LINE'S BIG PROFITS

The tract faces the Southern Boulevard below Oregon avenue, east of Broad street, and is another step in the destreet, and is another step in the velopment of that part of South Philadelphin between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers which heretofore has been unavailable for buildings because of the surface tracks of the steam railroads.

surface tracks of the steam railroads.
George B. Young last week purchased
the Stocker tract of 65 acres opposite
the land just acquired by Sonator Vare
and will crect 2256 dwellings upon it
at a cost of \$8,000,000. More than 11,000
persons will be housed by the Young
dwellings.
Senator Vare declared today that the

Senator Vare declared today that the operation is undertaken by him in the spirit of civic service and will be personally supervised by him. He points out that the completion of the Broad street subway means a general boom for the section.

Storm Porch Enclosures

Storm Doors and Sashes Metal Weather Strippings Rust-Proof Screens Let us estimate

WILSON & WILSON, Inc. 1513 Parrish Street Telephone

ALLEGED SWINDLER DODGES PUBLICITY, MEXICAN MAIDEN'S CRIES



E. A. Starkloff, the so-called "green goods king," was arraigned before United States Commissioner Howard M. Long in the Federal Building today, on a charge of swindling involving \$18,000. Stark-loff is seen leaving the proceedings in the custody of Deputy Marshal Edward P. McCaffrey, who brought him to this city from Altoona where he was recognized by the police. Starkloff was indicted five years ago and has been a fugitive from justice ever since.

STARKLOFF BROUGHT HERE FROM ALTOONA

"King of Green Goods Men" Reconciled to Probable Jail Sentence

E. A. Starkloff, known to the police of the entire nation as "King of the Green Goods Men," was brought to this city today after his arrest in Altoona, where he was trapped by Secret Service men, following a five years' search, in which some of the greatest detectives of the country participated.

Country participated.

He was dressed in a suit of latest fashion. His patent-leather shoes were well polished, and before he was taken to the Federal Building by United States Deputy Marshals Batty and Howley he asked to be taken to a barber shop. This request was refused. Then he offered to buy lunch for his custodians, but his invitation was declined, "You see," he explained, "I may go

tion was declined.

"You see," he explained, "I may go to jail. I know that in prison the most prosperous looking man gets the best treatment, and I am loking for a good time for the next few years."

In his pockets were nampliets on Esperanto, of which he is a profound student. He speaks other languages fluently

Stackloff "skipped" \$10,000 ball in June, 1910, when he was arrested by postal inspectors for using the mails to defraud. His pal, George W. Post, was under \$11,-

600 ball at the same time, and he, too scaped.

Meanwhile the two men were separated

Stackloff has been ilving in England and in Mexico and his handsome appearance and graceful manner convinced his ac-quaintances in London that he was a banker or member of some other equally lucrative profession. At first he communicated with his wife regularly, but when the net of the detectives closed in on him he abandoned his letter-writing pro-

When the prisoner arrived here he com municated at once with his attorney, John R. K. Scott, Meanwhile he will be taken to Moyamensing prison to await trial in the United States District Court that would have been held five years ago

Textile Workers Get More Pay

More than a thousand members of the Woolen Carpet Yarn and Textile Work-Woolen Carpet Yarn and Textile Work-ers' Union paraded through the streets of Manayunk last night in celebration of a wage increase from \$11 to \$13 a week. Nearly all the larger plants in the dis-trict met the wage increase demand. Some smaller mills have been forced to shut down, because, it is said, they could not meet the increase.

Disinfectant Sends Girl to Hospital North Tenth Ste Presbyterian Church 10th Street Below Girard Ave.
Tomorrow Morning, 10:30. Evening, 7:45
WILLIAM EIGGERSTAFF, MINISTER

A woman is in St. Agnes' Hospital to-day as the result of mistaking a disinfectant for cramp medicine. Mrs. Ger-trude Hendrickson, 21 years old, of 2418 South Lambert street, went home late yesterday suffering from severe cramps. She drank creoline, a disinfectant, which she mistook for medicine. She will re-

The Advisability of Making a Will

It is every one's duty to make a will, disposing of his or her property after death, whether the amount involved is large or

Where one fails to do so and dies intestate (as the law calls it) property may pass in a manner not desired by the owner, and often the share of a surviving husband, a widow or a child is less than intended.

We invite persons considering the preparation of wills to call at either of our offices. Where this company is to be the Executor, we draw the will free of charge, and hold it subject to order.

Philadelphia Trust Company

Main Office 415 Chestnut Street

Broad Street Office 1415 Chestnut Street

Thomas S. Gates President

John Story Jenks Vice President

Henry G. Brengle Vice President and Treasurer

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

GOLD JEWELRY

WATCHES **CLOCKS FANS** CHINA LAMPS **BRONZES**

OPERA GLASSES WALKING STICKS **UMBRELLAS** GLASSWARE LEATHER

PORCELAINS SILVERWARE

Caldwell & Co. 902 Chestnut Street

Merchandiss purchased now may be reserved for Christmas delivery.

Closing Hour Six o'Clock Until Christmas

EXCITE CROWDS IN HOTEL

Mystery as to Source of "Car-r-ram-ba" and Other Unusual Songs Arouses Curiosity Until Senorita Is Found Locked in Wardrobe

A Mexican bull-fight might have been staged in the Colonnade Hotel, as far as local color was concerned, when cries of "Ave Maria" and "Car-r-ram-ba" were raised, and there was a pounding as though a cavalcade of matadors was calloning through the corridors.

"Hellhops" rushed around seeking the centre of the commotion, and the guests pecucial out of tible doors to see what it was all about. Finally, guided by feminine cries of distress, the hotel attendants located the cause of the disturbance in one of the bedrooms.

"Car-r-r-t-ram-b-ba," "Tamale," "Dios" issued from an innocent-looking wardrobe standing in the corner. There followed a torrent of Mexican words, which the "belihops" did not know were Mexican and which were about as intelligible to them as so much Sanskrit or Hindoo. But they did know that some one was a woman, and that she was not in there for her health or to practice singing.

The door of the wardrobe was tocked. educational data. Several of her friends decided that an excellent practical joke would be to lock her in the wardrobe. The wardrobe has a shelf, making the height for standing room less than five feet. She was in there about half an hour. She was put there by Conception Morfia, Conception Chavez Coronol, To-masa Zuniga and Maria Tellez Escalante, for her health or to practice singing, mass Zuniga and The door of the wardrobs was locked all young women.

Jewelry Store Loses \$24,000.

Firemen Overcome by Smoke

While Fighting Blaze

Ten firemen were overcome by smoke

One was seriously affected and the others went to their homes.

Bryn Mawr Boy, Hit by Auto, May Die

Thomas Martin, six years old, of Thomas avenue, Bryn Mawr, is in a serious condition at the Bryn Mawr Hos-pital ar the result of being struck by an automobile while returning home

from school yesterday. He has a broken leg, two broken ribs, probable internal injuries and a fractured skull. Richard

Atkinson, of Haverford, driver of the car, was held under \$1000 ball at the Ardmore police station to await the outcome of

This Church Has Helped Hundreds

It Will Help You

ReadtheAds

Shop HURRY!

and water.

the child's injuries.

THREE ALARMS OF FIRE WISSAHICKON FOLK ELATED

Residents of Germantown Also Join FRIGHTEN WILMINGTON in Rejoicing Over Auto Club's Stand

Residents of Wissahlekon and German Residents of Wisashickon and German-town are reloicing today over the state-ment of Stedman Bent, president of the Automobile Association of Philadelphia, that the association is opposed to the opening of the upper Wisashickon drive to automobiles. They believe that their lycase has been won by the standing of the Automobile Club. WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 4.-Three

will Mington, Del. Dec. 4.—Three slarms of fire, at the same time following a powder mill explosion in which 30 men were killed, and two fires in powder plants which were extinguished before serious damage was done, gave Wilmington much excitement last night.

One was a false alarm and the loss in another case was triling, but the third alarm was for the big jewelry store of Baynard. Banks & Bryan, where there was a loss of \$24,000. The Every Evening building, adjoining the burned structure on 5th street, and the store of E. S. R. Butler & Son, which adjoins it on Market street, were damaged by smoke and water.

WEISBROD WILL PAY ONLY HIS OWN DEBTS

Advertisement in Morhing Newspapers Surprises Wife of Wealthy Brewer

HERERY GIVE NOTICE that I will not be responsible for debts unless contracted by mynelf. William Weisbrod, 1825 Westmore-

This was the advertisement printed in the morning newspapers today for Will-lam Weisbrod, of the Weisbrod & Hess Brewing Company, wealthy, and head of the Weisbrod family in this city. Mr. Weisbrod started from his home at

1425 Westmoreland street today, leaving the impression with Mrs. Weisbrod that he would return this afternoon. At the brewery it was said he was "somewhere down in Jerecy," and that he could not be reached until Monday. The advertisement was a surprise to

Mrs. Weisbrod, who was at her home to-

"I didn't know he was going to New Jersey today, and I am sure I can't ex-plain this advertisement. It looks as though something is up." The Weisbrods have been married ten

years. They have one child, a girl of nine "Friends of mine have warned us that have been followed," the wife said.
Mrs. Weishred said she would await de-

Wouldn't HE enjoy this breakfast to-morrow-?



-Some Deerfoot Farm sausage, a hot baked potate and a cup of good coffee with cream.

Watch him smile!

Try it some morning this week. It's great-!

DEERPOOT FARM : New York Office

Mantel Clocks With Quarter-Hour Chimes, \$25.00

Housed in a handsome mahogany case, with a large, clear silver face, this is the most popular clock we have to offer.

Our new catalogue presents 20,000 photographic illustrations of the latest in Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry and Silverware. A suitable gift for any person or any occasion may be selected from this book.

We will gladly send or give you a copy. Free on request.

S.Kind & Sons Diamond Merchants

Jewelers-Silversmiths 1110 Chestnut Street

Closing Hour Six o'Clock Until Christmas



Facts Versus Fallacies

FACT is a real state of things. FALLACY is an apparently genuine but really illogical statement or argument.

ALABAMA is a Prohibition State. It was made Prohibition by its Legislature, and this, too, in the face of the FACT that the people of Alabama have three times gone on record at the polls, as opposed to Prohibition.

BUT the Legislature made Alabama "dry," and it was confidently said that the citizens of Alabams would pay less taxes in consequence—that an era of prosperity would come—and that the land would be overflowing with milk and honey instead of with alcoholic beverages.

WHAT has, in reality, come to pass is this: When Governor Jelks of Alabama, anti-prohibitionist, retired from office eight years ago—in 1907—he left a surplus of \$1,900,000 in the State treasury, and with all outstanding

Prohibition Promise

Does Not Measure

Up To Prohibition

Performance

obligations paid. His successor was a prohibitionist, and before the prohibitionist Governor relinquished his reins of office, the surplus had disappeared, and in its place was a deficit of more than a million dollars in the revenues of the

THE present Legislature has already made appropriations that are \$3,000,000 in excess of the revenues for the present fiscal year, and Governor Henderson says that pro-

hibition cannot possibly last through another Legislature!

ERE then is shown the wide differencee between prohibition's Promise and Performance. It is a common FALLACY to promise that prohibition means lower taxes

and increased prosperity, when it is a FACT-as shown by Alabama's figures—that seven years ago Alabama as a "wet" State had a surplus of \$1,900,000, and today, as a "dry" State has a deficit of \$3,000,000. DROHIBITION has cost Alabama \$5,000,000 in seven

Wet" Alabama Surplus \$1,900,000 Dry Alahama Deficit \$3,000,000

alabama

Philadelphia Lager Beer Brewers' Association (The Next Article Will Appear Wednesday, December 8th)