W. B. Moses & Sons

F st., cor. 11th. | Storage 22d and M.

Everything we sell bears the stamp of perfect workmanship and finish.

Giveable GIFTS.

—The gift season is with us again—and the "what-to-give" question comes back just as hard to solve as ever.

—Make a useful present and it'll be doubly appreciated. An Oriental Rug, for instance—is an everlasting gift. Always beautiful, always useful—lasts forever.

—Other Rugs, too, come under the head of gifts. These perhaps:

Moquette Rugs.

Size.	Worth.	For
1 bale, 18x36-in	$1.00	$0.75
1 bale, 27x64-in	2.50	2.00
1 bale, 36x72-in	3.75	3.00

Fur Rugs.

1 bale of Gray Fur Rugs, worth $2.75, for $1.75

1 bale of White Fur Rugs, worth $2.75 ..... $1.75

Japanese Mohair Rugs.

Size.	Worth.	For
1 bale, 18x36-in	$1.75	$1.00
1 bale, 36x72-in	8.00	3.00

Royal Axminster Rugs.

1 bale, 18x36-in ..... 75c.

Smyrna Rugs.

Size.	Worth.	For
2 bales, 6x9 ft	$17.50	$9.75

1t W. B. MOSES & SONS.

Standard Book Store,

314 9th St.

We Suggest Books

for the Christmas present. They are the nicest of gifts—always appreciated—never out of place.

We Suggest Our Books

on account of their limitless array—their artistic bindings—their infinite variety and their extreme price lowness.

Webster's Dictionary—¾ morocco bound—over 1,500 pages and countless illustrations—

89c.

Shakespeare—Complete in one volume—including poems and memoirs—

48c.

Shakespeare—in twelve artistic little volumes—bound in silk vellum and cased in a cloth-covered box—the print is large and the paper very good—

$1.75.

Ginevra—a beautiful Christmas story by Gen. Lew. Wallace—very prettily bound and illustrated—

34c.

FOR GIRLS.

The "Elsie" Books, by Martha Finley, in 22 different titles—

58c.

FOR BOYS.

The Alger Series,
The Hentz Series,
The Harkaway Series—

48c. a volume.

The Monte Cristo Series.

5 vols. in all, consisting of the "Count of Monte Cristo," "Edmund Dantes," "The Wife of Monte Cristo," "Monte Cristo's Daughter," "The Son of Monte Cristo." Cloth-bound and in a box. Price for entire set.

79c.

Marie Corelli's

"The Murder of Delicia." Very handsomely bound.

98c.

Out for '97.

"THE CHATTERBOX," with hundreds of illustrations and beautiful and amusing tales of every description.

79c.

Dickens' Complete Works,

in substantial and attractive binding. Printed from new plates. There are 15 vols. to the set. Price for the complete set,

$3.98.

The Brownie Books,

By Palmer Cox.

Very elaborately illustrated. Printed on the finest magazine paper.

$1.19 each.

Five to select from:
"The Brownies at Home."
"The Brownies—Their Book."
"The Brownies 'Round the World."
"The Brownies Through the Union."
"Another Brownie Book."

98c.

is our price for the following handsomely bound and profusely illustrated gift books:
Dore's Bible Gallery. Egypt Illustrated. England Illustrated. Germany Illustrated. India Illustrated. Ireland Illustrated. Palestine Illustrated. Scotland Illustrated. The Land We Live In. Illustrated.

Our array of very fine Juvenile and Gift Books is above anything ever shown in Washington. We are fully prepared for Sunday school libraries with an unimpeachable assortment of books purchased for that purpose.

Standard Book Store,

314 9th.

Mail Orders Especially Desired.
10 per cent Discount to Schools and Libraries. 1t

DINNER WINES The most popular dinner wines of the season are "Sweet Muscatel" and "Claret." Both add greatly to the enjoyment of a dinner! Low-priced, too—when bought here. For instance:

"Muscatel," $1.50 gal.
"Golden Gate" Claret, 40c. qt.

TO-KALON Wine Co.,

614 14th St. 'Phone 998.

The "Sunshine of night."

Electric light is the "sunshine of night."
It is clear, soft, brilliant and very restful to the eyes.
Why not call and let us explain how little it will cost to light your home by electricity?

U. S. Electric Lighting Co.,

213 14th st. n.w. 'Phone 77. no28-20d

PRESCRIPTION 4387, FOR

Rheumatism.

The prescription of one of Washington's oldest and most eminent physicians. It instantly relieves and permanently cures RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT, SCIATICA, LUMBAGO and all aches and pains due to URIC ACID poison. It purifies the blood, stimulates and restores the kidneys, improves the health and gives tone and vigor to the entire system. Price, $1 per bottle; trial size, 50c. KOLB PHARMACY, 438 7th st. n.w., cor. E.
fe20-17d

Bon Marche,
314 and 316 7th St.

Candy for Sunday Schools & Church Festivals At Reduced Prices.

Our candy maker is prepared to furnish Sunday schools and church festivals with the very highest grade Candies, in any desired quantity, at special reduced prices, providing orders are left NOW for Christmas delivery.

40c. Candy, 19c. lb.

All day tomorrow we shall offer the regular 40c. Fine Mixed Candies, embracing 25 different kinds of chocolates, filled with figs, dates, jellies and caramels, also Bon Bons, Cocoanuts, Creams and our own invention, the new, delicious "Fig Pulps," at..... **19c. lb.**

"CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR!"

Folks are buying their gifts earlier this year than ever before. It is a wise policy to buy now and avoid the crush and hurry of the few days preceding Christmas. Impossible to get waited upon properly then, and half the time you can't find what you want and have to take anything you can get. We have some glorious surprises in prices for you this year in gift goods. The season has been a hard one with everybody. Money has been scarce—and we are going to make your gift money do just twice as much here as it has done in any previous year. Here is only a partial list of the many things we are willing to do free for gift buyers:

All Leather Goods from $1 up engraved FREE.
All Sterling Silver Goods engraved FREE.
Fancy Boxes for Gift Handkerchiefs FREE.
Fancy Boxes for Gift Gloves FREE.
Fancy Boxes for Gift Scarfs FREE.
Fancy Boxes for Gift Hosiery FREE.
Fancy Boxes for Gift Suspenders FREE.
Silver-mounted Umbrellas engraved FREE.
Fancy Boxes for any and all kinds of gifts FREE.

We are willing to do anything reasonable in helping to make your gifts as attractive as possible. Will lay aside any gift purchases you may make now for Christmas delivery if you so desire.

Wait for our gift offerings, they will be the newest and most novel as well as the lowest priced in the city. They will all be of THIS YEAR'S MANUFACTURE—for we didn't carry a single gift over from last year.

Last Day of the $9.50 Coat Sale!

Tomorrow will be your last chance at these small lots of Ladies' Empire Jackets, Shield-front Reefers, Bias-cut Reefers and Close-fitting Coats, that sold at $10, $12, $12.50, $15, $15.50 and $18. Tomorrow positively the last day upon which you can buy them at **$9.50**

$10 & $12 Empire Jackets, $6.95.

Lot of Fine Kersey and Beaver Cloth Empire Jackets, in black, brown and navy, braid trimmed and braid embroidered, silk lined, made up in the best manner. Regular $10 and $12 quality. Tomorrow only..... **$6.95**

$5, $6 & $7 Reefers, $4.

Balance of that lot of Ladies' Black and Navy Rough Cloth, Black and Navy Beaver Cloth and Brown and Tan Frieze Cloth, Shield and Bias-front Reefers, plain, braid and button trimmed. Made to sell for $5, $6 and $7. Tomorrow only **$4**

$10 & $11 Coats, Tomorrow, $7.95.

This lot embraces Handsome Boucle, Astrakhan, Beaver, Kersey, Cheviot and Frieze Cloth, Shield-front Reefers and Tight-fitting Coats, some lined, some half lined, some with inlaid velvet collar, and some far trimmed. Made to sell for $10 and $11. Tomorrow only **$7.95**

2 lots Child's $4, $5, $6, $7 & $8 Reefers, Tomorrow, $3 & $5.

Two lots of manufacturers' samples Child Plain and Fancy Cloth Reefers, latest color effects. Will be closed out tomorrow as follows:

All $4 & $5 Reefers, $3.
All $6, $7 & $8 Reefers, $5.

$12 Silk Skirts, $7.98.

Beautiful Brocaded Satin, Brocaded Silk and Moire Velour Skirts, in new, large patterns, full width, finely finished. Could not be made for less than $12 by your dressmaker. Tomorrow. **$7.98**

$1.25 Gloves, 89c.

Here is the most durable Glove made. Never sold so many of one kind before. Some of our customers buy five or six pairs. They have 2 clasps, new patent thumb and are shown in the fashionable shades of black, white, tans, reds, browns, pearls and butter-cup. Regular $1.25 value. Tomorrow only..... **89c.**

Every pair warranted.

$6 & $7.50 Silk Waists, $4.95.

The fame of our Ready-made Silk Waists is spreading every day. We have set the other stores wondering how we can buy such fine qualities to sell at such ridiculously low prices. Many of the figures quoted by us in this department really do not cover the cost of materials. To illustrate:

We shall offer tomorrow Ladies' Beautiful Taffeta Silk Waists, in black and changeable effects, made in the latest style, no skimping, full pattern. Worth easily $6 and $7.50. Only..... **$4.95**

$1.25 Vests & Pants, 87c.

Every day's quotations strengthen our claim to being the lowest-priced Underwear House in the city. Here is a "surprise" for tomorrow:

Ladies' $1 and $1.25 Two-thirds Wool Vests and Pants, white and natural. Only..... **87c.**

$1.75 Union Suits, $1.19.

Ladies' Fine $1.50 and $1.75 Two-thirds Wool White and Natural Union Suits. Tomorrow only **$1.19**

Hdkfs. Reduced.

High time you were selecting your gift offerings in Handkerchiefs. We furnish you with a pretty fancy box free. Variety will never be so large as it is now. The wise ones will buy their Handkerchief gifts tomorrow. Here are two hints:

Ladies' 25c. Fine Quality Embroidered Handkerchiefs. Tomorrow only..... **17c.**

Men's 12½c. Plain White and Colored Bordered Handkerchiefs. Tomorrow only..... **9c.**

Bon Marche

314 & 316 7th St.

1t

"If they're Rich's shoes they're proper."
Ten=two F Street.

$5 & $6 shoes added to the $3.48 line.

$4 & $4.50 shoes added to the $2.98 line.

We've done it to keep the sizes and sorts complete—to continue the greatest sale of high-grade footwear that this city has ever known—not excepting the "bargains" offered you around town.

This offer includes all our highest grades of men's and ladies' footwear—the "swell" exclusive styles which you have only found here.

B. Rich's Sons,
Ten=two F Street.

1t

CLARK 811 PA. AVE. & CO.

SATURDAY SPECIALS.

Be wary! The market is filled with cheap, "tracky" merchandise. We never handle it. Reliable merchandise only—the kind that will give you satisfaction—the kind we stand ready to refund your money for, if you are not satisfied.

Underwear Half Price.

Center table full of broken lines of Ladies' and Men's Winter Underwear—at just half price. For instance, the 50c. Underwear for 25c., the $1 Underwear for 50c., and so on. A special lot of Men's Natural Gray Shirts and Drawers at 39c. instead of 50c.

An extra quality of Natural Wool Drawers for Men at $1 instead of $1.50.

FOR WOMEN.—Manufacturer's "seconds" of those fine "Oneida" Wool Combination Suits. You wouldn't know they were "seconds" if we did not tell you. Wear as well as "firsts."

$1 Combination Suits, 69c.
$1.50 Combination Suits, $1.
$2 Combination Suits, $1.25.

Misses' Merino Vests and Pants, two-thirds wool. Sizes 8 to 14 years. Never sold under 62½c. Special Saturday, 39c.

Hosiery "Specials."

Men's Scotch Wool Socks, in tans and grays. Always sold for 25c. Special Saturday, 19c.

A superior quality of Black Cashmere Wool Hose for "cold feet," at 25c., for both ladies and men.

Coat "Specials."

Misses' and Children's Reefer Jackets. Sizes 8 to 16 years. In red, green, brown and navy. Very stylish. Real value, $7. Special Saturday, $4.69.

We have not all styles in the following, hence the extraordinary low prices:

$6 Coats for $4.25
$8 Coats for $5.50
$11.50 Coats for $8

Handkerchief "Specials."

Notice the cold, glassy, smooth effect in all our Handkerchiefs. It is the one infallible sign of "pure linen"—the only kind we sell for linen.

At 12½c. we show four or five styles of hemstitching in Ladies' and Men's "Pearl Linen" Handkerchiefs that we challenge you to duplicate under 19c. elsewhere.

Finer for both, of course. Ready for an enormous Christmas Handkerchief trade.

CLARK 811 PA. AVE. & CO.

1t

"GOOD THINGS"
FOR SATURDAY AND MONDAY.
LOOK THE LIST OVER.

$1 Paine's Celery Comp. 68c

$1.00 Hood's Sarsaparilla	65c.
$1.00 Cuticura Resolvent	69c.
50c. Cuticura Salve	34c.
$1.00 Scott's Emulsion, dollar size	65c.
$1.25 Warner's Safe Cure	89c.
$1.00 Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery	67c.
$1.00 Pierce's Favorite Prescription	67c.
$1.00 Ayer's Cherry Pectoral	69c.
$1.50 Fellows' Hypophosphites	96c.
25c. Carter's Little Liver Pills	2 for 25c.
50c. Malvina and Viola Cream	35c.
$1.00 Ayer's Hair Vigor	57c.
50c. California Syrup Figs	35c.
25c. Piso's Cure, Bull's Syrup, etc	18c.
25c. Munyon's Medicines, small, 17c.; large	23c.
$1.00 Liquid Peptonoids, only	75c.
75c. Mellin's Food, 55c.; small size	35c.
$1.00 Beef, Wine and Iron, full pints	50c.
25c. Powdered Borax	9c. lb.
50c. Best Rubber Nipples, 1-oz	25c.
50c. Chase's Food	34c.
25c. Packer's Tar Soap	14c.
50c. Vaseline, per lb	23c.
$2.00 Chichester's Pennyroyal Pills	$1.38
25c. Woodbury's Soap	14c.
50c. Williams' Pink Pills	34c.
$1.00 Kent's English Hair Brush	47c.
50c. Imported Hair Brush	23c.
50c. Hair Brush and Horn Comb	20c.
50c. Shaving Mug, Brush and Soap	29c.
25c. Whisk Broom	10c.
25c. Steel Shoe Dip	7c.
50c. Shoe Brush	29c.
50c. Razor Strop	19c.
25c. Shaving Brush	10c.
$1.00 Razor, Wade & Butcher	49c.

A very complete Xmas stock of Celluloid and Plush Cases, Perfumeries, Imported Toilet Novelties, Cut Glass and Fancy Atomizers, Military Hair Brushes, &c., at 50 per cent discount on last year figures.

Kolb Pharmacy,

LEADERS OF LOWEST PRICES.
1t 438 7TH ST. N.W., COR. E.

Great Reduction In Hair.

1,000 Switches, $3.50, formerly $7.00.
Switches, 2.50, formerly 5.00.
Switches, 6.00, formerly 10.50.
Gray Switches, 3.00, formerly 5.00.
Gray Switches, 4.50, formerly 6.50.
First-class attendants in Hairdressing, Shampooing, etc.
Try our "Curlette" for retaining curl.

S. HELLER'S,
720 7th Street N. W.
my7-20d

McKnew's Daily Letter.

Choose your coat or cape

—from the stock which shows the largest number of styles, and which contains ALL SIZES in every style—then you will be sure of perfect satisfaction and a perfect fit. Our magnificent line of Coats and Capes is never allowed to become broken in sizes or styles until late in the season. You cannot fail to be suited. All the latest effects in color, cut and material. A price range of from $5 to $100.

Ladies' Beautiful Boucle Jackets, fancy taffeta silk lining, box front. At least $3 under value. Only $12.50.

Still another shipment of those famous Australian Cheviot Jackets, which we claim are the best $10 Coats ever sold in Washington.

Handsome line of Persian Cloth Coats, beautiful silk lining throughout, button trimmed. Ought to be marked $12.50. Our price, $10.

A very Stylish Tan Box Coat for ladies, with inlaid velvet collar, stitched seams, new sleeves, pearl buttons. Equal quality would have sold last year for $10. Our price this year, only $7.

Another shipment of those popular Misses' Coats, in a variety of styles and color effects, which we have been selling at $7.50. They are large enough for small ladies.

The above is only a representative item from the Misses' Department, as the prices run from $4.50 up to $12.50, with a large range of styles in plain and mixed fabrics between.

$1 gloves, 64c.

Balance of those broken lots of Ladies' 5-hook Gloves, in fashionable shades of tan. Sizes 6¼ to 7 only. Tomorrow ..... **64c. pr.**

Underwear Specials.

One lot of Ladies' Fine Quality Swiss Ribbed Vests. Regular 75c. quality. Special tomorrow only ..... **50c.**

(Pants to match above, 50c.)

Children's Warm Black All-wool Tights. All sizes. Best value ever offered in this city at **75c.**

Children's Warm Sleeping Suits. Special tomorrow—

50c. to 78c., according to size.

Our "famous" $1 flannelette wrappers.

That great $1 Flannelette Wrapper we are running this year has already gained a name for itself. Best dollar's worth we ever offered.

Cloth waists, $2 to $6.50.

At least a third lower than last year's prices for cloth waists. Less than it'll cost you to make 'em at home.

Dressing sacques, $1.75 up.

Largest variety in the city. In eider-down, flannelette and French flannel. Plenty of choice colors at all prices. $1.75 to $6.50.

W. H. McKnew

Men's, Ladies' and Children's Furnishings, Coats, Suits and Furs,

933 Pa. Ave.

1t

HECHT'S liberal credit system is the poor man's friend.

We're giving Fine Buckboard Wagons with Boys' Suits, Reefers or Overcoats at $2.98 or over.

We're giving the greatest values

—that have been offered you for many days in Boys' Clothes and Women's Wraps.

We don't care who it is, nobody offers you bigger inducements to buy of them than we.

We have sprung to the leadership in Wraps and Suits at one bound, because you have seen that we sell for less than others, giving you equal style, workmanship and quality—and

on easy payments,

too, when you want credit.

We're glad to accommodate you by giving you the privilege of our liberal credit system.

Balance of those Boys' $4.50 All-wool Reefer Suits of which we told you yesterday will go tomorrow at

$1.98 each.

Boys' Blue Chinchilla Reefers—such as you pay $4 for anywhere in town—here at

$2.98 each.

Boys' All-wool Reefer and Double-breasted Suits—equal in finish and quality to the usual $5 suit—offered you here at

$2.98 each.

Boys' Best Blue Woroubo Chinchilla Reefers with large sailor collars; bound with broad Hercules braid—$5 elsewhere—here at

$3.98 each.

Boys' Irish Frieze or Chinchilla Storm Ulsters—usual $5 sort—here at

$3.98 each.

Boys' Leather Leggins, $1.25—like the $2 sort sold elsewhere.

COATS & CAPES

That immense purchase of wraps is "petering out." Tomorrow there won't be much left. We advise you to get in early.

Extra Heavy Boucle Cloth Coats, half silk lined, 2-button stylish loose fronts, deep arctic collars—well made and finished, and equal to garments that will be offered you about town for $7 or $8—for..... **$3.50**

Silk Seal Plush Capes—braid and jet trimmed or plain; trimmed with angora fur and all fancy silk lined—capes such as cannot be sold when bought regularly under $15 are going at **$8.50**

Children's Reefers of two-tone boucle—extra large lined collar, piped with velvet and trimmed with small buttons; also lot of Children's Gretchen Long Coats of novelty boucle and red kersey, trimmed with braid and astrakhan; extra large shoulder capes—worth no less than $5—for..... **$2.98**

HECHT & COMPANY,
1t 515 Seventh Street.

Facial Culture.

D'ISGNE ET CIE - - - - 1415 H ST. N.W. Branch Importers of D'Isgne Cremes, 1110 G st.n.w. Manicuring, Hair Dressing, Shampooing. Demonstrator from New York parlors. Imperial Hair Regenerators, coloring hair. Samples free. High-class appointments in each branch. no7-1m*

THE SHAKERS DO THEIR DUTY.

"If a man discovers a valuable medicine," said Horace Greeley, "it is his duty to advertise it." Yes, and at once; for suffering demands the speediest relief possible. But let the man first be sure. Suffering had better wait than be deluded by false hopes. Medicine, like surgery, must often seem cruel in order to be really kind. On this principle the Shakers of Mt. Lebanon, N. Y., withheld their great indigestion and dyspepsia remedy from the public for several years. With them right-doing is everything—money comparatively nothing. Hence the popularity and success of whatever they offer for sale. Having satisfied themselves of the merit of their medicine by employing it in the worst cases of digestive disorders in their own vicinity for years, they did their duty—they advertised it under the name of the Shaker Digestive Cordial. In all cases where there is distress after eating, pain in the stomach, chest and back; aversion to food with the resulting symptoms, such as headache, furred tongue, eructation of gas, with weakness and loss of flesh, etc., the Cordial has a most happy effect. Being itself a digested food with power to digest other foods, it relieves the weak and possibly inflamed stomach of the labor it is in no condition to perform, gives new strength to the body and presently restores to the digestive organs their normal vigor. Taken immediately after eating, this remedy insures the digestion of the meal and prevents the fermentation of the food, which is the source of most of the afflicted symptoms which accompany dyspepsia. It is also as agreeable to the taste as it is potent as a medicine.

To show their own confidence in it, and to hasten its universal adoption, the Shakers authorize druggists to sell trial bottles at the nominal price of ten cents. 1t

Xmas Gifts

20 to 50% less Regular Prices at Gerome Desio's

(Across from Moses')

Retiring Sale!

Every one who intends to make Christmas presents of Diamonds, Gold and Silver Jewelry, Art Bric-a-Brac, Statuary, etc., should not fail to attend this Retiring Sale. Everything in stock has had its price cut from 20 to 50 per cent under its regular price. Bear in mind these goods are this season's best creations, and in point of quality are second to none in this or any other city!

Come to us to buy your Xmas gifts!

Store for rent!

Fixtures for sale!

Gerome Desio

1107 F St., North Side.
de4-70d

Winter Wraps.

Never was there such a chance to get the best the market affords at so low a price as our Great Cloak Sale offers. No one can afford to disregard the fact that a bargain chance is slipping by each day they delay making their purchase.

$8, $7, $6 & $5 Jackets & Capes, $3.98

Kersey, Beaver, Boucle and Chevron Cloths—latest styles, single and double, plain braid or fur trimmed.

$11, $10, $9 & $8 Jackets & Capes, $5.98

In Astrakhan, Irish Frieze, Boucle, Kersey, Covert, Beaver and Chevron Cloths—plain and trimmed, some satin lined. Beautiful PLUSH and CLOTH CAPES.

$15, $14, $13 and $12 Jackets and Capes, $7.98

This elegant lot consists of QUALITY PLUSH CAPES, QUALITY CLOTH CAPES, QUALITY CLOTH JACKETS, KERSEY JACKETS, BOUCLE JACKETS, BEAVER JACKETS, ASTRAKHAN JACKETS, made and tailored in the latest styles.

$20, $18, $16 and $15 Jackets and Capes, $9.98

The very finest that are made. Plain and fancy cloths. Parisian and London styles. All kinds of rich trimming and embroidery. A hundred unique and effective styles.

King's Palace,

812=814 Seventh Street.

1t Branch Store, 715 Market Space.

One=Day Bargains in Boys' Books.

$1.50 "Zig Zag" Books, 85c.
$1.50 "Vassar Girl" Books, 85c.
$2.50 Coffin's Boys of '61, $1.73.
$1.50 Boy Captain, Otis, 97c.
$1.25 Overton's King's Pardon, 73c.

DECKER,

Stationer, Engraver, Bookseller,
1111 F St. N. W.
de4-40d

Going to Give A Dinner?

Reception Crackers,
Stuffed Prunes,
Cheese Wafers,
Fine Figs,
Fancy Cheeses,
Cheese Straws, &c.

—then you'll need some of these delightful nic-nacks we are showing. We are headquarters for all kinds of delicacies so popular to serve at dinners!

Come to us when in need of anything in that line! Lowest prices consistent with qualities!

C. C. BRYAN, 1413 N.Y. Av.

de4-f,m,w,28

"HYOMEI" — BOOTH'S POCKET INHALER.—Washington office, Room 56, Washington Loan and Trust bldg., cor. 9th and F sts. W. S. THOMPSON, 703 15th st. n.w. ap22-w,f&m-1y

Angostura Bitters should find a place in every household. The best cure for indigestion. Manufactured by Dr. J. G. B. Siegert & Sons. All druggists keep them.

DISTRICT FINANCES

Auditor Petty Makes Some Important Recommendations.

OPPOSED TO THE CONTRACT LAW

Startling Statement as to Claims Under a Recent Law.

REVENUES AND EXPENSES

The annual report of Mr. J. T. Petty, the auditor of the District, submitted today to the District Commissioners, contains in addition to the usual comprehensive summary of the financial affairs of the District some rather interesting and important recommendations. He urges, with much emphasis, the repeal of the act of February 13, 1895, providing for the payment to contractors under the late board of public works of the difference between the rates stipulated in their contracts and the schedule of prices adopted as "board rates," and points out that the claims already filed under this law aggregate, with interest, $1,300,000. He makes a strong argument also based on recent experience with contractors for the modification or repeal of the law requiring that all public works exceeding $1,000 in cost shall be done by contract.

The report says in regard to the act of February 13, 1895, providing for the payment to contractors, under the late board of public works, of the difference between the rates stipulated in their contracts and the schedule of prices afterward adopted and known as "board rates," that it "is singularly lacking in precautions for safeguarding the interest of the government." The Commissioners, he adds, will doubtless recall their own earnest, but unavailing efforts to engraft upon it, while on its way through Congress, such restrictions as, had they been enacted, would have disarmed it of much of its power for evil.

An Extraordinary Gratuity.

"It is inconceivable," he says, "that the spirit of this law contemplates more than securing to those who covenanted with the government to work at certain prices, as written in their contracts, the advantage of the higher rates afterward granted by the board of public works to subsequent contractors, and known as 'board rates,' for this alone is an undisguised and most extraordinary gratuity, but its letter allows a much broader interpretation, and claims are being urged with its technical sanction which are without the slightest foundation in justice or equity.

"The act of June 20, 1874, authorizing the 3.65 bonds," the auditor observes, "limited their issue to $15,000,000. Only $12,000 of these bonds remain, and if the judgments heretofore and hereafter rendered under the act of February 13, 1895, are to be paid, it will be necessary to increase the District debt. When this act was under consideration Congress was advised that the claimants were few, and the amount involved about $70,000, but the docket of the Court of Claims shows ninety-eight petitioners, whose claims aggregate $753,526.75, amounting, with interest, to $1,300,000. These figures are startling, but they are also official, and bring us face to face with an issue that must soon be met. For myself I do not hesitate to say that the only proper solution of the question is the prompt and unconditional repeal of the law. It is always a question for grave and mature consideration when taxpayers are to be burdened with debt for improvements or other legitimate enterprises of government; but when we are asked to issue bonds or deplete the treasury in order to pay claims which no court, save one bound by congressional mandate, would consider favorably for a moment, there should be no difficulty in reaching a summary and adverse conclusion."

Modification of the Contract Law.

"The provisions of the organic act which requires that all public works the cost of which exceeds $1,000 shall be done by contract with the lowest bidder, has long seemed inimical to the public interest, or at least of doubtful utility, but in the light of recent events, as is well known to the Commissioners, its potency for evil has been so manifest as to make its repeal or modification a matter of urgent necessity. Bidders in order to secure contracts have offered terms which rendered it morally certain that they could not meet their engagements, and that either the government or those who furnished labor or material in the work of construction, must suffer, but as their proposals were in due form acceptance followed as a matter of course. The results in a number of cases have been failures so mortifying and disastrous as to bring reproach both upon the contractors and the District. Five of this character within the last four months have caused much suffering among laborers and tradesmen, while attempts to settle daily disputes between the contractors and their attorneys on one side and their unfortunate creditors on the other, have frequently so engrossed my time as to interfere with the regular duties of the office. The law of mechanics' liens protects all who contribute in anywise to the erection of a private building, but as the District of Columbia is not amenable to this statute those who work for or furnish material to contractors for the construction of its buildings under contracts made, either in ignorance or with fraudulent intent, at less than fair prices, are forced often to lose their labor or their property without the slightest legal remedy. In consideration of these facts it would seem advisable to amend the law so as to clothe the Commissioners with discretionary authority either to contract with the lowest responsible bidder, or to employ day laborers under official supervision as the interest of the government may demand.

"The responsibility of the contractors is clear beyond question, but in view of the fact, within my own personal knowledge, that the material supplied by the subcontractors was furnished in the belief that being for a public building payment therefor was sure, and the additional fact that the District enjoys the benefit of its use, and cannot afford to keep it without just compensation, I would recommend that Congress be asked to appropriate a sufficient sum to reimburse those who have incurred losses for work done or material furnished in the construction of the buildings to which reference has been made."

Other Recommendations.

Referring to the recent investigation of the accounts of the collector of fines on the District side of the Police Court, the auditor urges that his office should have supervision over the accounts, not only of the collector referred to, but of all other officials charged with the duty of receiving moneys for the District.

He recommends that Congress be asked to authorize the payment of arrearages due to the pensioners of the fire and police departments.

Appended are two of the tables submitted by the auditor, one giving an exhibit of the revenue account, and the other a classified statement of the expenditures during the fiscal year. Several other tables are included in the report, giving a complete exhibit of the accounts of the District:

Summary statement of expenditures of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896:

Improvement of streets, avenues and roads	$322,975 05
Care and lighting of streets, roads and parking	457,146 23
Bridges	66,341 92
Sewers and basins	373,092 18
Washington aqueduct	47,500 00
National Zoological Park	55,771 53
Salaries and expenses of offices	277,188 22
Metropolitan police	358,731 23
Fire department	205,582 59
Telegraph and telephone service	20,183 79
Courts	107,319 81
Public schools	1,070,259 77
Health department	97,145 97
Militia	19,450 63
Charities and corrections	570,880 36
Interest and sinking fund	1,213,947 97
Harbor and river front	2,004 43
Public pumps	3,269 48
Public scales	81 00
Expenses of excise board	6,734 12
Bathing beach	1,574 72
Emergency fund	8,292 35
Payment of judgments against District of Columbia	23,020 00
Payment to William Stone Albert for compilation of District laws	4,000 00
Tax sale certificate	1,031 00
Payment of lots Potomac river flats	12,346 60
Judgments Court of Claims, paid in 3.65 bonds	24,831 82

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

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Who lack strength and vigor there is nothing better than a pure malt stimulant to build up the system and clothe the body with sound, healthy flesh. Nothing so quickly gives new life to the debilitated.

This fact has been proved by thousands of men and women who have gained health and strength by using

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The greatest and best of medicinal stimulants. The vitalizing principle contained in the pure malt feeds and nourishes every part of the body, tones up the stomach and sharpens the appetite. It soothes excited nerves, arouses the circulation and restores lost energy. As a stimulant and tonic it has never been equaled.

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Honest business methods, fine goods and lowest prices will win trade. We believed that—and stuck to it—ever since we started in business. The seed is bearing fruit. We've outgrown the old store at No. 18. It's not nearly large enough to suit our present needs. It's not at all the kind of store to satisfy us. We've moved and tomorrow will greet you at OUR NEW STORE, No. 111 7th st. n.e.

This is one of the neatest, most convenient GROCERY STORES in the city. It is 25 feet front and 115 feet deep—two stories high, large cellar, public alley side and rear, and the building has big plate glass windows, handsome counters and shelves and a cozy office. It's bright and attractive, and affords us a splendid chance to properly display our goods.

☞ We wish we could personally thank each one of our army of patrons in this section of the city—for their confidence—their kindness and their generous patronage. We can't do that—but we can say heartily, "Thank you—thank you—thank you."

We'll SHOW our appreciation in a practical way, too, by quoting some "OPENING PRICES," just for tomorrow. It'll be worth while paying us a visit.

S. C. Shoulders ..... lb. .. 5½c.
Choice Irish Potatoes .. bu. .. 39c.
Honey Drip Syrup .. qt. jar .. 11c.
Ginger Snaps ..... 3 lbs. .. 10c.
Fat Mackerel ..... 3 for .. 10c.
Bee Soap ..... 3 cakes .. 10c.
1 lb. "Perfection" Tea (reg. price, 50c. lb.), in fancy canister ..... 30c.

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Mr. Leon M. Barnes of Woodbury, Conn., writes under date of May 22, 1895: "This remedy, Ripans Tabules, is not much known at the drug stores here, but Mr. A. E. Knox, the editor of our local paper, is loud in his praise of the Tabules. He said: 'Every spring and summer I have been greatly troubled with dyspepsia and constipation, and have tried various remedies with no permanent relief. A few weeks ago I came in possession of a couple of boxes of Ripans Tabules, and, somewhat incredulously, I began their use, and the results have been truly astonishing. They hit the right spot from the first, and so far this spring I have never felt better in my life.'"

Ripans Tabules are sold by druggists, or by mail if the price (50 cents a box) is sent to The Ripans Chemical Company, No. 10 Spruce st., New York. Sample vial, 10 cents.

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