THE POST-INTELLIGENCER.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Delivered by City Carrier.

Daily and Sunday, per month	$0 75
Daily and Sunday, six months, if paid in advance	4 00
Daily and Sunday, one year, if paid in advance	7 00
Sunday edition, per month	25
Sunday edition, one year	2 00

Persons desiring the Post-Intelligencer served at their homes or change of delivery, can secure it by postal card request or order through telephone Main 1. When delivery is irregular, please make immediate complaint to this office.

BY MAIL, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Daily and Sunday, per month	$0 75
Daily and Sunday, six months	4 00
Daily and Sunday, one year	7 00
Sunday edition, one month	25
Sunday edition, six months	1 25
Sunday edition, one year	2 00
Sunday and Weekly, one year	3 00
Weekly edition, one year	1 00
Weekly edition, six months	50

OFFICES:

Seattle, Second avenue and Cherry street.
New York, rooms 12, 13, 15 Tribune bldg.
Chicago, 317 Chamber of Commerce.
Tacoma, 1102 Pacific avenue.

Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Remit by express, money order, draft or in registered letter, at our risk.

Telephones—Business Office, Main 1. Editorial Rooms, Main 911.

Address all communications and remittances to the POST-INTELLIGENCER PUBLISHING CO., Seattle, Wash.

A GUARANTEE.

The Post-Intelligencer hereby guarantees its advertisers a bona fide paid circulation, Daily, Weekly and Sunday, double that of any other newspaper published in the state of Washington. Advertising contracts will be made subject to this guarantee.

CITY OFFICIAL PAPER.

SEATTLE, THURSDAY, FEB. 17.

MISCHIEVOUS LEGISLATION.

In councils of infinite foolishness some of the leaders of the Populist legislature of 1896-7 concluded that it would be expedient to introduce a number of bills in regard to mortgage loans which would have the effect of antagonizing capital. Legislation of this kind is always unwise. No man should borrow unless he has to, or unless he sees a chance to make a profit out of the loan. When he does borrow, either from necessity or because he thinks he can make money by doing so, it is to his advantage to borrow at the lowest rates and on the most favorable terms, and these rates and terms are never obtainable under legislation which adds to the hazard and uncertainty of loans.

Several of these Populist mortgage bills were passed, among them the so-called appraisement bill, the deficiency judgment bill, and the bill making all contracts payable in any kind of lawful money, without regard to the terms of the contract. Republicans in the legislature pointed out that these bills would prevent the renewal of existing loans and the making of new ones in the state, and that they would necessarily work a hardship on those already in debt. Populists replied that they wanted loaners of money cinched; that the borrowing of money had been a detriment to the state, and that anything which would discourage borrowing in the state would benefit the people.

It needs no discussion as to the expediency of such an attitude on the part of a community out of debt, in order to show its foolishness on the part of a community largely in debt, at a time when real estate was at the bottom of panic prices. Under these conditions, by their actions in passing these bills, the Populists also said that they wanted borrowers cinched, and that it would be better for those who owed money on real estate to be closed out at the lowest prices of the past ten years, than for them to be able to renew their loans at lower rates of interest and carry their real estate over till such time as a recovery from the panic brought a natural recovery of values.

Every one of these bills was an interference with and an abridgment of the right of private contract; the right of an individual to make such terms in his business transactions as in his judgment seemed most advantageous to himself. No man is obliged under any laws to contract to pay in gold or to become personally liable for the amount of a mortgage debt. Under fair laws the transaction is open to agreement between the parties, and fair laws hold both parties to the agreement when made.

The only effect these Populist mortgage bills could have had upon a mortgage contract would have been to enable a borrower to make an agreement and then refuse to carry it out; to make a promise and then break it; to agree to do certain specific things in order to get a loan and then refuse to do as he agreed, and in these respects they added the element of essential dishonesty to their inexpediency.

The utter lack of wisdom in such legislation is shown by its results. While millions of money have been offered for investment in the East at lower rates than were ever before known, very little has been offered in Washington since these bills were passed. Those who owed maturing mortgages have been foreclosed and have lost their property. Holders of unincumbered real estate have been unable to get a fair price for it because similar property was being offered for the amount of the mortgages. Those who wished to build and improve their property have been unable to borrow money to do so. In short, the state of Washington has been held back for at least a year from participation in the general recovery of values which has taken place over the country by the passage of these mortgage laws. Every man in the state who, through these laws, has lost a home by reason of his inability to renew a mortgage loan while money was being offered freely at low rates in the East; every man who has seen the selling price of his real estate held down by the forced sale of this mortgaged property, while prices were rising in other states, and every man who has been compelled to let his property remain unproductive through inability to borrow money to improve it, may thank the Populist party of Washington for the conditions from which he has suffered.

If any other evidence of the foolishness of such legislation were needed than the character of the laws themselves, and their effect in preventing renewals of loans and in depressing the value of real estate, it can be found in the decision rendered by the supreme court in the case of Dentis vs. Moses.

The court holds that the deficiency judgment law is unconstitutional as an interference with the right of private contract in a matter not involving any question of public policy, and the law making gold contracts payable in other money void as an invasion of the province of Federal legislation. The court construes the period of redemption to be substantially the same as under the old law and the decision robs the appraisal law of its objectionable features. So the laws passed have not only been a detriment to those who owned property and to those who owed mortgages and an obstruction to the return of prosperity in the state, but they have been ineffectual to accomplish what the Populists intended and desired. They have simply stood in the way of renewing loans and disposing of real estate at fair values since they were introduced, without a single advantage to offset this injury to the credit and business interests of the state.

A DEED OF TREACHERY.

The exact cause of the destruction of the battleship Maine may perhaps ever remain a mystery. The results of the official inquiry which will be made will no doubt throw more light upon this terrible disaster, but the real cause of the explosion, it is to be feared, will never be accurately determined.

The commanding and executive officers, Capt. Sigsbee and Lieut. Commander Wainright, are among the best officers in the naval service, and the vessel was in an excellent state of discipline and efficiency. At 9:40 o'clock in the evening all the men not on watch were in their bunks asleep. The explosion occurred in the forward part of the vessel, as only the sailor men were killed. Had it been the after magazine, no officer on board would be alive to tell the tale. The fact that only part of the men were killed or wounded indicates that it was not the main forward magazine that exploded, as all the sailor men must have been instantly killed. The conclusion then must be that it was either a small magazine of gun cotton, a shell room or gas in a coal bunker. In both of the last a succession of explosions would have been heard. It is almost impossible to produce an explosion in a shell room, as all the powder is contained within the loaded shell. The safeguards against gas accumulating in a coal bunker, or, sufficient heat being developed for spontaneous combustion, are such that this cause can be safely rejected.

There only remains the possibility of a spontaneous explosion of a gun cotton magazine, caused by the disintegration of the explosive, and the liberation of the constituents. But gun cotton is constantly inspected, and the litmus paper test shows at once any disintegration. The heat at this season of the year at Havana is not excessive, and the disintegration of gun cotton is gradual.

Considering all these facts, that the explosion occurred suddenly—at night—on a thoroughly disciplined vessel—that no similar accident has ever occurred in a time of peace—that the vessel was lying in a harbor where the feeling against the United States is intense, and taking into consideration the cruel, treacherous nature of the Spaniard, the conclusion is almost inevitable that the explosion was of incendiary origin, either a torpedo or mine beneath the vessel, or some infernal clockwork machine introduced into the magazine.

Capt. Sigsbee's request that "public opinion should be suspended till further reports" is, under the circumstances, a very wise one. No one will for an instant suppose that the Spanish authorities in Cuba, or any member of the regular army or navy, had anything to do with this explosion and terrible loss of life. But the well-known bloodthirsty and treacherous character of the Spanish volunteers, as evidenced by numerous acts in the last thirty years in Cuba, especially in Havana, leads to the belief that they would not hesitate to perpetrate so appalling an outrage against civilization. While the Spanish government cannot be held responsible, the mournful event must serve to accentuate the critical situation and increase the difficulties of President McKinley and Secretary Sherman in their diplomatic dealings with Spain regarding the Cuban question.

REPORTS ON THE CANAL.

The reports made by officers of the navy department on the subject of a canal between the two lakes are very interesting, but they do not add much to the information possessed by Seattle people. One suggestion comes out of these reports which we will do well to act upon. It is evident that a persistent effort must be made to secure attention from the government. Valuable as prior reports were, it is evident that many of their chief features were unknown not only to the secretary of the navy, but to the officers selected to make the later reports. One advantage of this independent action is that the department will find every favorable opinion in any of them confirmed upon new inquiry.

There is nothing in the reports, of course, to indicate the purpose of the government. It was facts for which the officers were to look, and not opinions they were to form. Nevertheless, it is easy to follow out a very well-defined purpose in the minds of the officers, and they have very impartially presented the advantages and disadvantages of all plans. It does not need an able expert to read between the lines. One of the most conspicuous conclusions, if anything so indefinite may be called a conclusion, is that a canal, large enough to permit a naval vessel, need not be constructed any farther east than Lake Union. Obviously, the only advantage apparent to the reporting officer was the fresh water. He attaches no strategic importance to the canal, and one of the officers says that the canal would be advantageous only in time of peace, because all the vessels laid up would be hurried out clear of the locks at the first sign of a rupture with a strong naval power.

There are also some other points touched upon which enable the reader to infer some things that will not be done, even if he cannot positively determine just what will be done.

The fusion movement in the city comes to a head today. The three conventions are to meet and adopt separate platforms in order to keep up the poor farce of "preserving their separate autonomies," and to unite on a single set of candidates. We are likely to see the methods and purposes of fusion most beautifully illustrated. There are one or two local questions that will probably be more or less discussed during the campaign. They relate chiefly to saloons and gambling. They are awkward matters for a political platform to deal with; but the fusion movement affords an ideal opportunity to handle the whole subject to the entire satisfaction of all elements. Let the Populists declare against both with their usual fluency of language; let the Democracy become their champions, and let the Silver Republicans declare for one and against the other, or vice versa; or take a non-committal attitude. Let there be one set of candidates brought together in the holy cause of silver, whose fate is so deeply concerned in the local fight. Who shall say that this is not a perfectly logical and consistent solution of a vexatious problem and a fine exposition of the practical workings of fusion?

We are to conclude from the several Democratic, Populist and Silver Republican addresses emanating from Washington that free silver is the sovereign remedy for the evils of trusts, monopolies, national banks, the gold standard and the historic crime of '73. We have had the gold standard, and no other monetary standard, in this country for over sixty years, and we have enjoyed our greatest prosperity under its malign influence. These financial quacks call upon the United States alone to restore the "money of the constitution," which, by their own testimony, was struck down years ago by Germany, France and England, and later by almost every other civilized country. They know that the United States alone cannot sustain the parity of the metals by unlimited free coinage; but they are evidently proceeding on the theory that something must be done for silver, as gold can take care of itself. Financial chaos is no cure-all. The trust evil and the monopoly evil must be eradicated by enlightened methods and not by means that will crush capitalist and labor alike.

It is interesting to observe that the British Columbia press is now beginning to agitate the question of opening up a genuine all-Canadian route to the Yukon. One paper, after admitting the power of the United States to prohibit transshipment of cargoes at Fort Wrangel and also to withdraw all ports of entry along the Alaska coast, says:

"It was an inexcusable blunder on the part of the British government when Alaska was not purchased from Russia at the time it was being offered to the first purchaser, and Secretary Seward picked it up for a trifle. But we are not left remediless. There is an excellent route to the Yukon from the coast of British Columbia, and we submit that steps ought to be at once taken to secure its being opened."

It is not clear just where this "excellent route" is, but we shall no doubt in due time be enlightened on that subject. All this is important as indicating that Canada realizes its awkward and helpless position, and is almost ready to acknowledge it.

The Seattle Call accuses the Post-Intelligencer of being for party first, God next and country last. On this text we may reply that the party needs its help and God does not, but that a paper which attends to its own business and does not pretend to be helping God every time it opens its mouth is in a fair way to benefit its country. Again, it is generally believed that God comes to the aid of those who help themselves; therefore, if we are helping our party we may expect some help from a higher Power. There are some people who profess to be doing God's will and benefiting their country when they are only helping themselves. The streets of Jerusalem were said to be kept clean because every man swept his own doorstep. If our humble efforts to keep our party clean are only as energetic as the Call's attempts to scour its party, we shall be content to bear the Call's rasping, and perhaps we can both do some good.

It used to be thought in Iowa that agitation led to education, and it was a rare election when some question profoundly stirring the public was not to be passed on. But the halcyon days of the prohibition and anti-railroad orator are over and the state has, besides, just shown that it understands the financial question and needs no more instruction. The state senate has refused to submit the woman suffrage amendment, and it looks as if the advocates of that reform will have to move on.

Light may be thrown on the delay over Hawaiian annexation by the statement that a powerful lobby, composed of representatives of British steamship lines, is working against the treaty. Their purpose is clear. A great deal of Hawaiian commerce with the United States is carried in British bottoms, but the moment the Stars and Stripes float over the islands, they will lose it, inasmuch as no foreign vessel can engage in our coasting trade.

The New York assembly, by a vote of 79 to 62, has adopted a resolution censuring Senator Murphy for his vote on the Teller resolution. It was not prepared to go to the absurd lengths adopted by the Kentucky legislature in demanding Senator Lindsay's resignation, but its action is nevertheless sufficiently impotent and needless. No doubt the New York legislature feels better, and Murphy, being a pachyderm, feels no worse.

The public has come to understand pretty thoroughly the character of the influences that will control today's fusion conventions; and it is already satisfied that these influences will name the ticket and direct its course after election. The most sanguine supporter of this combination will scarcely claim that a fusion ticket named under these auspices, will, if elected, give Seattle a perfectly moral government in all its branches.

The Tacoma correspondent who in another column takes Congressman Lewis to task about his "100-cent dollar" rhetoric, points out clearly how free silver would affect the laboring man, and every person to whom any money is owing. It is as clear an exposition of the free silver folly from a workingman's standpoint as we have seen for some time.

SNAPSHOTS BY THE WAY.

The Maine incident seems to call for continued assurances of Spanish esteem.

It is going to take Dr. Jordan several days to figure out if he's froze in or froze out.

We shall now be entertained by a few Populist remarks about the supreme court.

The Klondike eye and the Yukon heart will be in great evidence at the harmony conventions today.

Dr. Jordan will await today's developments before finally placing that order for a hearse and coffin.

We may now expect to hear from the Tacoma papers that Secretary Alger's fine Michigan hand dictated the canal report of the naval officers.

In issuing those joint addresses, Messrs. Jones, Butler, Dubois & Co. took great chances of imparting one more large dose of that tired feeling to the public.

As we understand it, the supreme court holds that the sacred right to borrow can be limited only by the size of the pile the mortgage companies are willing to let you have.

Judge Winsor has been getting quite gay lately, but Mr. Way is willing to bet a few stacks of whites that he can't ride the harmony donkey at the great fusion circus today.

Capt. Ray's Heroism.

New York Commercial.

Capt. Ray has shown himself to be one of Kipling's men, and if it had been the Union Jack instead of Old Glory with which—and his revolver—he held a hundred hungry ruffians at bay, the uncrowned laureate would doubtless celebrate him in one of his most stirring ballads. The government clearly made no mistake in choosing Capt. Ray for Klondike duty, and Capt. Ray made none in assuming the position of a military dictator. That is the only sort of government possible where he is, and the captain's way of working it is both delightful and admirable. The man who dies facing overwhelming odds is a hero, but the man who triumphs over them is something more.

PERHAPS.

There is many a long, long bridge
Which we may not have to cross;
Ere we reach the deep, dark river,
Some pathway, o'ergrown with moss,
Green branches bending o'er it,
Where the wild birds blithely sing,
And, under the restful shadows,
The gleam of a welling spring

May open beside the highway,
Where in safety we may go;
And the bridge to cross, and the pain and loss,
Our hearts may never know.
Then never give way to sorrow,
And banish all doubt and fear.
For when you have met the morrow,
No bridge to cross may be near.

The hot and dusty highway,
Where with weary feet you go,
May but lead to dewy meadows,
Where the sweet, wild roses blow;
But, if you must cross the river,
Just think, as the path you tread,
That the pitiless sun, when day is done,
Gives place to stars o'erhead.
—Martha Owen Colcord in the Boston Evening Transcript.

"What a coarse hand that Mrs. Bullion writes."

"Yes; her father used to letter packing cases."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE CASE PLAINLY STATED.

Tacoma, Feb. 15, 1898.

To the Editor: In the course of some remarks in the house of representatives a few days ago Mr. James Hamilton Lewis held that the government was now paying a 100-cent dollar in liquidation of its obligations. Free silver coinage would give us a 100-cent dollar. Inasmuch as the government is paying exactly the same dollar that every one in this country is paying it follows that we are all paying and receiving 100-cent dollars. If the government would save money by paying its bonds in silver dollars then it follows, as a matter of necessity, that the wage-earners of this country would lose money by taking their pay in the same silver dollars; and that bank deposits, insurance, etc., would depreciate in the same proportion.

The reason given for free silver coinage at 16 to 1 is that the present dollar has been appreciated in value, and free coinage would give us a dollar of less value. No sane man dare assert that a cheaper dollar can be substituted for one of greater value without a reduction in wages and the value of all bank deposits, unsecured loans, etc., equal to the reduction in the value of the dollar.

That men can ignore this fact; that wage-earners can advocate a cause certain to reduce their own wages; that labor leaders and politicians advocate a cause the success of which would be their own eternal damnation so far as any further political preferment is concerned, is not to be explained by calling them fools or knaves, although their action would seem to justify it.

We all know good and intelligent men who advocate free coinage at 16 to 1. They can see that the country's foreign creditors would lose millions if we paid our bonds in free coinage dollars, but they cannot see that our home creditors—the owners of bank deposits, insurance policies, and every wage-earner in the land, would lose exactly in the same proportion, because they must be paid in the same dollars.

The only explanation to be given of this inability to see the truth as it is uncovered in their own arguments, must be that there is an epidemic of silver microbes attacking men. It is a mild form of insanity and nothing else. Think of workingmen clamoring to be paid in cheaper dollars, when they know that if they get their wish they will have to begin at once to strike for enough more of these cheaper dollars to make up the difference in value.

Take Mr. Lewis' word for it, and say that free coinage would result in 100-cent dollars in place of 100-cent dollars. When free coinage took effect the man getting $1 a day would get two 100-cent dollars instead of two 100-cent dollars. To be even, he must get four 100-cent dollars. It has taken the labor unions twenty-five years to bring wages to their present point, and now, if we surrender half, how long will it be before we can get back what we give up voluntarily? It would make work for the labor leaders, but I mistake the American workingman if he would place the task of securing what had been lost in the hands of those who advised him to give it up. Senator Teller said at Pueblo:

"I honestly believe that in twenty years after the passage of a free coinage law the condition of our working classes will be better than it is now."

So he thinks it will take twenty years to get back to where we are now. I don't believe we ever would get back, if we voluntarily asked for a reduction of one-half in our wages, in order to pay our foreign debts in dollars worth half as much as at present. And what is more, I don't believe we would deserve to get back. Do you?

A WORKINGMAN.

NUGGETS.

A learned editor of this city who has made a study of the problem of life has at last decided that a man who has a nice home in the city, a large and pretty country seat and an assured income of $20,000 a year is just as well off as though he were wealthy.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Violet—How did Mr. Bighead come to accept reincarnation?

Rose—Well, you know, he always had an impression that the world couldn't get along without him, and if that is so it stands to reason that he will have to come back.—Truth.

Says a writer in the Manchester Guardian:

"A lady of my acquaintance who is a proprietress in County Galway is in the habit of receiving her own rents. One day, when a tenant farmer had pleaded long and unsuccessfully for an abatement, he exclaimed as he handed over the money:

"'Well, my lady, all I can say is that if I had my time over again, it's not a tenant farmer I'd be. I'd follow one of the learn'd professions.'

"The proprietress gently replied that even in the learned professions there were losses as well as gains, and, perhaps, he would have found professional life as precarious as farming.

"'Ah, my lady, but how can that be?' replied the son of St. Patrick. 'If I'm a lawyer—win or lose, you're paid. If you're a doctor—kill or cure, you're paid. If you're a priest—heaven or hell, you're paid.'"

PLANT TREES.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
We plant the ship which will cross the sea,
We plant the masts to carry the sails,
We plant the plank to withstand the gales,
The keel, the keelson and beam and knee,
We plant the ship when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
We plant the houses for you and me,
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors,
We plant the studding, the laths, the
The beams and siding, all parts that be,
We plant the house when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
A thousand things that we daily see,
We plant the spire that out-towers the crag,
We plant the staff for our country's flag,
We plant the shade, from the hot sun free,
We plant all these, when we plant the tree.

—John Sterling Morton.

If your children are well but not robust, they need Scott's Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil.

We are constantly in receipt of reports from parents who give their children the emulsion every fall for a month or two. It keeps them well and strong all winter. It prevents their taking cold.

Your doctor will confirm this.

The oil combined with the hypophosphites is a splendid food tonic.

50c. and $1.00, all druggists.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, New York.

NEW WOOL DRESS GOODS.

ALREADY WE ARE SHOWING LARGE LOTS OF VERY PRETTY ONES, ESPECIALLY IN MEDIUM AND LOW PRICED SORTS.

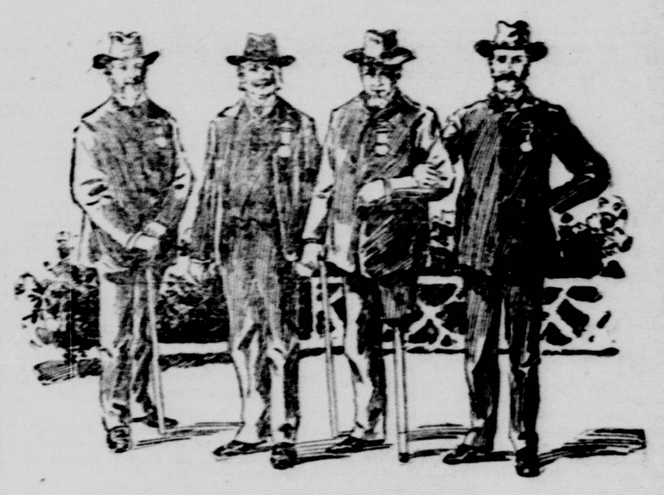
25 TO 50 CENTS A YARD

Buys a Selection of New Mixtures, Checks, Plaids, Etc.,

IN NEW COLOR COMBINATIONS, BOTH LIGHT AND DARK. FOR HARD WEAR SUITINGS, SEPARATE SKIRTS, WAISTS, ETC., YOU'LL FIND A SATISFACTORY SELECTION HERE, EVEN NOW.

Ask to See the New Grenadines.

Baillargeon's



IN THE SOLDIERS' HOMES.

Please send me two bottles of Ripans Tabules for two persons. Inclosed find two dollars.
SOLDIERS' HOME, Togus, Me. JOSEPH OGDEN.
August 9, 1897.

Please send me one bottle of your Ripans Tabules, and oblige,
SOLDIERS' HOME, Norton Heights, Conn. CHARLES GOODELL.
August 9, 1897.

Ripans Tabules are a good medicine *for me.*)
NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, Ohio. D. S. SHANNON.
August 9, 1897.

Please send me two small packages Ripans Tabules, finding inclosed ten cents in stamps in payment of same.
NATIONAL HOME, Milwaukee Co., Wis.
August 9, 1897. CHARLES E. WASHBURN.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This new cheap sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (60 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

THE BON MARCHÉ
Nordhoff & Co.

1425, 1427, 1429 Second Avenue and 115, 117 Pike Street.

We Carry

KLONDIKE GOODS.

JUST SIX ITEMS TO GIVE YOU AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW CHEAP WE SELL. GET OUR PRICES ON BLANKETS. WE'LL SAVE YOU AT LEAST 25 PER CENT.

Men's Heavy All-Wool Socks, seamless, ribbed tops, at 25c, 35c, 45c.
German Socks, all wool, extra weight, at 50c, 75c, 98c.
Heavy All-Wool Sweaters, all colors, at $1.45 and $2 each.
Men's Double-Breasted All-Wool Blue Flannel Overshirts, extra weight, at $1.75, $2 and $2.25.
Men's Heavy Weight All-Wool Arctic Underwear, fleece lined, only $1.50 a garment.
Men's All-Wool Alaska Underwear, double throughout, very heavy, only $2 a garment.

JUST IN—5 solid cases of Ladies' Muslin Underwear—busy checking and marking same. Will be ready for sale not later than Friday next. Watch for particulars.

NEW SPRING GOODS arriving daily—New Ribbons, New Dress Fabrics, New Wash Goods, New Hosiery, etc.

EXTRA—29 pieces of Fancy Plaid Ribbon, 3½ inches wide, only 25c a yard.