

HolidayBuying

Is Now at Its Height at Our Establishment.

Going with a swing and a force which is the natural result of our extensive preparations for it and the grand values we are offering. Nowhere can gifts be purchased to better advantage than here. Whether they be Diamonds or Watches, Clocks, Silverware, Sterling Silver Novelties or any of the other varied lines that find such a fitting and profuse representation throughout our store.

The Days Are Short

Do not delay: make your selections now while the assortment is still complete.

Solitaire Diamond Rings at...	\$ 6.00
Solitaire Diamond Rings at...	8.00
Solitaire Diamond Rings at...	10.00
Solitaire Diamond Rings at...	12.00
Solitaire Diamond Rings at...	15.00
Solitaire Diamond Rings up to...	200.00
Ladies' Solid Gold Watches, 14-karat...	22.00
Ladies' Solid Gold Watches, 14-karat...	25.00
Ladies' Solid Gold Watches, 14-karat...	30.00
Ladies' Solid Gold Watches, 14-karat...	100.00
Ladies' Filled Watches...	\$8.00 to \$30.00
Ladies' Set Rings...	\$1.50 to \$300.00
Children's Rings, solid gold...	...
Ladies' and Gents' Gold Pens and Holders...	\$1.50 to \$5.00
Ladies' Sterling Silver Garters...	\$1.50 to \$5.00

We are not giving away our goods, but we are giving cheaper prices and better value for the money than any other store in Butte.

Leys

JEWELER AND OPTICIAN
OWSLEY BLOCK, BUTTE.
Express Charges Prepaid on All Purchases.

What Shall I Give for Christmas?

This is the question for the day, but a visit to our store will easily and economically solve it.



MEN'S FINE SUITS

At Cut Prices

\$10 Suits at.....	\$4.25
\$12.50 all wool Suit, all sizes, at.....	\$6.75
All our \$18, \$20 and \$22 Suits or Overcoats at.....	\$15.00

Men's Rainproof Coats

Great selection of fine Coats from \$6 to..... \$30

Skates or a Sled Free

with every boys' Suit or Overcoat of \$3.50 or over.

Gans & Klein

BUTTE

GEN. MILES SAID SOLDIERS WERE FED ON EMBALMED BEEF

It Was Furnished the Army as an Experiment—Made the Men Sick—An Inadequate Supply of Rations and Medicines at Santiago—Refused to Be Sworn.

Washington, Dec. 21.—General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the United States army, and General Wesley Merritt, commander of the American forces at the capture of Manila, were the principal figures before the war investigation commission to-day. General Miles responded to the summons of the commission only after several days' consideration. He was accompanied by his own stenographer. His examination was comparatively brief and not sensational. He spoke with some bitterness as to the "embalmed beef" and the canned beef furnished the army in the field. This he characterized as an experiment for which "some one in Washington" was responsible. He said that the landing facilities of the Santiago expedition were inadequate and that the men were short of rations and medicines and might have been better protected from exposure to fever contagion.

General Merritt told the commission that he regarded the Philippines expedition as a decided success and would conduct it on the same lines if he had it to do over. He spoke in high terms of the troops under him and said his army was well supplied with medicines and food.

Lieut. Col. Miles, Gen. Shafter's chief of staff, testified before the war investigating commission to-day concerning the Santiago campaign, largely following the lines of General Shafter's testimony. Colonel Miles said that while the expeditionary fleet was lying at Tampa, prior to the start, the troops were given every facility for bathing and other privileges. He told of the position of the lines of the two armies before Santiago, and said the Spanish lines were so conspicuous there was no necessity for any reconnaissance in force to determine them. He said there was no doubt that there were Spanish sharpshooters between the Spanish and American lines, but he was unable to find a single instance of Spanish sharpshooters firing on our hospitals in the rear, or of their firing on our flanks. He spoke of the two mile range of the Spanish rifles and describing the American position on San Juan hill said it would have been far more dangerous for the men to have been a half mile in the rear than to remain where they did. General Miles took the stand next.

Wouldn't Be Sworn.

"Are you willing to be sworn?" he was asked.

"I think," was the reply, "that I can say what I have to say without being sworn."

General Miles was fortified with a large package of papers and had his own stenographer. He gave his evidence in a clear, unhesitating way, and went into details regarding both the Santiago and Porto Rico expeditions. He opened by describing the railroad confusion in getting the war munitions to Tampa, pointed to the lack of government storehouse facilities there, and said the stores at that time were being bought as far as Columbia, S. C. He said when the troops were loaded it was found impossible to put more than 15,000 men aboard and they were equipped as well as possible under the circumstances.

"It was most fortunate," he said, "that the transports had good weather. If they had encountered a severe storm the loss of life or the suffering at least must have been fearful. As it was, with fair weather, the men below crowded in with the mules and supplies could get on deck, which would have been impossible otherwise."

The commissary stores taken, he said, were sufficient, but the medical supplies were inadequate. He had left the loading, except for general directions, to the corps commander, General Shafter. He found just before sailing that there were a number of pontoon boats being taken which would be utterly useless for the purpose and he himself had secured two barges from the owners there and had taken other steps, but the supply of such boats taken was very inadequate.

"The expedition," he continued, "should have been furnished with launches, naphtha or steam, or tugs for towing barges from the ships to the shore. We relied largely upon the engineer officers and the engineer department for these. In the second expedition to Porto Rico these were furnished but they arrived too late to render assistance."

He said before the first fleet sailed from Tampa estimates had been definitely made of the number of boats to be furnished the transports, and the number to be furnished by the navy to assist. The most cordial assistance, he added, had been promised on the part of the navy. At Santiago he said the supply of tentage and food was very limited.

"When the medical supplies at that time sufficient for the needs of the command?" was asked.

In reply he read a dispatch from General Shafter on Aug. 4, which referred to a chronic scarcity of medicines, and that four men had just died from lack of medicines. There was at no time, said General Miles, sufficient medicine for the troops. He remembered seeing one man for the sick in a drenching rain with no covering over the wagons. He had taken steps personally to correct matters and on Aug. 12 had telegraphed for a well equipped corps of pier and bridge builders, etc., and had ordered places burned.

Insufficient Supplies.

General Beaver—From what you learned and observed while there, do you think there was at any time a sufficient medical supply?

General Miles—Of medical men and materials?

General Beaver—Yes.

General Miles—No, sir.

The witness stated that the hospital

THE MOTION IS DENIED

Judge Clancy's Ruling in the B. & M. Case Affirmed.

IN A PER CURIAM OPINION

Contentions in the Brief Discussed at Length—The Supreme Court Refuses to Change Views Previously Expressed.

Special Dispatch to the Standard.

Helena, Dec. 21.—The supreme court to-day denied the motion of the attorneys for the Boston & Montana for a rehearing of the case of James Forrester and John MacGinniss vs. the Boston & Montana Consolidated Copper and Silver Mining company et al. recently decided in which this court affirmed the ruling of Judge Clancy in granting plaintiffs an injunction to restrain the Montana corporation from transferring its property to the New York corporation. Directly after the supreme court handed down its decision, which was in effect that a prosperous going corporation cannot transfer the citizenship of the corporation to another state without the consent of each and every stockholder, the attorneys for the Boston & Montana moved for a rehearing. The case was heard pro and con on the motion Monday and to-day announced their decision as stated in the form of a per curiam opinion by the whole court. It is usually not customary for the court to prepare a written opinion, but in this case the court prepared a rehearing, but on account of the importance of this case the court used 11 pages of type-written manuscript, telling why the motion could not be entertained.

Some of the contentions raised in the briefs are discussed at length, while others are dismissed by referring to the previous opinion. One contention raised again by the Boston & Montana attorneys was that Forrester and MacGinniss had no standing in court in an equity proceeding, because the shares of stock in the Boston & Montana mine were not held by them at the time the acts complained of were committed, that is the transfer. The court reiterates what it said in the previous opinion in that respect and holds the contention untenable because Forrester and MacGinniss were the owners at the time they committed the act. The statement of facts preceding the opinion discloses that the shares were never voted in favor of the transfer," says the court, "and that the former owners in no wise assented thereto; hence, the court to avoid any question, free from any such burden of responsibility, declines to entertain the motion. The proceedings taken by the directors as perhaps might have followed upon consent or acquiescence in the transfer by the former owners."

Another contention of the Boston & Montana attorneys was that the Montana corporation was the purpose of bringing the action in the interest of a rival corporation and that the court below did not make a finding to the contrary. Replying to this, the court quotes from the other opinion to the effect that the lower court ruled correctly in holding that they acted in good faith and reaffirms that doctrine, remarking: "We again refrain from intimating any opinion as to whether a purchase of stock with the intention of suing in the interest of a rival corporation," says the court, "and not for the benefit of non-assenting shareholders only, would entitle plaintiff to relief. The facts disclosed in the briefs and the expression of an opinion upon that question is sufficient. The court declines to change the views previously announced as to the transfer being other than a sale. It also reaffirms what it said about certain portions of the compiled statutes constituting an enabling act and permitting two-thirds of the shares to effect a disposal of the property of a prosperous and solvent corporation regardless of the dissent of other stockholders. The court declines to consider still another point raised, that the defendant attorney and counselor from being interested directly or indirectly, "buy or be in any manner interested in buying a bond, promissory note, bill of exchange, book debt, or anything in action with the intention and for the purpose of bringing an action thereon," other than to say that that point could hardly be considered now since it was not raised when the case was submitted. However, the court holds that it is manifestly without application, although the Boston & Montana attorneys claimed it applied to Forrester. The court in conclusion, denies that the decision in chief "conflicts with the whole weight of authority of the best considered American cases" and winds up the opinion by declaring:

"The foregoing disposes of every point made by appellants which is worthy of comment. After full discussion there, the consular offices through-out we are, upon mature reflection and deliberation, satisfied that the better reasons, as well as the established principles of law, sustain the decision heretofore rendered; and such is the unanimous opinion of the court. The motion for a rehearing is denied."

Besides deciding a rehearing in the Forrester and MacGinniss vs. Boston & Montana injunction case to-day, the supreme court denied the motion to have the case of Esther Lake vs. John Lake reopened from Silver Bow, placed on the short cause calendar. The court then adjourned until Jan. 3, when the new chief justice will take his seat. As New Year falls upon Sunday, and under such circumstances the codes provide that the following day will be observed as a holiday, the new year will not begin officially until Jan. 3, at which time Judge Brantly will be sworn in. This rule will not apply to the legislature, as the constitution expressly provides that the legislature must meet on the first Monday in January, without making any provisions for holidays.

Chief Justice Pemberton led to-night for St. Paul, where he was called by the illness of Mrs. Pemberton. He will, if possible, be here when the court meets Jan. 3.

Filed His Report.

Special Dispatch to the Standard.

Helena, Dec. 21.—The annual report of the Great Falls & Canada railroad, required to be filed with the state auditor,

THE MOTION IS DENIED

Judge Clancy's Ruling in the B. & M. Case Affirmed.

IN A PER CURIAM OPINION

Contentions in the Brief Discussed at Length—The Supreme Court Refuses to Change Views Previously Expressed.

Special Dispatch to the Standard.

Helena, Dec. 21.—The supreme court to-day denied the motion of the attorneys for the Boston & Montana for a rehearing of the case of James Forrester and John MacGinniss vs. the Boston & Montana Consolidated Copper and Silver Mining company et al. recently decided in which this court affirmed the ruling of Judge Clancy in granting plaintiffs an injunction to restrain the Montana corporation from transferring its property to the New York corporation. Directly after the supreme court handed down its decision, which was in effect that a prosperous going corporation cannot transfer the citizenship of the corporation to another state without the consent of each and every stockholder, the attorneys for the Boston & Montana moved for a rehearing. The case was heard pro and con on the motion Monday and to-day announced their decision as stated in the form of a per curiam opinion by the whole court. It is usually not customary for the court to prepare a written opinion, but in this case the court prepared a rehearing, but on account of the importance of this case the court used 11 pages of type-written manuscript, telling why the motion could not be entertained.

Some of the contentions raised in the briefs are discussed at length, while others are dismissed by referring to the previous opinion. One contention raised again by the Boston & Montana attorneys was that Forrester and MacGinniss had no standing in court in an equity proceeding, because the shares of stock in the Boston & Montana mine were not held by them at the time the acts complained of were committed, that is the transfer. The court reiterates what it said in the previous opinion in that respect and holds the contention untenable because Forrester and MacGinniss were the owners at the time they committed the act. The statement of facts preceding the opinion discloses that the shares were never voted in favor of the transfer," says the court, "and that the former owners in no wise assented thereto; hence, the court to avoid any question, free from any such burden of responsibility, declines to entertain the motion. The proceedings taken by the directors as perhaps might have followed upon consent or acquiescence in the transfer by the former owners."

Another contention of the Boston & Montana attorneys was that the Montana corporation was the purpose of bringing the action in the interest of a rival corporation and that the court below did not make a finding to the contrary. Replying to this, the court quotes from the other opinion to the effect that the lower court ruled correctly in holding that they acted in good faith and reaffirms that doctrine, remarking: "We again refrain from intimating any opinion as to whether a purchase of stock with the intention of suing in the interest of a rival corporation," says the court, "and not for the benefit of non-assenting shareholders only, would entitle plaintiff to relief. The facts disclosed in the briefs and the expression of an opinion upon that question is sufficient. The court declines to change the views previously announced as to the transfer being other than a sale. It also reaffirms what it said about certain portions of the compiled statutes constituting an enabling act and permitting two-thirds of the shares to effect a disposal of the property of a prosperous and solvent corporation regardless of the dissent of other stockholders. The court declines to consider still another point raised, that the defendant attorney and counselor from being interested directly or indirectly, "buy or be in any manner interested in buying a bond, promissory note, bill of exchange, book debt, or anything in action with the intention and for the purpose of bringing an action thereon," other than to say that that point could hardly be considered now since it was not raised when the case was submitted. However, the court holds that it is manifestly without application, although the Boston & Montana attorneys claimed it applied to Forrester. The court in conclusion, denies that the decision in chief "conflicts with the whole weight of authority of the best considered American cases" and winds up the opinion by declaring:

"The foregoing disposes of every point made by appellants which is worthy of comment. After full discussion there, the consular offices through-out we are, upon mature reflection and deliberation, satisfied that the better reasons, as well as the established principles of law, sustain the decision heretofore rendered; and such is the unanimous opinion of the court. The motion for a rehearing is denied."

Besides deciding a rehearing in the Forrester and MacGinniss vs. Boston & Montana injunction case to-day, the supreme court denied the motion to have the case of Esther Lake vs. John Lake reopened from Silver Bow, placed on the short cause calendar. The court then adjourned until Jan. 3, when the new chief justice will take his seat. As New Year falls upon Sunday, and under such circumstances the codes provide that the following day will be observed as a holiday, the new year will not begin officially until Jan. 3, at which time Judge Brantly will be sworn in. This rule will not apply to the legislature, as the constitution expressly provides that the legislature must meet on the first Monday in January, without making any provisions for holidays.

Chief Justice Pemberton led to-night for St. Paul, where he was called by the illness of Mrs. Pemberton. He will, if possible, be here when the court meets Jan. 3.

Filed His Report.

Special Dispatch to the Standard.

Helena, Dec. 21.—The annual report of the Great Falls & Canada railroad, required to be filed with the state auditor,

THEIR CASE IS ALL IN

The Prosecution in the Botkin Trial Closed.

DUNNING ON THE STAND

The Defense Endeavors to Introduce Disgusting Details in Cross-Examination—The Witness Released From Custody.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The prosecution in the case of Mrs. Cordelia Botkin closed its case to-day. John P. Dunning, who has been in charge of the sheriff for two days for refusing to answer certain pointed questions put to him by the defense, was released from custody to-day, the attorney for the defense withdrawing the objectionable question. Mr. Dunning was the principal witness to-day. He was hauled over the coals by the attorneys for the defense, who persisted in trying to introduce every disgusting detail of the case in spite of the protests of the witness, who clothed his language as well as circumstances would permit, but leaving no one in doubt as to its meaning; nevertheless, the Botkin attorneys persisted in asking pointed questions and insisting upon the answers being given in absolutely unmistakable language—the language of the street. Dunning's efforts to save the ears of his listeners met with approbation of the more respectable of those in the court room. Carl Eisenhammer, a writing expert, was the first witness. His testimony was necessarily of an expert nature and showed almost conclusively that Mrs. Botkin was the writer of the anonymous letters, the addresses of the candy box and the writer of the note sent with the candy. Dunning's testimony referred mostly to the letters he had received and written from and to Mrs. Botkin after he left San Francisco for Cuba, where he was a newspaper man in the field. He explained that his hostility toward Mrs. Botkin commenced on his receipt of the news of the means used in causing his wife's death. He said that Mrs. Botkin was the first person he thought of who would have something to do with the letters. His testimony related to his relations with Mrs. Botkin. He exonerated Mrs. Corbellier and Mrs. Callimberg of any wrong doing in the case and told of their friendly acts to him and his family.

Theodore K. Tetrahup, a writing expert, was called and gave practically the same testimony as his fellows, Ames and Eisenhammer. The prosecution then closed its case. The defense will open to-morrow.

HITCHCOCK APPOINTED.

He Will Succeed Bliss as Secretary of the Interior.

Washington, Dec. 21.—At to-day's cabinet meeting Secretary Hay was the only absentee. Immediately on assembling the president stated to those members who did not accompany him on his trip South that he had decided to appoint Hon. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, as secretary of the interior to succeed Mr. Bliss, who retires from that office upon the qualification of Mr. Hitchcock. The cabinet discussed the instructions to be sent to General Otis at Manila, which will be promulgated there as a proclamation by the president. The instructions are similar in import to those sent to our officers at Santiago through the station of that city by the United States troops. They assure the Filipino that the United States assumes military control of the Philippine Islands in a spirit of peace and friendship and that all civil rights and privileges that they hitherto have enjoyed will be continued and that it is the purpose of this government to relieve in all possible ways the unjust burdens they have borne, and ask for the co-operation of all good citizens in maintaining order to the end that peace and prosperity may be restored. So far as is practicable all efficient civil officials will be retained in the official positions they now occupy, and fair and impartial justice will be administered to all. It has been decided not to give out the text of the instructions to General Otis until about the time of their arrival in Manila, which will be a month hence.

The cabinet also decided that existing conditions justified a further reduction of the military forces of the United States and the secretary of war was instructed to arrange for the immediate muster out of 50,000 volunteers.

In Hearty Accord.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Secretary Bliss, in an interview with the associated press to-day, said: "I have been in most hearty accord with the president in his policy through the trying days in which he has been at the helm of our government. His manner-in-chief, and while as commander that came, notwithstanding his effort to prevent it, I shall leave my associates of the cabinet and of the department and my many friends in Washington to express their regard, but private and personal reasons make my retirement a necessity."

REDUCING TIME.

Montana Mails Will Be in Twelve Hours Ahead of the Old Schedule.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The change of time to take place January 1 by eastern time will shorten the mail train service from Washington, the small train from Boston and all points east to Chicago and St. Paul will be on the same date continued to Montana and the Pacific coast by an important change made in the schedule of the Great Northern railway, that company having decided to put on a limited train on that date, leaving St. Paul at 9 a. m., immediately upon the arrival of the fast mail and limited trains from Chicago and the small train will show out the next day to Montana and all points west by 12 hours, making the delivery of the mails possible at Helena and Butte the second night from Chicago, arriving at Seattle and coast cities the third night, thus making continuous service to the Puget Sound and Portland for both passengers and the United States mails. Its second coast train will leave St. Paul at 8 p. m. daily, thus giving double train service from St. Paul and Chicago to Montana and all western points.

Sale of the C. & A.

New York, Dec. 21.—E. H. Harriman of the executive committee of the Union Pacific is authorized for a statement that negotiations for the purchase of the Chicago & Alton railroad are not yet completed. He intimated that all the negotiations are in his hands and it is likely the matter will be closed before long. Any positive statement as to the acquisition of the Chicago & Alton road by the interests named, he said, is premature.

To Close Up Affairs.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The state department has instructed Vice Consul General Springer to proceed to Havana and close up the affairs of the United States consulate there. The consular offices throughout Cuba will not be abandoned just now, but will be closed temporarily until such time as thorough recognition of the independence of Cuba may render it necessary to resume business through them.

Two Cents More.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Hereafter brooms will cost 2 cents more each. Members of the Broom Manufacturers' association of the United States met here to-day and decided to advance the price of brooms 2 cents a dozen. An increase of 50 cents was strongly urged, but 25 cents was finally decided upon.

Not Confirmed.

London, Dec. 21.—No confirmation has been received here of the report circulated yesterday by a news agency from Shanghai saying a powder magazine in the center of a Chinese camp at Hankow had exploded and killed 39 soldiers.

Pearson Is Insane.

Washington, Dec. 21.—A marshal's jury to-day declared Joseph W. Pearson to be insane. Pearson is the man who last week created a sensation by hurling missiles through the door and windows of the British embassy.

THEIR CASE IS ALL IN

The Prosecution in the Botkin Trial Closed.

DUNNING ON THE STAND

The Defense Endeavors to Introduce Disgusting Details in Cross-Examination—The Witness Released From Custody.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The prosecution in the case of Mrs. Cordelia Botkin closed its case to-day. John P. Dunning, who has been in charge of the sheriff for two days for refusing to answer certain pointed questions put to him by the defense, was released from custody to-day, the attorney for the defense withdrawing the objectionable question. Mr. Dunning was the principal witness to-day. He was hauled over the coals by the attorneys for the defense, who persisted in trying to introduce every disgusting detail of the case in spite of the protests of the witness, who clothed his language as well as circumstances would permit, but leaving no one in doubt as to its meaning; nevertheless, the Botkin attorneys persisted in asking pointed questions and insisting upon the answers being given in absolutely unmistakable language—the language of the street. Dunning's efforts to save the ears of his listeners met with approbation of the more respectable of those in the court room. Carl Eisenhammer, a writing expert, was the first witness. His testimony was necessarily of an expert nature and showed almost conclusively that Mrs. Botkin was the writer of the anonymous letters, the addresses of the candy box and the writer of the note sent with the candy. Dunning's testimony referred mostly to the letters he had received and written from and to Mrs. Botkin after he left San Francisco for Cuba, where he was a newspaper man in the field. He explained that his hostility toward Mrs. Botkin commenced on his receipt of the news of the means used in causing his wife's death. He said that Mrs. Botkin was the first person he thought of who would have something to do with the letters. His testimony related to his relations with Mrs. Botkin. He exonerated Mrs. Corbellier and Mrs. Callimberg of any wrong doing in the case and told of their friendly acts to him and his family.

Theodore K. Tetrahup, a writing expert, was called and gave practically the same testimony as his fellows, Ames and Eisenhammer. The prosecution then closed its case. The defense will open to-morrow.

HITCHCOCK APPOINTED.

He Will Succeed Bliss as Secretary of the Interior.

Washington, Dec. 21.—At to-day's cabinet meeting Secretary Hay was the only absentee. Immediately on assembling the president stated to those members who did not accompany him on his trip South that he had decided to appoint Hon. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, as secretary of the interior to succeed Mr. Bliss, who retires from that office upon the qualification of Mr. Hitchcock. The cabinet discussed the instructions to be sent to General Otis at Manila, which will be promulgated there as a proclamation by the president. The instructions are similar in import to those sent to our officers at Santiago through the station of that city by the United States troops. They assure the Filipino that the United States assumes military control of the Philippine Islands in a spirit of peace and friendship and that all civil rights and privileges that they hitherto have enjoyed will be continued and that it is the purpose of this government to relieve in all possible ways the unjust burdens they have borne, and ask for the co-operation of all good citizens in maintaining order to the end that peace and prosperity may be restored. So far as is practicable all efficient civil officials will be retained in the official positions they now occupy, and fair and impartial justice will be administered to all. It has been decided not to give out the text of the instructions to General Otis until about the time of their arrival in Manila, which will be a month hence.

The cabinet also decided that existing conditions justified a further reduction of the military forces of the United States and the secretary of war was instructed to arrange for the immediate muster out of 50,000 volunteers.

In Hearty Accord.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Secretary Bliss, in an interview with the associated press to-day, said: "I have been in most hearty accord with the president in his policy through the trying days in which he has been at the helm of our government. His manner-in-chief, and while as commander that came, notwithstanding his effort to prevent it, I shall leave my associates of the cabinet and of the department and my many friends in Washington to express their regard, but private and personal reasons make my retirement a necessity."

REDUCING TIME.

Montana Mails Will Be in Twelve Hours Ahead of the Old Schedule.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The change of time to take place January 1 by eastern time will shorten the mail train service from Washington, the small train from Boston and all points east to Chicago and St. Paul will be on the same date continued to Montana and the Pacific coast by an important change made in the schedule of the Great Northern railway, that company having decided to put on a limited train on that date, leaving St. Paul at 9 a. m., immediately upon the arrival of the fast mail and limited trains from Chicago and the small train will show out the next day to Montana and all points west by 12 hours, making the delivery of the mails possible at Helena and Butte the second night from Chicago, arriving at Seattle and coast cities the third night, thus making continuous service to the Puget Sound and Portland for both passengers and the United States mails. Its second coast train will leave St. Paul at 8 p. m. daily, thus giving double train service from St. Paul and Chicago to Montana and all western points.

Sale of the C. & A.

New York, Dec. 21.—E. H. Harriman of the executive committee of the Union Pacific is authorized for a statement that negotiations for the purchase of the Chicago & Alton railroad are not yet completed. He intimated that all the negotiations are in his hands and it is likely the matter will be closed before long. Any positive statement as to the acquisition of the Chicago & Alton road by the interests named, he said, is premature.

To Close Up Affairs.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The state department has instructed Vice Consul General Springer to proceed to Havana and close up the affairs of the United States consulate there. The consular offices throughout Cuba will not be abandoned just now, but will be closed temporarily until such time as thorough recognition of the independence of Cuba may render it necessary to resume business through them.

Two Cents More.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Hereafter brooms will cost 2 cents more each. Members of the Broom Manufacturers' association of the United States met here to-day and decided to advance the price of brooms 2 cents a dozen. An increase of 50 cents was strongly urged, but 25 cents was finally decided upon.

Not Confirmed.

London, Dec. 21.—No confirmation has been received here of the report circulated yesterday by a news agency from Shanghai saying a powder magazine in the center of a Chinese camp at Hankow had exploded and killed 39 soldiers.

Pearson Is Insane.

Washington, Dec. 21.—A marshal's jury to-day declared Joseph W. Pearson to be insane. Pearson is the man who last week created a sensation by hurling missiles through the door and windows of the British embassy.

Merritt at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 21.—General Wesley Merritt has arrived at Washington and called at the war department and the white house. General Merritt, the first of the year still in command of the department of the East, relieving General Shafter, now in command.

Erne and Hawkins.

New York, Dec. 21.—Frank Erne of Buffalo and Dal Hawkins of San Francisco were matched to-day to fight 25 rounds at the gateways of the department, before the club offering the best inducements, and also for a side bet of \$2,000.

In Special Session.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 21.—At 10 o'clock this afternoon the special session of the Kansas legislature was convened.