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Visit This Store You might go to Chicago and see a bigger block devoted to retailing fine merchandise, but you could count such stores on your fingers even there.



To make that trip costs money, while a trilling sum will land you at Younker's great trade palace, where the difference in prices alone would pay the expenses of the trip.

Just now this store is one grand Christmas bazaar, devoted exclusively to

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS and the brilliant features of this unparalleled display are alone worth a trip here.

First—The Christmas carnival in the Alps—a window display that attracts thousands of people.

Second—The "blizzard snow storm" on the great main floor.

Third—The "house in the woods" over the central staircase on the main floor.

Fourth—The enchanted basement, with its wealth of toys, games, pictures, statuary, bric-a-brac, china, silverware, etc.

Fifth—The splendors of Christmas displayed on six floors—jewelry, ribbons, laces, neckwear, stationery, leather goods, fancy goods, handkerchiefs, etc.

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Never in all the history of the capital city has such a magnificent store of beautiful things been offered to the people.

At Lowest Prices—At Lowest Prices WHY NOT PATRONIZE READ'S TOWEL SUPPLY?

As every person uses towels in their office and business hours, and I will furnish clean towels every week in any number wanted for the price of the usual price of laundry.

Leave orders at No. 1 West Linn, or at my retail card.

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Kodol Dyspepsia Cure Digests what you eat. Artificially digests the food and aids nature in strengthening and reconstructing the exhausted digestive organs.

Wholesale and Retail Druggist B. A. MORGAN, MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.

During the summer of 1836 the Valley was the first boat of iron that navigated the river, was launched at

FOR THE OPEN DOOR

Negotiations With the Powers of Europe and With Japan Meet With Good Results. Open Door Policy an Actuality—Favorable Responses Have Been Received.

Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Japan All Accept Hay's Suggestions.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The negotiations opened by Secretary Hay with the great powers of Europe and with Japan toward securing a common understanding for a continued open-door policy throughout China have met with most gratifying results.

The state department is unwilling at present to make public the nature of the replies received, as this information will be embodied in a special message to congress.

But in other quarters, thoroughly reliable and in a position to have trustworthy and accurate information, it is learned that favorable responses have been made by Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia—the Russian communication coming as late as Saturday—and Japan.

There is no doubt, it is thought here, that Italy, the remaining country addressed, will make a favorable answer, if indeed it has not already done so.

The position of Italy is felt to be assured by the favorable course adopted by the other four great powers of Europe.

The importance of this unanimous verdict by all the great powers of the world—Great Britain, Russia, Germany, France, Italy and Japan—in conjunction with the United States—can hardly be overestimated so far as it relates to the future of China and the commerce of the world in that empire.

The state department is loath to discuss the far-reaching results to be secured where the agreement advances to the stage of formal consummation, for each favorable response is conditioned on the favorable action of all other parties, so that in each case the negotiation may be regarded as short of absolute finality.

But while the department is silent the details come from sources believed to be fully conversant with what has occurred. According to this information, the British answer was the first to be submitted, and was exceptionally comprehensive and explicit in yielding to every suggestion made by the United States relative to maintaining the free trade to the ports of China.

The British answer is said to emphasize the concurrence with the United States in adopting the word "most favored nation" phraseology employed by Secretary Hay, which was stressed in his original note to Great Britain and the other powers. The wording is such as to make plain that the British government concurs for the present and hereafter without limitation in a policy of free access to China.

Germany is said to have been the next power to answer to the attention of the state department, the information already referred to the German answer was rather more vague than the one which had preceded it, but its general tendency was favorable, the only condition being that any arrangement as to free access to China should be universal and assented to by all of the powers.

The French answer is understood to have come next, and the circumstances attending it were rather peculiar, and not in the nature of a direct answer, although the result was regarded as most satisfactory. Secretary Hay's note had been forwarded to United States Ambassador Porter, who promptly called upon Minister of Foreign Affairs Delcasse, Gen. Porter made known his mission, which was to ascertain the most sympathetic spirit shown by the French government.

Known his mission, the most sympathetic spirit shown by the French government, and he had already made a preliminary answer to just such a communication, although at the time he had not intended it as an answer to the American note. This answer, M. Delcasse explained, was given in a speech made by him on Nov. 24 in the French chamber. The main point of that speech, in his response to China, was that France desired the most ample freedom of commerce. M. Delcasse referred Gen. Porter to this speech and told him that it fully gave the assurance which the United States desired. It is said that the main line was gratifying on both sides and that the results were considered to be a favorable acceptance from France.

The Russian negotiations have proceeded less briskly, so that it seemed for a time that Russia's attitude might not be favorable. This was dissipated, however, by the Russian ambassador, Count Cassini, in the course of interviews with Mr. Hay. On these occasions Count Cassini pointed out that a hurried answer was not a means of being evasive in a favorable attitude toward the American proposition, but that Russia was proceeding with due deliberation in order to arrive at some solid ground for a permanent understanding.

The Russian position, it is understood, is similar to those preceding it, with the same condition that Russia alone shall not be bound, but that all of the interested countries shall join in the agreement to keep the ports of China forever open.

In what order in the negotiations Japan's favorable attitude was made known can not be stated, but it suffices that Japan made her position unmistakable in favor of the American proposition with the same reservation as in all the other cases that unanimity should be reached.

CZAR DESIRES PEACE. Alleged That the Czar Will Make Another Appeal to the Nations.

Berlin, Jan. 1.—Vorwärts publishes a reliable Russian source—a second peace manifesto from the czar, to be published on the Russian New Year's day, January 13. His majesty expresses the hope that the rulers and statesmen of the world will inaugurate the new century by addressing themselves to the problem of securing and maintaining peace, and preparations which now sap the resources of all civilized nations.

While regarding the peace conference at The Hague as an event of epoch

VALUING OUR FRIENDSHIP

Englishmen Beginning to Realize the Worth of American Backing in the War.

The Money Side of the South African Hostilities Felt in the Kingdom.

Coal Famine Threatened in Consequence of the War—Germany Greatly Interested.

(Copyright, 1899, by Associated Press.) London, Jan. 1.—It is strange to note that as the new year dawns for Great Britain the greatest army she has ever put in the field remains passive in South Africa, held at bay by two of the smallest republics on the face of the earth, while at home, in spite of the large volume of trade and apparent prosperity, her financial interests are in a state of instability not seen since the Baring crash. All Europe is yelping at her heels and the necessity for America's friendship is recognized on all sides.

The papers and people that for years have been ready with a jibe for America's good will no longer make any attempt to belittle the desirability of securing her friendship. "America," says the Globe, usually humorous at the expense of all things transatlantic, "with a crop of 542,000,000 bushels, is especially in a position to help us."

With such a serious outlook for the coming year, it is hardly surprising that articles appear under the heading "Are We Deceitful?" and similar strains.

On the other hand, there is still a small section of the press and public which devotes its energies to senselessly advising the Boers and prophesying the speedy exit of the British into Pretoria. Yet on the whole the organs voicing the better class of opinion face 1900 and its eventualities in South Africa with an even-minded, unhygienical determination that compels admiration.

That there will be a day of reckoning for some one is a certainty that even the most guarded conservative do not try to conceal. Whether it will be for Lord Lansdowne, Lord Wolseley or General Buller it is impossible to tell. But all information obtainable at present and the gist of criticisms point to Lord Lansdowne having to shoulder the onus of the terrible mismanagement.

While Great Britain feeds contentedly upon the long special cables showing American friendship, the Boer agents in Europe have been endeavoring to turn the United States into a material effect. Under this impression the Associated Press learns they are contemplating despatching a special mission to the United States for the purpose of influencing public opinion, possibly by open meetings and by personally registering the efforts of those in congress they believe friendly.

Moreover, they consider it advisable to offset what they declare has been the systematic campaign of John Hay's Hammond, the American engineer, who was a member of the Johannesburg reform committee, to influence Washington circles. If the plans now under consideration are carried out, the mission will include a very prominent Boer agent and a pro-Boer member of the British parliament, who intended to sail this week but were prevented by what was thought to be a temporary hitch in the arrangements. The desire is to affiliate themselves with the particular party, but by influencing public opinion secure at least an offer of mediation from the United States.

A representative of the Associated Press has made careful inquiries, but has failed to find any circumstances to warrant the belief that such an offer, however made, would receive the slightest consideration.

The British government is threatened with a coal famine. The most serious development in recent weeks, and unless the conditions improve many industrial concerns depending upon the coal supply may have to suspend operations before February, as their margin of profit is rapidly being eroded. The withdrawal of so many colliers to take their places in the ranks of the reserves. Wages have gone up, but labor is hard to find. The normal Christmas congestion of traffic aggravates the situation, while the government need of fuel for transports, war vessels, and depots on the way to the theater has created an unprecedented demand.

GERMANY AND THE WAR. The British-Boer Hostilities Overshadow Everything Else in Germany.

(Copyright, 1899, by Associated Press.) Berlin, Jan. 1.—The South African war overshadows everything else here. The correspondent of the Associated Press has just had an interesting interview with the liberal leader, Dr. Barth, who is one of the most steadfast friends of Great Britain and America, but who also condemns this war. Dr. Barth said: "At present it looks as if England might lose the whole of South Africa. I have private information from Africa, via Holland, according to which the rebellious movement among the Cape Boers has assumed much more serious proportions than the English newspapers admit. There never was a greater piece of political stupidity than that shown by Chamberlain in provoking war without having made necessary military preparations. If England had only waited a few years she could have had everything without war. If England is totally defeated this war will be the best thing for the world, even for England. It will be a lesson that she will not soon forget. It will have a wholesome influence upon the progress of all countries, including Germany. Our naval scheme, which is almost sure of adoption, must be understood to be in connection with the war in South Africa, all the fine phrases offered in explanation notwithstanding. The increase was decided upon because Germany has lost confidence in the men who are shaping England's policy. The brutality of the present English policies renders Germany's position too insecure. What happens in the Transvaal today on land may happen to Germany upon the sea tomorrow. The distrust of England makes it necessary for Germany to be

THE OLDEST IN CENTRAL IOWA.

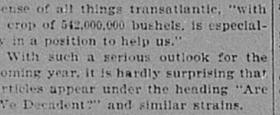
J. P. WOODRUY, President. T. J. FLETCHER, Cashier. H. GERHART, Asst. Cashier. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA. CAPITAL, \$100,000. SURPLUS, \$25,000. YOUR BUSINESS SOLICITED.

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Pay the Highest Cash Price for Hogs. See Daily Markets in This Paper. ANCHOR • BRAND • HAMS. Our Product is the Best.

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Now one of the best equipped hotels in Iowa.



Four Stories and Elevator. 20 Rooms with Bath. Newly Furnished throughout. Table Service the Best of All. D. A. WILLIAMS, Proprietor. \$2.00—\$2.50—\$3.00.

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THE PARLOR ORGAN is one of the most beautiful instruments ever made. It is a beautiful instrument, made from solid mahogany and is a masterpiece of art. It is a beautiful instrument, made from solid mahogany and is a masterpiece of art. It is a beautiful instrument, made from solid mahogany and is a masterpiece of art.

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OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED. If you doubt with us, we will send you a list of the names of the National Bank, of Corn Belt Bank, of Chicago, of the Chicago Exchange Bank, New York, or of the railroad or express company in Chicago. We have a capital of over \$100,000,000, and we are one of the largest business banks in the world. We will sell organs at \$25.00 and up. \$100.00 and up. \$150.00 and up. \$200.00 and up. \$250.00 and up. \$300.00 and up. \$350.00 and up. \$400.00 and up. \$450.00 and up. \$500.00 and up. \$550.00 and up. \$600.00 and up. \$650.00 and up. \$700.00 and up. \$750.00 and up. \$800.00 and up. \$850.00 and up. \$900.00 and up. \$950.00 and up. \$1,000.00 and up.

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OUR AUTHORITY FOR IT! DO WE HANDLE LOWER VEIN SPAL? READ.

OFFICE OF W. D. JOHNSON & CO. COAL CO. H. H. CANFIELD, MANAGER. Boonsboro, Iowa, Aug. 31, 1898.

John Inglett, Marshalltown, Iowa: Dear Sir:—In reply to your favor of this date, we will say that for us to claim that we have the best coal, will have little weight unless the consumer has tried it. Every operator in Boone thinks he has the best coal, but we say, "Without contradiction, that we are operating the oldest mine in Boone county, the 'Old Reliable Logan & Canfield Mine,' our lower vein coal needs no further endorsement. We hereby appoint you as agent to sell our coal in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Very respectfully, W. D. JOHNSON & CO. COAL CO. T. N. CANFIELD, SECY.

J. D. Seiberger, Wholesale HARDWARE AND CUTLERY. on St. L. Ave. Fence Wire, Circular Saws, Tinners' Stock. DES MOINES, IOWA.

Man of His Word.

Physician—Why don't you settle that account?—You're waiting? You said when I was treating you that you could never break me for my efforts. Mr. Broke—I meant it, doctor.—Baltimore American.

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