CITY NEWS.

George W. Austin, the veteran mail carrier, who has been ill for more than a year, was reported to be worse yesterday.

The returns to the city clerk's office for the month of January show that during that period 47 children were born, 29 of the new arrivals being boys and 18 girls.

Sheriff Allen and Deputy Sheriff Quinn searched the premises of F. F. Gonyea beyond Fort Ethan Allen last evening and secured four quarts of whiskey.

Dr. and Mrs. L. M. Bingham and Miss Amy Bingham have gone to Los Angeles and will spend the remainder of the winter in that city and other points in southern California.

Frank R. Coyne died Tuesday night at his home, 81 Pearl street, after a long illness. He was well and favorably known in this city and followed the occupation of a plumber.

A meeting of the State republican committee will be held in this city February 24 to determine the time and place for holding the next republican State convention.

Judgment was entered in city court Friday in the case of Alpert & Rosenberg vs. J. Levin for the plaintiff to recover damages of $83.60 and costs of $6.44.

Cards have been received in this city announcing the marriage on December 30 of Miss Harriett Louise Willis to Harry Walter Tilley, both of Springfield, Mass. Mr. Tilley is a grandson of the late Bennett Tilley, an old time engineer on the Rutland road.

The preliminary docket for the March term of Chittenden county court was issued from the clerk's office Tuesday. The docket shows 304 civil cases, of which 27 are petitions for divorce. The last day for noting cases for trial by court or by jury is February 15.

Announcement has been received here of the death in Joliet, Ill., January 27 of Mrs. Clara D. Morris, wife of James C. Morris, formerly of Burlington. Mrs. Morris was 48 years of age. She is survived by a husband, two daughters and a son.

Ex-Governor F. A. Woodbury went to New York yesterday, accompanied by Mrs. Woodbury and Miss Mildred Woodbury, who will continue on to Valdosta, Ga., where they will spend the months of February and March with Mrs. Woodbury's daughter, Mrs. Wilfred C. Lane.

The death of Mrs. L. M. Sherman of 36 South Union street occurred Monday evening at six o'clock at the Sparhawk sanitarium. Mrs. Sherman was a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., and had resided in Burlington only about two months. She is survived by three daughters, Lucia, Caroline and Madge, and a son, Richard.

F. E. Lewis, mentioned in last week's paper as the man who obtained a mileage under false pretenses from the Burlington Mileage agency, was Thursday arraigned in city court. He pleaded guilty to an information filed against him and was sentenced to serve not less than 15 nor more than 18 months in the House of Correction at Rutland.

Lieut. A. N. Pickel left Thursday for New York city. Lieutenant Pickel, who has been retired because of disability, will remain in New York three months, and will receive treatment from a specialist. He will then go to his home in Tennessee, where he has interests in a quarry.

Thomas Pope, arraigned before Acting City Judge J. T. Stearns Thursday pleaded guilty to a second offence of intoxication and was fined $15 and costs, the alternative sentence being 72 days in jail. It is likely that he will serve the alternative sentence. Being sworn for disclosure, Pope told the old story about a stranger, who furnished him with whiskey.

A meeting of the Winooski Association of Congregational Ministers was held Monday morning and afternoon in the parlors of the College Street Church. The program consisted of a talk by President M. H. Buckham on "Religion in the Writings of A. C. Benson," and discussion of the topic by the members.

E. B. Adrian, who for several years has been employed as operator at the office of the Postal telegraph office in this city, died Tuesday at the home of his parents in Jericho of pleuro-pneumonia. He left this city on Saturday to visit his parents, where he was taken suddenly ill. He is survived by a father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Adrian, and an unmarried sister, all of Jericho.

Mrs. Josephine Morris died Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock of dropsy at the home of her father, William Morris of 29 Walnut street. She was 41 years of age and is survived by three sisters and three brothers, Mrs. M. J. Dion and the Misses Mathilda and Eva Morris of this city and Prosper of Boston and Joseph and Eusob of this city. She also leaves a father and mother. The funeral will be held this morning from St. Joseph's Church.

Herbert Shaw, charged with being a tramp, was arraigned before Acting Judge J. T. Stearns yesterday morning. When the complaint was read to him, Shaw made many attempts to plead but stammered so that he could not talk coherently. At last he spelled the word g-u-i-l-t-y. The plea was accepted and Shaw was sentenced to serve not less than 20 nor more than 30 days in Chittenden county jail.

Mrs. Almira Allen, widow of Lester S. Warner, died at four o'clock Sunday morning after a long and painful illness, which she endured with Christian fortitude. She lived in Burlington 41 years and leaves a large circle of friends to mourn her loss. Two sons and a daughter survive her. These are A. F. Warner, E. S. Warner and Miss Nannie Warner. The funeral was held at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon from her late residence, 85 Elm street.

The second annual masquerade ball under the auspices of Antonia Rebekah Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F., was held Friday night at Masonic Temple hall, about 100 couples being present. The costumes were grotesque and original and many interesting revelations were made when the time came for unmasking. The managers were John W. Buell and Charles Pearson. The committee on introduction was made up of Mrs. Lillian D. Allen, Mrs. Marion G. Pearson, Mrs. Sierra E. Little and Ned Thomas. Refreshments were served.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Burlington Sunday School association was held Saturday afternoon in the office of the Vermont State Sunday School association to discuss matters relating to the work in the city and particularly in connection with the coming of Mrs. Mary Foster Bryner, international field worker, who is conducting a series of county institutes throughout the State. Arrangements were made to hold an institute in Burlington on Tuesday, February 18, when Mrs. Bryner and also the Rev. F. S. Tolman of West Rutland will be present. Committees were appointed Saturday from each Sunday school to look after the matter of entertainment for those who attend from out of the city, and arrangements will also be made for a conference of the workers in the city, to be held Sunday evening, February 16, under the auspices of the Burlington Sunday School association. A complete program of the institute will be published in a few days.

The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Adams Howe, whose death occurred at the Home for Aged Women Monday evening, was held from St. Paul's chapel yesterday morning at 11 o'clock. The interment was made in the family lot of Mrs. Howe's father at Vergennes. Mrs. Howe had been ill somewhat over a week, following a stroke of apoplexy. She was 79 years of age, a native of Vergennes and a daughter of Hiram and Anna (Perrier) Adams. Following her marriage with the late Dr. E. P. Howe, her home was in Jericho, where the doctor was a prominent practitioner for many years. Mrs. Howe was a woman of estimable character and beloved by her associates in the home where her last years were spent. She was a devoted member of the Episcopal Church and constant in attendance upon service at St. Paul's when her health permitted. She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Mary E. Foster of Burlington, Mrs. Drury of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Hall of Lewiston, Me.

This Advertisement

Of Hood's Sarsaparilla is to remind you of its great merit as a blood purifier, appetite-giver, and as a nerve, stomach and digestive tonic. Nothing else like it, no other has so good a record, no other will do you so much good. It cures.

Scrofula 16 Years—"Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured me of scrofula, with which I have been troubled for 16 years. My little daughter had a scrofula swelling on her neck and Hood's Sarsaparilla also cured her." MRS. G. MORRIS, Annandale, Minnesota.

Dyspepsia — "I was troubled for months with dyspepsia and could not eat anything without distress. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and was soon improving. I took it steadily until I was cured." LYDIA MCWHEELER, Athol, Mass.

Rheumatism—"I was severely afflicted with rheumatism, my knees badly swollen. Hood's Sarsaparilla helped me after other medicines failed and it has lengthened my life." JESSIE KILLMER, Middle Grove, N. Y.

Hood's Sarsaparilla is sold everywhere. In the usual liquid, or in tablet form called **Sarsatabs.** 100 Doses One Dollar. Prepared only by C. I. Hood Co., Lowell, Mass.

THE FEBRUARY SKIES

Sunlight Not Necessarily Increased Heat for Us—The Fixed Stars—Magnificent Constellations.

At the beginning of February the sun stands at the same height and the day's length is the same as in the early portion of November. At the end of February the sun will stand about 14 degrees higher than at the end of November. Yet the mean temperature of November in ordinary years, at New York, is 43 degrees, while February averages 11 degrees colder. This great difference is in spite of the fact that February, in its usual 28 days, has about as many hours of sunlight as November in its 30, and the further fact that February as a whole has a considerable advantage in the sun's declination. The reason is not hard to find. In November the earth is like a warm brick, giving out the heat it acquired during the months of summer. In February it is a chunk of ice requiring to be thawed out. This, of course, applies only to the surface which is affected by weather changes to only an inconsiderable depth.

All through the late summer and fall and early winter the earth goes on losing its store of heat, and when February has been reached its supply for further radiation has been reduced to the lowest point reached during the year. But there is consolation in the fact that when the lowest is reached it cannot go any lower, and the increasing heat received upon our hemisphere during the daytime soon reaches a degree which more than equals the loss of radiation during the night. Thus it happens that while during the early days of February we usually have our bitterest weather the middle of the month sees the backbone of winter fairly broken.

LEAP YEAR.

This being leap year, February has of course, 29 days. The reason that this month has been chosen for the intercalary day is that in the earliest calendars the year began with March, and not January. Thus February being the last month of the year seemed especially fitted for whatever corrective treatment was necessarry to preserve the correspondence of months and seasons. In Caesar's reform of the calendar February had 29 in ordinary and 30 in leap year. January had 31 days as had March, and so throughout the year, every odd month being longer and the alternate months with only 30 days. The unimaginable silliness and servility of the Roman senate in naming August after Augustus Caesar and then giving it 31 days—a 30-day month being too short to name after so great a man—compelled the readjustment of the length of the remaining months of the year. Thus February permanently lost one day, which was given to August, and the four last months of the year were altered from their former to their present length.

THE PLANETS.

This will be an exceptionally favorable month for the beginner to make the acquaintance of the planets. At the going down of the sun we see the evening star shining long before any other of the celestial objects have emerged from the twilight obscurity. This is Venus, our nearest and fairest sister world. So far does Venus outshine any of the other planets or stars that there is no possibility of a mistake in identification, and although the planet reaches her present position every 19 months, there are never lacking persons who think that the brilliant object is something unheralded and new. Venus is about the same size as the earth, and is wrapped in clouds, which make all knowledge of surface details very difficult if not impossible.

The planet Saturn is in the evening sky near Venus. They will draw gradually nearer until on the evening of the 10th they will be less than three moon breadths apart. From this time on Saturn, setting earlier and earlier each evening, will soon be lost in the mists of the horizon. It is therefore desirable to make the acquaintance of the ringed planet early in the month.

Mars, the mysterious and fascinating neighbor world, is also in the western sky, standing somewhat higher than Venus or Saturn. The red color of this planet is very marked and serves as a help to identification. Mars follows Venus by about two hours. There being no very bright stars in its immediate neighborhood, there should be no difficulty in making the identification. Jupiter is in the eastern sky, shining with a splendor second only to that of Venus. His surpassing brilliance leaves no doubt as to his identity. The moon will pass near Venus and Saturn on the 4th, Mars on the 6th, and Jupiter on the 15th. Mercury may possibly be espied, if the weather should be exceptionally favorable, on the evenings of the 12th, 13th and 14th. As soon as possible after sunset on those evenings look near the western horizon for a star bright enough to be seen in that unfavorable position. If such is found it is the planet Mercury.

MAGNIFICENT CONSTELLATION.

The magnificent constellation Orion is still eastward, but standing well up in the sky at sunset. It is quickly and certainly identified by the "Belt," a row of three bright second-magnitude stars. These are named, in the order of their rising, Mintaka, Alnilam and Alnitah. The Belt is enclosed at a considerable distance by four bright stars forming a vast quadrilateral. Of these stars two, Betelgeuse and Rigel, are of the first magnitude. Betelgeuse is the star farthest north, while Rigel is diagonally opposite. The other stars of the quadrilateral are Bellatrix, which is nearer Betelgeuse, and Saiph, the remaining star.

The stars of the Belt point upward toward Aldebaran, the first-magnitude star in the constellation Taurus. Downward they point out the great Dog Star, Sirius, the brightest by far of all the fixed stars. The four stars Betelgeuse, Rigel, Aldebaran and Sirius, thus form a colossal diamond-shaped figure enclosing the Belt of Orion. It is interesting to note the colors of these four great stars, Rigel and Sirius being of a dazzling white, and the others of a deep glowing red.

Near Jupiter, but a little higher in the sky are the Heavenly Twins, Castor and Pollux. They are of nearly equal brightness and are about 70 moon-breadths apart. They have attracted attention from the remotest antiquity. Castor stands the higher so long as the pair is in the eastern sky. Between Sirius and the Twins, somewhat nearer the horizon, is the bright star Procyon in the constellation Canis Minor. Following after Jupiter is the great constellation Leo, which is well up at an early hour. This constellation has at its western extremity the bright star Regulus, which is at the end of the handle of the Sickle, a group of stars having a remarkable resemblance in shape to the object from which the name is derived.

Aldebaran, the red star in Taurus already mentioned, is at the end of one of the arms of the V-shaped figure known as the Hyades. An hour further in advance in the same constellation is the sister group, the beautiful little asterism known as the Pleiades. Between Taurus and the Twins, but still higher in the sky, is the fine constellation of Auriga marked by the very bright star Capella. Near this star is the beautiful little pair known as The Kids, and also in rural English districts as the Babes in the Wood.

Almost overhead in the Milky Way is the bending row of stars which marks the constellation Perseus. Stretching away to the west from Perseus is the long row of bright stars which ends in the Great Square of Pegasus. Algol, the Demon Star, forms a triangle with Mirfac, the middle star in the bending row of Perseus, and with Almaack, the first star in the long row after Mirfac. In the north the Big Dipper is east of the Pole, standing apparently on the end of its handle. The Little Dipper hangs downward beneath the North Star, while the Dragon, as ever, winds about the little constellation which guards the pole.

COLDEST IN 47 YEARS.

Burlington's Record of 27 below Zero Yesterday Is Seldom Equalled.

Vermont enjoyed, or at least had the distinction of being the coldest place in the country Tuesday night and yesterday morning. The thermometer at the weather bureau station dropped to 17 degrees below zero Tuesday morning, which was going down some, but it had only just started, as subsequent events showed. The official prognosticator in Washington cheered up a chilly community by predicting warmer weather for Tuesday night and yesterday, but he proved to be only an official prevaricator. During Tuesday evening the mercury dropped by dull thuds and the thuds continued all night long until, at about seven o'clock yesterday morning, just as old Sol appeared to see what had been going on during his absence, the liquid stopped opposite the 27 below zero mark on Uncle Sam's thermometer, temporarily in Mr. Alexander's keeping. An hour later, when Mr. Alexander made his customary eight o'clock observation of things meteorological, he found an improvement of one degree. The improvement continued during the day, although it was nothing to brag about, and last evening there were some indications that the worst was over.

But Burlington was not the coldest place in the State. The government weather man at Northfield, Mr. Shaw, went Mr. Alexander eight better (or worse, according to the point of view) and came to the front with a minimum of 35 below zero, breaking all records since the establishment of the station there 22 years ago. Some records were broken in Burlington, too. The minimum temperature of 27 below zero was the lowest ever recorded officially in this city and has been exceeded only twice unofficially. For many years prior to 1884 a weather record was kept by C. E. Allen and by his father before him. These records report a minimum of 32 below zero in February, 1861, and of 30 below zero in January, 1859. For the 23 years from 1884, by the establishment of the weather bureau station here in 1906 a record was kept by W. R. Gates as a co-operative observer of the weather bureau, government thermometers being used and exposed according to weather bureau regulations. These records, which have been turned over to the local station, show a minimum of 21 below zero on February 5, 1886, just 22 years ago yesterday, and minimums of 20 below zero on January 12, 1886, and February 17, 1896. It therefore appears that Tuesday night brought the coldest weather Burlington has known for 47 years.

COLD IN ADIRONDACKS.

Plattsburgh, Feb. 5.—The past three nights have been the coldest three successive nights in this section in more than ten years. The thermometer registered 22 below in this city, 35 below at upper Chateaugay Lake, 18 to 30 below at Lake Placid, 42 below at Saranac Lake and 18 below at Lake Clear Junction.

DISCRETION THE BETTER PART OF VALOR.

Old Gent—What are you doing with those snowballs?

Small Boy—We're selling 'em three a penny, and those who can't afford to buy, we gives 'em fer nuffin.

Old Gent—I'll take the lot.—Ally Sloper's Haf-Holiday.

COLDEST PLACES.

Records for low temperatures were again broken yesterday throughout Vermont. The following degrees below zero are reported:

St. Johnsbury	52
Montpelier	51
Greensboro Bend	51
Sheldon	46
Stowe	45
Barre	45
Vergennes	44
Middlebury	43
Waterbury	42
Winooski	41
Fairfax	41
Newport	41
Williston	40
St. Albans town	40
East Fairfield	40
Jeffersonville	40
Richford	40
East Berkshire	40
Richmond	40
Woodstock	39
Franklin	38
Grafton	38
Swanton	37
Alburgh	37
Northfield (official)	35
Chester	35
Enosburgh Falls (semi-official)	34
Milton	33
Bristol	32
Highgate	32
West Brookfield	32
Underhill	29
Burlington (official)	27

PLANS FOR CELEBRATION.

Ter-Centenary Commissioners Hear Report and Discuss Arrangements.

A meeting of the Lake Champlain Ter-Centenary Celebration commission was held at the Van Ness House Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, when the full commission, composed of Governor Fletcher D. Proctor, W. H. Crockett of St. Albans, Walter E. Howard, of Middlebury, M. D. McMahon of Burlington, R. W. McCuen of Vergennes and L. M. Hays of Essex Junction, was present.

At a meeting of the joint sub-committees of New York and Vermont, held in Albany December 21, 1907, the Vermont sub-committee resolved that the sub-committee of the Vermont Ter-Centenary celebration commission recommend to the Vermont commission that the 300th anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain by Samuel de Champlain be celebrated in a manner fitting the occasion by the State of Vermont, acting in conjunction with the State of New York. The resolution was adopted by the full commission at its meeting and a similar resolution was also passed by the New York sub-committee and the two resolutions were presented to Governor Hughes on that date.

The New York commission is at present engaged in drafting a bill to the New York Legislature asking for an appropriation of $100,000 to be expended in the celebration and in the erection of a memorial to Champlain. Vermont to also take part with New York in the celebration and in the erection of a monument.

Two joint sub-committees are working on a memorial to be presented to the state department at Washington, seeking an appropriation from Congress, the same to be used in entertaining foreign guests from France, Great Britain and Canada.

It was further resolved by the commission that an important feature of the celebration should be a memorial to be erected at some point in the Champlain valley. Several designs of monuments were also presented.

Following the meeting of the State commission at the Van Ness House a meeting of the local committee was held at the rooms of the Burlington Commercial club, to hear a report of plans for the celebration, as presented by L. M. Hays of Essex Junction.

Charles E. Allen was elected secretary of the local committee, and the chairman of the local committee, W. J. Bigelow, was authorized to appoint a committee of five as an organization committee to outline the work of the local committee and appoint members of the sub-committees.

The entire meeting was devoted to the discussion of the arrangements for the celebration, as they were roughly outlined by Mr. Hays.

DIED.

JOHNSON—At his home in Williston, February 4, 1908, Thomas Johnson, in his 82nd year.

Funeral from St. Mary's Cathedral Friday morning at half past ten o'clock.

ADRIAN—At his home in Jericho, Vt., Bartholomew Bernard Adrian, aged 28 years.

Funeral Friday from house at 9 a. m. Services at 10 a. m. in Underhill Center at St. Thomas Church.

SHERMAN—At 36 South Union street, this city, February 3, Mrs. Eugene C. Sherman.

Private service at residence Thursday. Cremation at Troy, N. Y.

CHASE—At her home in Essex Junction, February 3 Mrs. Nancy B. Chase, widow of the late Rev. Henry L. Chase, aged 72 years.

COYNE—At his home at 81 Pearl street, Tuesday, February 4, 1908, Frank R. Coyne.

Arsene Boucher,
Funeral Director and Embalmer,
169 North Street,
Burlington.
Night call. Telephone 432-21

ESTATE OF JOSEPH LAVALETTE, CHARLOTTE.

STATE OF VERMONT, District of Chittenden.

To all persons interested in the estate of Joseph Lavalette, late of Charlotte, in said district, deceased.

GREETING:

At a Probate Court, holden at Burlington, within and for the District of Chittenden on the 31st day of January, 1908, an instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of Joseph Lavalette, late of Charlotte, in said district deceased, was presented to the court aforesaid, for probate.

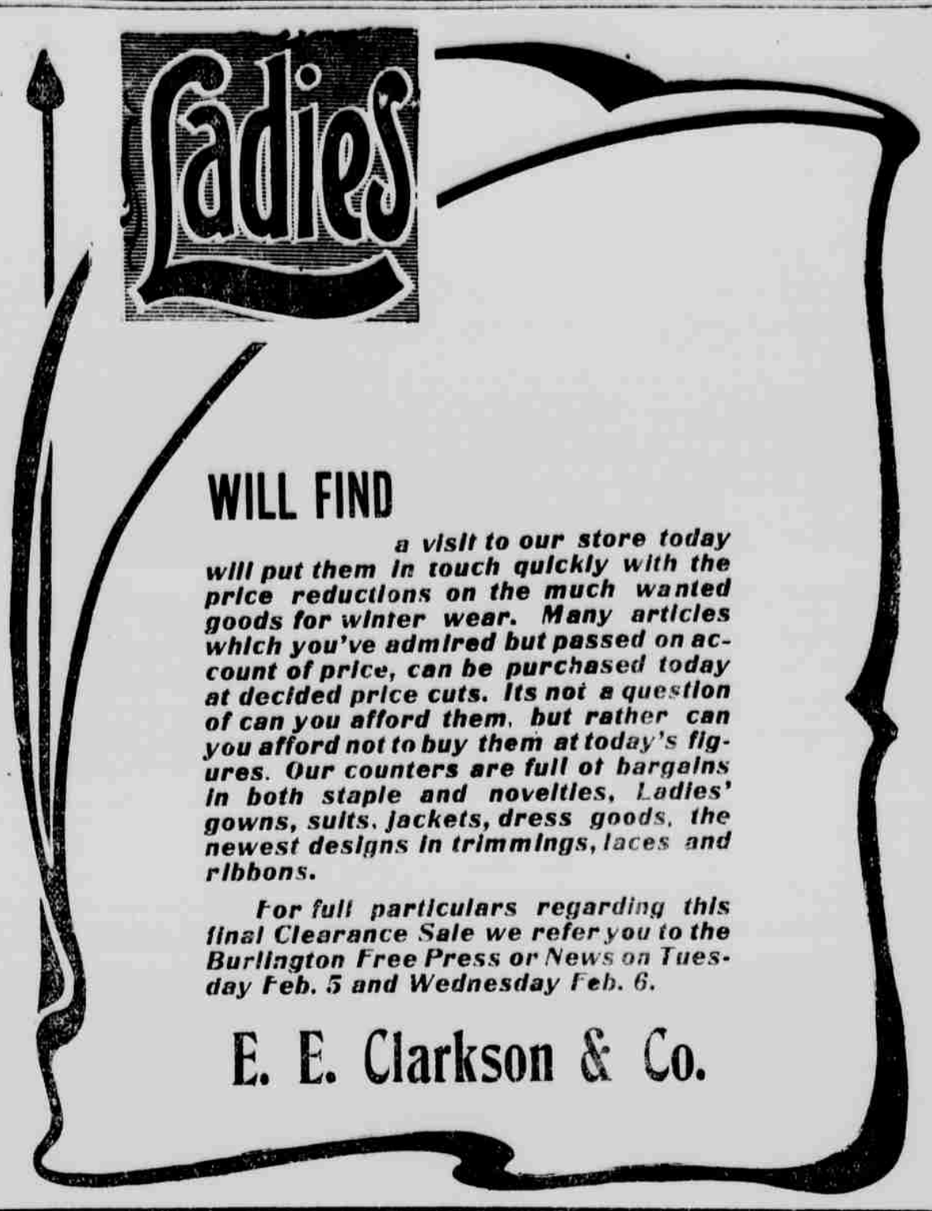
And it is ordered by said Court that the 21st day of Feb. then at the Probate Court rooms in said Burlington, be assigned for proving said instrument; and that notice thereof be given to all persons concerned, by publishing this order three weeks successively in the Burlington Weekly Free Press, a newspaper published at Burlington, previous to the time appointed.

Therefore, you are hereby notified to appear before said court, at the time and place aforesaid, and contest the probate of said will, if you have cause.

Given under my hand at Burlington, in said district, this 31st day of January, 1908.

32,w3t Judge.

MARCELLUS A. BINGHAM,



WILL FIND

a visit to our store today will put them in touch quickly with the price reductions on the much wanted goods for winter wear. Many articles which you've admired but passed on account of price, can be purchased today at decided price cuts. Its not a question of can you afford them, but rather can you afford not to buy them at today's figures. Our counters are full of bargains in both staple and novelties, Ladies' gowns, suits, jackets, dress goods, the newest designs in trimmings, laces and ribbons.

For full particulars regarding this final Clearance Sale we refer you to the Burlington Free Press or News on Tuesday Feb. 5 and Wednesday Feb. 6.

E. E. Clarkson & Co.

TO ABOLISH PENSION AGENCIES

House Committee on Appropriations Report Favorably on Project.

WILL SAVE ABOUT $174,000

Minority Leader Williams Criticizes Some of the President's Expressed Sentiments—House Had to Lengthen Time for Debate on Appropriation Bill.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The House committee on appropriations to-day reported favorably the pension bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909. The bill as reported abolishes pension agencies located at Boston, Concord, N. H., and other cities and consolidates them in one central distributing agency at Washington. The bill as reported carries a total pension appropriation of $150,869,000 which is $174,000 less than the aggregate estimates. This sum is savable by the consolidation of agencies.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Washington, Feb. 4.—President Roosevelt's recent message to Congress on the relations of capital and labor and of corporations and the public, was again the theme of discussion in the House of Representatives to-day. So great was the demand for time that the general debate on the Indian appropriation bill, which is the pending business, was extended to to-morrow for four hours.

Interest in to-day's proceedings centered in a speech by John Sharp Williams, the minority leader, who, while lauding the President for some of his sentiments, expressed the belief that others were dangerous. Mr. Williams spoke for nearly two hours. His remarks on the financial question prompted a lengthy discussion of that subject by Mr. Hill of Connecticut in which he opposed the Aldrich financial bill.

Other speakers were Messrs. Bonynge of Colorado, Nye of Indiana and Macon of Arkansas, the latter urging the passage of his bill prohibiting dealings in futures in agricultural products.

At 4.57 p. m. the House adjourned.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF W. R. C. CONVENTION.

Montpelier, Feb. 3.—The Woman's Relief Corps for the department of Vermont has issued its official notice of the 24th annual convention, to be held in this city in conjunction with the annual Vermont Encampment, G. A. R., Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25 and 26.

Headquarters will be established Tuesday afternoon at the Pavilion Hotel. Mrs. Kate E. Jones and Mrs. Eliza R. Daggett, the national president and secretary, are expected. A reception will be held Tuesday evening in the parlors of the Pavilion Hotel, at which Department Commander A. C. Brown and his staff will assist.

The business meetings will be held Wednesday, February 26, in the vestry of the Church of the Messiah. At the camp fire at the opera house that evening the Woman's Relief Corps of Vermont will present a silk flag to the Montpelier high school.

There are at present 63 corps in the State, with a total membership of 2,400.

It is expected that Judge Henry M. Nevins of New Jersey, who is a candidate for commander-in-chief, will attend the meetings of the Vermont encampment.

Hives, eczema, itch or salt rheum says you crazy. Can't bear the touch of your clothing. Doan's Ointment cures the most obstinate cases. Why suffer. All druggists sell it.

SUGGESTIONS WELCOMED

Double Taxation Commission to Have a Public Hearing at Montpelier February 12.

Montpelier, Feb. 4.—The members of the double taxation commission, with the exception of L. P. Slack of St. Johnsbury, met this afternoon at the State House and will continue their labors there for the remainder of the week. Those present are O. M. Barber of Bennington, chairman, George W. Pierce of Brattleboro, A. A. Olmstead of Newbury, Ernest Hitchcock of Pittsford and John H. Senter of Montpelier.

The commissioners have a large volume of statistics on hand on which they will work this week. They announced this afternoon that a public hearing will be given at the State House on Wednesday, February 12, at 9:30 a. m. at which any person in Vermont interested in taxation who has any suggestions to make regarding removing the evil of double taxation, is invited to appear before the commission with such suggestions. Written communications from any one unable to come to Montpelier will be given careful attention, and the commission will probably arrange to meet such persons at some time in the future.

LEET DIVORCE TANGLE.

Former Burlington Girl Wants to Be Freed from Former Essex Junction Hotel Keeper.

Boston, Feb. 5—That Eugene F. Leet was still a married man, aged 46, when Stella B. Seymour ran away from Vermont with him at the age of 17; that they were married in Chicago by a man supposed to be a justice of the peace, and that she shot Leet at their hotel in Coldwater, Mich., when she learned that his first wife, Georgia A. Haynes of Chicago, was after him again were some points brought out before Judge Lawton in the probate court at East Cambridge, Mass., yesterday.

Mrs. Leet testified she was born in Burlington, Vt., and was now 37 years old. In 1887, when she was 17, she met Leet at his hotel at Essex Junction.

Some time ago the petitioner brought suit for a breach of promise. Later this was withdrawn, and the petition for separate support was filed.

Mrs. Leet admitted that after the reconciliation at Toledo in 1888, and before Leet's first wife divorced him, in 1891, she, the witness, lived with Leet and sustained the relations of wife to him, knowing he was a married man.

Asked how she supported herself witness said that she had pawned her jewelry, except one diamond, and now has left $775.

After the row last June, she said Leet offered her a house and a small allowance if she would not make trouble. She agreed to the proposal, but it was not carried out.

Eugene F. Leet was the next witness. In response to Mr. Proctor's questions, he said he was a member of the 2nd N. H. infantry in the Civil War. He admitted sending an application for a pension to the pension department in which he stated he was divorced in 1886 and was not married. The paper was not signed under oath, but was made out to please petitioner.

He said he first met petitioner on a train going to Montreal and she was afterward known as his wife. He denied absolutely that there was ever any marriage ceremony. At Coldwater, where he ran a hotel, she was known as Mrs. Leet. After she was arrested for shooting at him, witnessed bailed her out.

The case was continued to February 17.

CAN BUT WON'T.

In a battle of tongues between man and wife, I find that a woman can generally hold her own."

"Yes, I know, but she never does."—St. Louis Times.

Governor Proctor has received an invitation from the war department at Washington for the Vermont National Guard to attend the manoeuvres with the United States regulars at Pine Plains, N. Y., next June. The invitation will probably be accepted and muster in Vermont done away with this year.

CAME FROM WEST TO END HIS LIFE.

Benjamin Hilliard of Evansville Had Been Missing for Seven Weeks.

HAD BULLET HOLE IN HEAD.

Was in Comatose Condition When Found in Gravel Pit near Home—Legs and Feet Frozen—Disappeared from Somerville, Mass., December 19.

Barton Landing, Feb. 4—After an agonized search of seven weeks, the disappearance of Benjamin Hilliard, an Evansville man, was explained this morning by the finding of Hilliard in a comatose condition in a gravel pit just below Evansville. His feet and lower limbs were frozen solid and a bullet hole in the head showed the manner of his attempted death.

The last communication received from him was December 18, when he wrote his wife from Ludlow. The next day he went to Somerville, Mass., called on his former employers, visited relatives and then disappeared. The Boston papers contained elaborate accounts of his disappearance and an extensive search was made without avail as nothing more was heard of him until this morning.

On his person was found a receipt for a gun, date at Arkansas City, and a bottle of medicine evidently bought at a town bordering on Oklahoma. He came in on the night train at this station from the West last night, reaching here at one this morning. From this place he walked to Evansville, five miles distant. The intense cold must have benumbed him and made his walk one terrible agony. Two empty cartridges were found under him though but one bullet wound was found in his head. Help was summoned and he was carried to a nearby house but he never recovered consciousness.

Hilliard had been in the employ of Dwinell, Wright & Co., of Boston for some 17 years but because of ill health came to Evansville, his old home, last spring and there purchased a small farm and a mill. While at work in the mill he received a terrible wound on his hand and it is thought by some that it was the indirect results of the blood poisoning caused by this wound that led to his disappearance.

He leaves a wife and three sons at Evansville and a married daughter at Northboro, Mass.

SENATE PASSES BILL.

An Urgent Deficiency of over $24,000,000—Some Criticism.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The Senate to-day passed the urgent deficiency bill carrying an appropriation of over $24,000,000. The large deficiency appropriation for the navy brought out considerable discussion of the subject of executive departments making expenditures not provided for in appropriations. Deficiency appropriations for the Panama canal gave rise to democratic criticism of the publication of a paper by the canal commission at Panama and incidentally Senator Teller declared that he believed the lock canal at Panama would some day be declared a failure and that a sea level canal would take its place.

The Senate devoted two hours to consideration of the criminal code bill and at 4:20 p. m. adjourned.

THE THERMOMETRICAL LIAR.

(From the Montpelier Argus.)

The thermometrical liar is now right in his element. He seems to be located up in Vermont particularly.—Boston Herald.

Better come up for a while and see who is the liar.