

so as "to give a great deal of room in a very small space" Every traveller should have one. This enterprising firm is also showing a new line of "Hair tanned buckskin" watch and set cases in natural colors, which are a curiosity even in this year of our Lord.

SOMETHING NEW—Some very wise person has said that there is nothing new under the sun, but the philosopher who said it never saw the new adjustable watch case bezel that the Boss case people have just put upon the market. The makers claim that this patent bezel not only saves watch glasses but prevents the profanity that is engendered by a watchmaker breaking half a dozen glasses before he can get one to fit. If only to help morality, this new bezel should have the hearty support of every law abiding citizen and be extensively patronized by clergymen and others interested in the elevation of the race.

CUSTOMS SEIZURE.—The Hamilton customs authorities last week seized the stock of T. J. Carrol & Co., jewelers of that city, on suspicion of smuggling. It is to be hoped that the Hamilton officials will be more active in getting the justice of this seizure made apparent than the Winnipeg authorities are. If this or any other firm are proven to have smuggled goods, they should be rigorously dealt with, but if it cannot be at once clearly proven, they should not be needlessly hampered and their business as good as ruined by the greed of officials who only suspect that the law has been evaded.

GET VACCINATED.—We are not alarmists, but in these days when small-pox is so rife throughout the country and may break out at any moment in the most unexpected places, it is the duty of every person to get vaccinated and thus keep themselves free from the disease and check its spread. The editor has had his left arm in a sling for about a week (metaphorically speaking) on account of his being vaccinated, but if he had to keep it that way for a month he would prefer it to a week of genuine small-pox. He considers an ounce of prevention better than a pound of cure especially in regard to the small-pox, and therefore advises all the readers of THE TRADER to follow his example and get vaccinated.

WORTHY REPRESENTATIVES.—We were favored last week by a visit from Messrs J. L. Sweet, representing the firm of R. F. Simmons & Co., the well known manufacturers of rolled-plate chains, and C. E. Settle, representing S. E. Fisher & Co., the best known firm of bracelet makers in the United States. These gentlemen were visiting Toronto for the first time in the interest of their respective firms, and expressed themselves as being highly pleased with this city and the trade they were doing. Both of the above firms enjoy an enviable reputation for the excellence of their manufactures, and they are also to be congratulated upon the live and gentlemanly representatives that they send to this part of Her Majesty's dominions. Glad to see you gentlemen. Come again.

SIGHT FOR THE BLIND.—Although the days of miraculous healing have passed away, science has done much to alleviate the sufferings of humanity. There is probably no greater affliction than loss of sight, and spectacle manufacturers should, therefore, not only be classed as

merchants but also as philanthropists. At least this is our opinion every time we come across Mr. H. J. Levetus, of the Montreal Optical Company. Mr. Levetus not only acts the good Samaritan to those afflicted with loss of sight, but looks every inch a philanthropist of the first water. We don't know whether Mr. L. sells spectacles for the purpose of making money out of them or not, but we can testify from a personal inspection of his stock that he carries the largest and best line of such goods in Canada.

BY ALL MEANS.—The Report has been for some time in circulation to the effect that Mr. Johnstone, Commissioner of Customs at Ottawa, was to be superannuated, and that Mr. Mingay, Collector at Winnipeg, was to be appointed in his place, with a reversion of the latter's position to Mr. Bowell, a son of the Hon. Minister of Customs. If general crankiness and red-tapeism are recommendations for the commissionship, and report speaks true, Mr. Mingay possesses special qualifications for the position, and we trust he may get it. We do not know, however, that the change from Mr. Mingay to Mr. Bowell would be any relief to the merchants of Winnipeg, as the general opinion there seems to be that they hunt in couples. We have often said before that too much politics is the curse of Canada, and that in filling such offices it is not fitness that is considered so much as political exigency.

AN INJUSTICE.—We have before called attention to the arbitrary manner in which the Customs authorities at Winnipeg use jewelers suspected of smuggling goods. We understand that the stock of Mr. Perret, which was only seized on suspicion of being smuggled is still in the hands of the authorities, although nearly three months have elapsed since the seizure was made and Mr. Perret says that almost his whole stock was purchased of Canadian jobbers. Toronto jobbers who visited Winnipeg and interested themselves in the case were treated with scant courtesy and as good as told to mind their own business, although they had no end to serve except to see fair play to both parties. Such proceedings as these smack of tyranny and hardly harmonize with the liberty of the century. The Winnipeg Customs authorities should be made to understand that merchants have rights as well as themselves and that they might as well steal a merchant's stock outright, as seize it and keep it for an indefinite length of time. Fair play is bonnie play and they will try their little game once too often for their own good.

WHO LIT THE FIRE?—Charlie Ellis, while on his last eastern trip, came near being the cause of one of the biggest fires on record. Feeling cold, and seeing a large stove in his sample room filled with paper, he touched a match to it and speedily succeeded in getting up a roaring fire, very much to his own and his customers' comfort. His exuberance did not last over a couple of minutes however, for by that time the servants up-stairs came tumbling down stairs in all sorts of *dishabille*, each one dragging their valuables after them, while an excited crowd speedily filled the yard and tried to assist the firemen by giving them the benefit

of their advice. The flames were, after considerable exertion subdued, and an investigation brought to light the fact that the pipe which led from the stove in Mr. Ellis' sample room did not go any nearer heaven than just through the floor above. It was a most absurd thing for any hotel keeper to leave a stove in such a condition, but Charlie says that his experience with fires has been so varied and disastrous that next time he lights one he will find out how it is going to affect his future existence before he touches the match. If Charlie gets into many more such scrapes we will have to dub him the Handy Andy of the jewelry business.

A DARLING RUMPU.—The action of Mr. H. W. Darling, president of the Toronto Board of Trade, in endeavoring to get railway companies to confer the same privileges upon members of the Board of Trade as upon commercial travellers has evoked no little opposition from that energetic and very necessary corporation. We do not see that anything is to be gained by the adoption of Mr. Darling's scheme except perhaps the saving of a few dollars to some wholesalers who do not seem to have the faculty of keeping their travellers more than a few months at a time. On the contrary we see a great deal to condemn in this attempt to undermine an Association which has proved itself of incalculable benefit not only to the travellers, but to wholesale houses and the railways as well. We have no idea that Mr. Darling's scheme will carry through, and it certainly does not deserve success. We think the Board of Trade would be well advised if they keep themselves free from railway favors and attend strictly to their legitimate business. If Mr. Darling must have scope for his bottled up energy, let him direct it to something practical such as, a new bankrupt act, tribunals of commerce, or even the shortening of our present credits. Any of these things are practical and necessary and in our humble opinion the president of the Toronto Board of Trade would be better employed in securing their adoption than in trying to injure an organization like the Commercial Travellers Association of Canada.

IN A TIGHT PLACE.—Now that the Privy Council of Great Britain have decided that Louis David Riel has had a fair and impartial trial by a legally constituted court, the question arises will the Government allow the law to take its course, or will they interfere and save his neck for the purpose of keeping themselves in power. It is a tight place for them, on one side the "Grit devil," and on the other the deep sea of solid French race opposition. If Sir John can steer the government bark safely through between these rocks, he will accomplish something well nigh impossible. If THE TRADER might venture to give him a piece of disinterested advice, we would counsel him to simply let the law take its course. We have nothing but good feeling for our French Canadian fellow countrymen, and the question as to whether Riel is French, Irish, English or Scotch should never be thought of at all. It should be, does he deserve hanging, and if so, let him hang. We think there can only be one answer to such a query and we also think that this is a crisis in our national career. If Sir John Macdonald has the firmness to do what is right in the present case, we are satis-