

Business Notes and Comments.

IN our last issue, the printer made us say that Mr. H. A. Field, hardware merchant, of Brockville, was dead. It should have been Mr. R. A. Field, his brother, also a hardware merchant in the same place.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. W. H. Davey, jeweler, Chatham, has been visited with very severe domestic trouble lately, having lost his wife, child, and brother-in-law, within a few days of each other. He has the sympathy of all his friends in his bereavement.

LONDON & PARIS HOUSE, TORONTO.—This house, which has seen a good many changes during the past few years, has again been brought under the auctioneer's hammer. This time the stock brought 30½ cents on the dollar, which is a very good price for it, considering the way in which the goods were bought.

As an evidence of the "better times" in the United States, we may mention that the Waltham Watch Company have issued a circular notifying the trade that in future they will charge five per cent. advance on old prices on all silver cases of their manufacture. No doubt their example will be followed by the other case makers in the States.

THE stock of Montgomery the Port Hope jeweler, was sold at auction last week, and realized fifty-seven cents on the dollar, which was an exceedingly low price, considering the quality of the stock and the way in which it had been kept. The purchaser was Mr. A. Campbell, the well-known jeweler of Hamilton, who ought to make a good thing out of it.

THE retail merchants, we are glad to see, have begun the collecting campaign. Here is the manifesto issued by one of them in Port Hope: "If all accounts due me are not settled by the first of November, there will be wigs on the green. This two or three year credit business is played out, it's behind the times. I mean business and you had better settle at once either by cash or I. O. U."

THE store occupied by J. W. Gibson, jeweler, Rondeau, Ont., was destroyed by fire on the 23rd October. The building, which was owned by T. C. Ford, furniture dealer, was insured, but Mr. Gibson had no insurance on his stock, and will lose heavily. Such experiences as these should teach people that insurance is not a luxury, but a necessity, and that no prudent business man can afford to do without it.

As a striking example of the "jump" in prices which metals have taken, we hear of a purchase made in Montreal last month of 100 tons Eglinton pig iron which had been brought out in ballast, at \$14 per ton 30 days, landed on the wharves. The thirty days expired on Saturday last, and on the following Monday the iron, which had thus cost \$1,400, was sold for \$2,500, a profit of \$11.00 per ton, inside thirty two days.

MILLICHAIR, the well-known show case maker of Toronto, had a narrow escape from being burned out last week. Through the efforts of the fire brigade the conflagration was extinguished before the building sustained any great damage. Mr. Millichair's loss arises principally from flooding by water, and will not exceed \$800 in all. This accident has not stopped his business, as he informs us that he is going on all right again, and is prepared to execute orders as usual.

It is computed that the recent rise in prices

will make a nett gain to the Province of Ontario alone of not less than \$4,000,000 on its wheat crop, and \$6,000,000 on other grains, over and above what it would have derived from them at prices ruling a few weeks ago. If this be so, and we see no reason to doubt its accuracy, our farmers and retail merchants ought shortly to be in a position to "square up" their accounts, and put their business on a more secure footing.

MATRIMONIAL HUM.—We don't know whether it is the effect of the N. P., or the revival of business, but we observe an unusual activity in the matrimonial line amongst our jewelers. During the past month three well known members of the craft have gone into this style of partnership. A. W. Pringle, of Port Hope, C. Drew, of Orillia, and A. S. Murray, London. If not too late, THE TRADER offers its congratulations to them, and trusts that this venture may be the most successful they ever undertook.

ELECTRO PLATED WARE AND THE CUSTOMS.—The Customs Department have decided that they will not allow American electro plate to pass at the price at which it is sold to Canadian dealers, and that they will charge extra duty on any reduction below 40, and 5 per cent. from the American standard lists. As this really amounts to 40 per cent duty, it is practically prohibitory as far as American manufacturers are concerned. The shrewd Yankee has met this by starting plating works in Canada and thus keeping the trade.

MR. LAWRENCE SMITH, the Toronto agent of Messrs. Shorey & Co., Montreal, and formerly Vice-President of the Commercial Travellers Association of Canada who was arrested for the murder of W. J. Turner of this city, has been acquitted, the medical evidence tending to show that Mr. Turner died from an abscess on the brain and not from the blow supposed to have been given by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith throughout this sad affair has had the warmest sympathy of his fellow travellers who are unanimous in expressing their joy at his acquittal.

AN AMERICAN GENIUS has just invented a watch intended for a present from a lover to his sweetheart. It runs all right during the day, but takes from 7 p.m. till 3 a.m. for the hand to get round so as to indicate 10:30. A Jacksonville, Florida, man, however, is reported to have purchased a lover's alarm clock that works like a charm. At ten o'clock it strikes loudly, two little doors open, and a man with a dressing gown and cap on glides out, holding in his hand a card inscribed "Good Night." As he bows and smilingly retires back into the clock, the young man takes the hint, says "Good night" to the fair daughter, and departs.

THE six months credit business amongst the hardware trade seems to be about on its last legs if we can judge from appearances. In January last, the principal hardware merchants of Montreal determined that nails, window glass, cordage, paints and oils, should be sold on four months time instead of six as heretofore, and last week they decided to place pig iron in the same category. It seems now that some of our Toronto hardware men are going one better, as one firm at least has notified its customers that in future the terms on all their goods will be strictly four months. This is a long stride in the right direction, and the firm deserves credit for it.

W. COLWELL, jeweler and fancy goods dealer, of Mitchell, who got an extension from his credi-

tors in May last, has lately been put into insolvency. At a meeting of his creditors last week effected a settlement at sixty cents on the dollar his liabilities, secured. It is said that his creditors numbered one hundred and twenty-seven; this is so it is no wonder he found it difficult to get along smoothly. A good many of them set him on overdue accounts, and Mr. Colwell blames the cost of these suits and a heavy interest account for his present predicament. It is to be hoped that Mr. Colwell, who is very hard-working and energetic, will be able to pull through on this settlement.

THE bankrupt stock of J. B. Parks, jeweler, Belleville, is now being sold at auction in Toronto. Parks, it will be remembered, cleared out last spring taking with him nearly all the valuable stock he had. It was a Montgomery case on a smaller scale minus the forgery. Park's intentions, however, were equally as honorable as those of Montgomery, and although he has saved himself from the clutches of the Canadian law, he has ruined his prospects for life. It is a pity that the laws, both Canada and the United States could not be amended, so that criminals of this description could be extradited as surely as for murder or other kindred offences. It would deter a man from this kind from attempting such escapades. The estate paid the creditors the handsome dividend of eight cents on the dollar.

THE case of R. Knox, the would-be insolvent jeweler, of Wingham, has been settled at last. Knox agreeing to pay one hundred cents on the dollar, which includes expenses. This settlement will give the creditors eighty cents on the dollar on their claims, the other twenty cents being eaten up by assignee's fees, etc. A more deliberate attempt to swindle creditors out of their money than this has never been perpetrated, as we believe. Knox came to Toronto a few months ago and effected thirty cents on the dollar. His creditors put him in gaol, and on his release he decamped to Uncle Sam's dominions, where he stayed until settlement on the above basis was negotiated. The fact that he can yet pay in full every cent of his indebtedness proves conclusively that it was a deliberate attempt to swindle. The fact that his plan miscarried does not entitle him to sympathy but only serves to prove that "the way of the transgressor is hard."

BUSINESS CHANGES FOR OCTOBER.—Thos. Drifill, hardware, Bradford, Ont.; style now Thos. Drifill & Sons. J. R. Jennett & Co., crockery, etc., Halifax, N.S., have sold out to J. A. Matheson. Blackwood & Dunsbaugh, manufacturers' agents, Toronto, dissolved, style now T. F. Blackwood. Percy & Stewart, paints and oils, Toronto, dissolved; business now under the style of Sanders. Percy & Co. Geo. Barber, hardware merchant, Guelph, Ont., dead. Alf. Rowland, crockery, etc., London, Ont., store closed and stock advertised for sale. George F. Croskill, jeweler, Halifax, N.S., burned out. C. H. Gallant, jeweler, Shedden, N.B., burned out. T. Gallant, jeweler, Shedden, N.B., burned out. T. W. Gibson, jeweler, Rondeau, Ont., burned out. N. L. Piper & Sons, etc., and house furnishings, Toronto; old store burned out, but have rented another store and are carrying on business as usual. During the past month attachments have been issued against the following merchants: W. H. Broughner, hardware, Ridgeway, Ont.; David W. Lockhart, tins, etc., Richmond, Que.; Wm. Colwell, jeweler and fancy goods, Mitchell, Ont.; R. T. Crawford, jeweler, Woodstock, Ont.; Samuel Wheeler, jeweler, Dunnville, Ont.