

sold, their number and the name and address of the purchasers. This would, perhaps, have the effect of preventing the office of inspector from becoming a sinecure, and would save much expense to every hardware merchant in Canada who deals in them, and consequent additional expense in the price of scales to the user. Almost every merchant in Canada uses scales, but everybody does not know what degree of skill and experience is required in packing them, that no damage may result in transit. The expense of packing and unpacking would at least be equal to the present profit. The examination therefore should be dispensed with till the scales reach the consumer, and occasional visits might be paid by inspectors to see that any future disarrangement be rectified.

The stamping of weights is an easy matter to attend to, as these can be sold separately where the weights of any scales will weigh the same on any other, as is the case in all the best makes now-a-days. The authorities showed their wisdom in allowing, instead of lead insertions, the burnishing of a small disc in the weights to receive the stamp. The lead addition, although more susceptible of impression, would have involved much expense to manufacturers who had already large stocks on hand, besides being open to the objection that it was liable to drop out during changes in temperature or by the weights falling on the floor, and could easily be hollowed out for fraudulent purposes. Objection has been made, we understand, by the government to the use of the "balance ball" in platform scales. This certainly has a tendency to encourage unfair practices, but its great convenience as a regulator in this class of scales should compensate for the risk of an occasional case of dishonesty; besides sellers and buyers are so generally aware of its existence that there is but little chance of its being used except to counter-balance any encrusted accumulation on the platform of the scales. Not so reasonable or practical, perhaps, was the suggestion to the manufacturers to decimalize the pound weight by marking it into ten equal parts on the scale beam, which would, we imagine, have the effect of puzzling not only the retailers, but their customers also, in attempts to reconcile themselves to receiving only ten ounces for a pound, or giving for each ounce henceforth, an ounce and three-fifths.

We understand that these and some other reasonable objections, with the exception of that compelling the use of the official stamp and the attach-

ment of the double spirit level or plumb before setting up, have been conceded by the authorities in Ottawa on explanation of their consequent effects by some practical men in the business. It is to be regretted they did not think it necessary to consult them more generally when the Act was being drafted, and thereby have saved the country from the necessity of further changes in this respect, and the temporary crippling of trade meantime, consequent on such a state of things being enforced. We understand it is expected that the authorities contemplate making those modifications which are necessary in order to make the act what it was meant to be,—a boon to the country at large, the dealer and manufacturer as well as the consumer.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

The late rapid advance in the price of butter having had the effect of stimulating production there is considerable offering at the moment, while with large shipments from Canada and the United States to England the demand has fallen off, leaving the market in a very unsettled state. Sales of medium to good Western butter are difficult to effect, while holders of choice foreign made, when in a position to carry their stock, seem unwilling to offer their goods at the prices offered by buyers, viz., 22 to 23 cents for choice Brockville and Morrisburgh, and 24 cents for selected Townships. The make of cheese is falling off perceptibly, which is making orders here somewhat indifferent sellers. In the leading Western markets the price is higher than here. The English demand is fair, and a very strong effort is being made in England, especially on the part of Liverpool operators, to get the price down. The general opinion is that, if they succeeded, there would become very free buyers, but the marked falling off of shipments from New York and here in the last three weeks has prevented them gaining their point. Last year factory men held their cheese through the hot weather, determined they should rule the price; the result was that it spoiled on their hands in very large quantities, compelling them to ship to England on their own account, where they realised an average of 6c. per lb. This year they have profited by their experience in 1875 and sold their make as fast as it was cured, netting at the factory from June to August 1st an average of 8½c. per lb., the result has been that they commenced the fall season with no accumulation of stock, and, when the advance came, they had nothing but fresh goods and buyers paid with confidence full outside prices. We venture to pre-

dict that low as the hot weather prices obtained may seem, the balance sheet of all factorymen who have adopted this course will show a far better result than that of years when they have refused to meet the market when their cheese was ready to ship. They would do well to keep in mind that while they are manufacturing what has become now so popular in England, *i.e.*, mild cheese—that this class of cheese not being cured as high as English cheddars, their goods do not possess the keeping qualities that render them as saleable, if kept one month too long. The frost and snow which has come upon us so prematurely bid fair to make a short feeding season this fall and many holders regard the stock likely to be held over as unusually light, and are content to wait further developments in preference to offering at the present moment.

DRY GOODS REVIEW.

Business during the week has been tolerably brisk, travellers are sending in their orders pretty rapidly, and country merchants have shown a greater willingness to buy. The cold weather has, naturally, given great impetus to the knitted woollen goods trade. There is a great demand for fancy silk goods which is likely to continue, and fancy goods of all descriptions are sought after. The city trade in carpets is very fair, but the country trade in this branch is comparatively quiet.

The rise in silks is not likely to affect the market for the moment; later on, when repeat orders are coming in, all silk goods will show considerable advance. The decline in gold, combined with the advanced prices in New York, is likely to keep all American staple goods from this market, which will necessitate trade being kept more in the hands of our own people. Reports from England show that business is improving, and, consequently, prices have gone up. Notwithstanding a good crop, raw cotton is very low, and the mills, both in England and America, are not running full time. The clothing trade shows a slight improvement over last week, and manufacturers will shortly begin making goods for the spring trade. Canadian tweeds have a good steady sale and winter cloths are in demand.

REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT.

An agent in Arnprior representing several insurance companies there as may be seen by the letter of our Ottawa correspondent in this number, has for some time back been preparing, and industriously circulating by the thousands, an anonymous circular, headed "Startling Facts," attacking the Canada