

SOME HINTS FOR STOREKEEPERS.

We wonder, asks the *Chicago Grocer*, if it is the custom among all our retail grocers to check off carefully from their invoices all the goods received, the weight and the number of packages, also if the extensions are carefully gone over and proved correct. We know of a number of merchants in other retail lines who do not. It should be done every time. Extraordinary errors are sometimes thus discovered and inaccurate clerks are quite as often found in wholesale stores as in the retail. Just think how profits could be reduced by a \$10 error on a bill of about a \$100. Check over every figure and initial every bill you receive to show that you have been over it and proved its correctness. The same journal also asks:

Are you giving any attention to your windows? Are they dusty and dirty, or have you made it obligatory on the part of your clerks to devote a few hours every week to thoroughly cleaning them and tastefully arranging a display of your goods? See to it that next to keeping everything in the window clean, the display is made attractive by constant change and variety of goods.

The *Dry Goods Chronicle* has some earnest words on the importance of competent and trustworthy clerks: The chief qualifications to be sought for in a clerk, next to ability, (says an old merchant,) are honesty and politeness. A high degree of moral principle is in itself a necessary qualification in a post of trust and responsibility, and it is usually associated with a cultivated and improved state of the intellectual faculties. Politeness of manner and patience, or a serenity of temper which nothing can disturb, are essential qualifications of a good clerk. An impolite, impudent, or ill-tempered clerk may drive away more custom than ten good men can bring together.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE RETURNS.

CITY.	June '86	June '85	Inc or Dec
Montreal customs.	\$630,235	\$471,685	158,550 I
do. excise ..	92,869	130,125	37,256 D
Toronto customs.	236,765	189,970	46,795 I
do. excise ..	28,976	125,678	96,702 D
Halifax customs.	62,328	110,901	.....
do. excise ..	9,530	18,606	9,075 D
St. John customs.	54,832	54,940	108 D
do. excise ..	14,437	7,551	6,886 I
Hamilton customs.	49,741	49,869	128 D
do. excise ..	14,027	9,665	5,262 I
London customs.	35,168	29,975	5,193 I
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Quebec customs.	59,803	58,623	1,180 I
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Ottawa customs.	19,813	12,722	7,091 I
do. excise ..	16,416	7,985	8,431 I
Kingston customs.	13,450	14,760	1,310 D
do. excise ..	5,221	.....	.....
Brantford customs.	7,864	.....	.....
do. excise ..	4,079	.....	.....
Belleville customs.	1,987	2,966	979 D
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Winnipeg customs.	34,741	45,448	10,707 D
do. excise ..	7,972	.....	.....
Guelph customs.	.....	.....	500 I
do. excise ..	3,302	1,796	1,505 I
St. Catharines....	.....	.....	.....
do. excise ..	1,711	.....	.....
Stratford customs.	54,914	.....	.....
do. excise ..	2,543	.....	.....

—Collector Seeberger, of Chicago, has succeeded in bringing about a change in the regulations pertaining to Canadian vessels which will be appreciated by Canadian masters. He has secured the consent of Commissioner Patten to permit Canadians to report at Port Huron for permission to enter Lake Michigan instead of Cheboygan. Vessels coming from Lake Superior will have to stop at Cheboygan as in the past. For vessels arriving from the lower lakes, however, Port Huron is a better and safer port to enter than Cheboygan, and the stop there will not involve so much loss of time as at the latter place.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Tilsonburg, June 30.—E. D. Tillson's oatmeal mill, loss \$28,000, insurance \$13,000.—Petrolia, July 1.—Harper's stove sheds and four cars destroyed, loss \$1,000.—Ingersoll, 2.—James Scott's house burned, loss \$800.—A. N. Christopher's churn factory, loss \$2,000, insured.—F. Richardson's planing mill, Sinclair's tin shop and Sutherland's blacksmith shop destroyed, loss \$3,000.—Paris 2.—Lloyd Bros., carriage works gutted, loss \$5,000, insured in Phoenix, \$3,300.—Peterboro, 3.—Wm. Yelland's barn burned, loss \$1,500, insured in Hand and Hand \$1,000.—Orangeville, 5.—Gilchrist & Kent's general store burned, loss \$17,000, insured for \$8,000 in Western and Lancashire.—Sydenham, 5.—A building owned by Booth & Woodruff consumed, loss \$1,000, insurance \$300.—Mount Forest, 5.—Coyne's stables burned.—Chatsworth, 6.—Robert McNally's wagon shop and A. McArthur's blacksmith shop destroyed, McNally's losses \$1,100, insured; McArthur's loss is \$1,500, insurance \$1,300.—Hamilton, 5.—Fitzgerald's flour mill slightly damaged.—Harwich, 6.—Geo. Moore's outbuildings burned, loss \$1,000, insurance \$500.—Florence, 6.—J. Atkinson's furniture factory consumed, loss \$5,000, insurance \$2,000.—Toronto, 7.—A building owned by G. A. Cox, and occupied by F. W. Ratcliffe, tinware, Coffin, Taylor & Co., engravers and P. W. Ellis & Co., jewellers, slightly damaged, insured in Lancashire and Citizens.—Thos. Broomhall's house, St. Mary St., damaged \$250.—Ottawa, 7.—A lime kiln owned by H. Robillard, M. P. P.

burned, loss \$2,000.—McKellar, 7.—Armstrong's harness shop, Marsden's dwelling, Winterton's store, Watkins' blacksmith shop, and McKeown's stables burned, losses as follows: Armstrong, \$1,400, insured \$700; Winterton's, \$3,000; Marsden, \$2,200, insured \$400; Watkins, \$500.—Stratford, 7.—A fire started in R. Shore's stables destroying them together with the following: Wm Fitzgerald's shoe store, A. T. Stewart's harness shop, H. McLarty's butcher shop, owned by F. Schroeder, J. J. Wadley's fish store, owned by T. T. Irving, and Mrs. Fuller's stables, Schroeder is insured in Mercantile and Queens, Mrs. Fuller and T. T. Irving are insured \$300, each in Perth Mut. and A. T. Stewart covered in Huron and Middlesex. OTHER PROVINCES.—Quebec, 5.—T. J. Lamontagne's saw mills at Escoumain destroyed.

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