

Trade Notes

Geo. H. Cameron is opening a new drug store at Dauphin, Man.

Dr. Gear has purchased the drug business of R. Wood, Erin, Ont.

F. W. Fawcett & Co. are opening a new drug store in Victoria, B.C.

Dr. S. Clarke and W. E. Janline are opening a drug store at Ashcroft, B.C.

M. A. Eby has opened a new drug store at Yorktown, Assiniboia, N.W.T.

Burbridge & Colwell, druggists, Halifax, N.S., have dissolved partnership. George A. Burbridge continues the business.

Geo. W. Andrews, druggist, Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, has made an assignment.

T. F. Carey is opening a new drug store on Queen street west, near Teraulay street, Toronto, Ont.

T. B. Barker & Sons Co., limited, is now the firm name of the drug firm of T. Barker & Sons, St. John, N.B.

C. G. Taylor, druggist, Bridgewater, N.S., is offering to compromise with his creditors. Mr. Taylor lost heavily in the disastrous fire of February 12th.

W. E. Brunets, one of the oldest and most prominent druggists of the Province of Quebec, died at his residence, St. Ursule street, Quebec city, March 7th, aged 66 years.

Wallace & Eagleson have purchased the drug business of Griffiths & McPherson, Vancouver, B.C. The latter firm have moved to Toronto, Ont., and will engage altogether in the proprietary medicine business.

Montreal Notes.

The bill introduced into the Quebec Legislature by the Retail Grocers' Association left the hands of that body considerably changed. However, *permission was given to storekeepers to sell patent and proprietary medicines, but nothing more.* As a matter of fact, the small grocers and country storekeepers have always sold these goods more or less, and were never interfered with by the Pharmaceutical Association of this province so long as they kept within bounds. When the Departmental Octopus took up the advertising of these articles, and even drugs, it was then considered necessary, as a

matter of self-protection, to invoke the law.

When the law was enforced against these stores by some occult means, the grocery men became preternaturally excited, and eventually sent their officers and a lawyer or two to Quebec to fight a battle which a little foresight would have shown them will eventually only benefit the departmental stores, who are already very serious competitors with grocers.

Of course, the departmental stores only want patent medicines for advertising purposes, and their great point will be to advertise the most popular ones at about cost.

This, it is evident, will eventually do the manufacturers much harm, and corner grocers can hardly be expected to risk part of their capital in attempting to compete with these great monopolies.

All this goes to show the immense power these mammoth departmental stores will eventually wield in a country like Canada, if they are not kept in check by judicious legislation. The press, it is clear, is completely in their power, owing to the immense amount of advertising it receives. This was painfully evident during the recent session of the Quebec Legislature.

A meeting of the pharmacists will be held in a few days to consider the policy to be followed as soon as the departmental stores show their hands.

The Retail Grocers' Association met recently and according to the *Gazette's* report of the treasurer's statement, that official stated to the corner grocery men present that \$1,200 had been spent in getting the grocers' amendment to the pharmacy act through the legislature, but, said he, it was money very well spent, as now any grocer could keep a drug store providing he engaged a chemist as clerk!!!

It is sad to think what a mournful awakening this poor grocery artist will have when he gets a nice little corner in his grocery fitted up as a drug store and a gentlemanlike licentiate of pharmacy behind the counter. As I say elsewhere in my notes, the only advantage grocers have gained by the amendments is that they may sell patent and proprietary medicines.

It would be interesting to Mr. March- and if the treasurer of the Grocers' Asso-

ciation would give him the items explaining where the eleven or twelve hundred dollars which it cost the association to have a simple bill, originally of two clauses, presented and passed by the legislature of this province went to.

Taxing Departmental Stores.

An endeavor has been made in the Province of Quebec to legislate on that most difficult matter, the regulation of departmental stores.

A bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly seeking to introduce a tax on the separate departments of any store when it exceeds a certain number of such departments. This bill was thrown out, and since that time the members of the Assembly, as well as of the Legislative Council, seem to have been playing a game of "pitch and toss."

A bill was introduced in the last days of the session of the Council imposing a tax of 2½ per cent. upon the annual value of each department in any such store. This in addition to the present tax would make a store with six departments pay about 22½ per cent. This proposition was accepted by the Committee of the House, but when before the Council itself an amendment to reduce the tax to 1 per cent. was carried by a vote of 17 to 3.

This bill, however, when transferred to the Legislative Assembly was thrown out by a vote of 23 to 10, therefore the matter stands as it was, no additional tax being passed on a store having several departments.

What Legislation Costs.

The fight for the amendment of the Quebec Pharmacy Act, which has just been passed in the Local Legislature of that province, seems to have been rather an expensive one for the Grocers' Association, as the report of the treasurer presented at the meeting of that association states that the proportion of the expense incurred was \$1100.

If it costs one association so much, how much did it cost all interested parties to put through a bill which virtually leaves both the grocer and departmental stores worse off than before the passing of the amendment?

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