

complained of practice of the brawny laborer who lets his pickaxe drop over his shoulder at five o'clock and goes home to watch his wife scrubbing the floor. In both cases the country suffers a great loss through idleness. The second item is the Civic Holiday—an institution peculiar to this Province. Why the naming of this day should not be in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor, I cannot see. All the cities, towns and villages would then have one midsummer day of rest. Preparations would be made for it. The opportunities for enjoyment would be greater and business would be prepared for it. Under the present system, a traveller cannot possibly avoid striking a number of towns during August when he is compelled to wait a day or skip to the next place.

The third item, consisting of Carnivals, Fairs and Exhibitions, cannot, I suppose, be helped, nor would one try to interfere with them, being, as they are, the greatest sources of business education that we have at hand. The two first causes of loss, however, are very serious ones, and I am sure that the storekeepers would make an effort to remedy them did they fully appreciate the fact that they mean 20 per cent. less sales by each traveller on the same expenses, that there would be 20 per cent. fewer travellers call on them, and that in a short time this extra expense would be taken off the cost of their goods by the wholesalers who would soon see that they could afford to sell on closer margins.

If the retailers have any real objection to Saturday work I have no doubt you will grant them ample space for their letters.

TORONTO MERCHANT.

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