

AN EARLY CLOSING ACT.

IN Ontario a local option early closing Act is in force and has been tried, but with indifferent success. At the late session of the Quebec Legislature a bill was introduced by Mr. Auge, which was thrown out. The bill is worthy of study because this question is becoming one of increasing importance to the mercantile portion of the community. The tendency in all employments has been for the past fifty years towards shorter hours of employment. The longest of working hours are those common in stores and shops. Nevertheless the tendency of the times is towards a shortening of these, partly by voluntary action and partly by legislation. Progress is slow, as was shown in the previous issue of The Review. Mr. Auge has recently discussed the matter with the dry goods employers and clerks in Montreal, and reasons were advanced pro and con regarding the gentleman's Early Closing Bill. The Bill as proposed applies only to the larger towns and cities, but other municipalities may pass by-laws to provide similar arrangements, on request to the council of two-thirds of the interested class of traders. It exempts tobacco shops, news depots, hotels and restaurants, and meat and vegetable stalls from its provisions, and grocery stores are to be allowed to keep open until nine o'clock. Other shops shall be closed at seven o'clock in the evening, and remain closed until five o'clock the next morning, except, however, the evenings of Saturday and those preceding public holidays, and also during the last two weeks in December. Goods may be sold in case of death, illness or accident, and apothecaries' shops may sell medicines and surgical instruments. If three-fourths of the merchants, proprietors, tenants, or occupants of shops in these towns, or if three-fourths of the merchants trading in similar products so desire, they may petition the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and he may declare that the Act shall no longer apply to such town or to such a class of merchants. The proposed bill is not sweeping in its reform measure, but framed rather to suit circumstances, and providing for the advancement of public opinion on the question of early closing. It is to be regretted that the bill did not meet a better fate, or at least find a worthy substitute. But Mr. Auge is right in placing the matter before the public, because it is becoming more and more convincing, as the result of scientific and economic research, that long hours of labor means mental and physical deterioration. It is to be regretted that employers will not recognize this and close their shops early in the interests of humanity. Many are doing this, as The Review has pointed out in recent issues; but unfortunately there will always be a number who will grind out of their employees all that avaricious greediness can extract. These men teach the public to buy in the evenings, in order that they may help swell the profits of gas and electric light companies and wear out the lives of the clerks. A shortening of hours is consonant with the changes in the working hours of the laborer, who now quits work an hour earlier in many cases, and consequently the laborer's wife can buy earlier in the day than formerly. This removes one of the previous objections to this movement for

shorter hours among the mercantile classes. It is to be hoped that the people of Quebec will force the passage of this bill.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

ONTARIO.

Mrs. R. A. McDonald, milliner, Barrie, is dead.
C. McEvela, of Noel & McEvela, dry goods, Ottawa, is dead.
D. E. Carman, dry goods, Prescott, is trying to compromise.
F. Glenney, of Ellis & Glenney, dry goods, Oshawa, is dead.
Thos. Rowe continues the business of Caddy & Rowe, London.
W. J. Hunniford, hats and caps, St. Catharines, has assigned.
W. J. McAlpine, tailor, is removing from Mitchell to Walkerton.
Whittaker Hill tailor, Ottawa, has assigned to J. Wilson, Lawrence.
Alex. Robertson, grocer and dry goods merchant, Perth, is offering to compromise.
F. J. Wagner, men's furnishings, Newmarket, is advertising his stock for sale by tender.
On August 18th fire destroyed Long's large dry goods store in Ridgeway. Loss, \$10,000.
The firm of Shaw and Grundy, merchant tailors, Guelph, has been changed to Shaw and Turner.
Slomemsky & Wartelsky, men's furnishings, Carleton Place, are offering to compromise at 60 cents on the dollar.
Avarm, Kellam & Co., dry goods merchants and tailors, London, have dissolved partnership and Mr. Avarm continues.
The Wingham woollen mill has changed hands, Mr. J. A. Moody of St. Thomas having purchased it from Mr. Armstrong and taken possession last week.
After three years of business the firm of Williams, Deacon & Co., hat manufacturers, are proceeding to liquidate. Creditors have been offered 40 cents on the dollar.
The stock of M. Lamont & Co. was sold for twenty-five cents on the dollar. Its value was \$3,200. The book debts, amounting to \$1,700, were sold for 17 1/2 cents on the dollar.
Messrs. W. G. Bruntoun & Son, London, sold under chattel mortgage the stock of W. T. Bell, of Watford, to Mr. Rose of Shilcoo. The dry goods, valued at \$5,000, realized 31 cents on the dollar, and the gents' furnishings, valued at \$695, sold for 55 cents on the dollar.
The stock of J. J. Tonkin & Co., hatters, 155 Yonge street, Toronto, was sold by Campbell & May for 54 cents to Hather Bros. of Walkerton. The furniture and shop fixtures inventoried at \$1,500 were withdrawn by the assignees.
At a meeting of the creditors of R. G. Abell, the insolvent hat and cap dealer of Queen street east, the stock was sold to Mr. D. G. Bradwick of London, at 50 cents on the dollar. The stock was valued at \$1,000.
J. D. Richardson about six months ago bought a stock of men's furnishings at 65 King street west, Toronto, and commenced a rushing business, which ended by his rushing away to Chicago, much to the sorrow of a large number of both wholesalers and retailers.

QUEBEC.

O. Bouchard, dry goods, Quebec, store closed.
H. Prevost & Co., dry goods, Montreal, are in trouble.
F. N. Moisan, dry goods, Montreal, sold to Robert & Joudin.
Campbell & Cno-Mars, dry goods, are selling their stock on the 26th.
A. Kelsow, ready-made clothing, Montreal, has sold out to T. R. Barbeau.
Mr. Delphis Drolet, dry goods merchant of St. Roch, has assigned. His liabilities are \$50,000.
MANITOBA AND WEST.
J. Robertson, tailor, Minnedosa, has sold out to Mr. Winding.
W. Wilson continues the business of Wilson & Creighton, B. C.
W. G. Potter, Northfield, B. C. is closing out his tailoring business.
H. B. Rose & Co., merchant tailors, are removing from Lethbridge to Winnipeg.
Dorsey & Cunliff, men's furnishings, Winnipeg, have dissolved, and the latter continues.

MARITIME PROVINCES.

Mrs. Matilda A. Powell, milliner, Yarmouth, P. S., has assigned.
Paton, James & Co., dry goods, Charlottetown, P. E. I., have dissolved.

MILLIONS
INVESTED IN ADVERTISING.

No matter how hard you try to drive it into the craniums of some business men, you can't make them believe that millions of dollars are invested annually in advertising mediums. Here are a few facts and figures, however, that can easily be verified. For instance, there is Harper's Magazine, which derives a yearly income of \$350,000 from its advertising patrons in its twelve issues. Pear's Soap pays \$9000 a year for a single page in the Century. Enoch Morgan's Sons spend annually \$300,000 to keep "Sapallo" before the public. As for John Wanamaker, it has long been known that he pays a man \$10,000 a year only to write his advertisements. In 1888, no less than \$110,000,000 went into newspaper advertising. Perhaps advertising does pay after all.—Fancy Goods Graphic.

This is what the London Advertiser says about the chief event of one day at the Western Fair, Sept. 15 to 24: On Tuesday, however, there will be assembled perhaps the largest society gathering ever witnessed in Canada, when it is expected by the grand officers that from 5,000 to 10,000, or probably more, Patrons of Industry, headed by their bands, carrying banners and bunting, will meet at the Market Square and march to the Fair Grounds, where arrangements have been made for seating accommodations on the stands, there to be addressed by the grand officers and prominent officials of the order, and enjoy the full programme of special attractions. The object of this meeting is intended to be one grand rally for the purpose of showing to the world that the Patrons of Industry are neither dead nor sleeping, as some suppose and venture to assert, but on the contrary are a live and great organization.