



Harmon's visit to Boston was made for the purpose of increasing his supply of watch movements, but in this he was unsuccessful, as there were no more to be had. The Waltham Watch Co. is now turning over some 2,300 movements a day, but is still unable to catch up with orders.

Mr. Jacob Dover, jeweler, of Nelson, B.C., paid a visit to Montreal during the past month, accompanied by Mrs. Dover, and afterwards left for the United States markets, returning by way of Montreal and Toronto.

Mr. Geo. Ellis, of Messrs. P. W. Ellis & Co., made his usual business trip to Montreal recently and it is understood that he booked some good lines.

The many friends of Prof. McLeod, chief time superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway service, will regret to learn of the death of one of his daughters.

Mr. Jas. A. Pitts, jobber, Montreal, was recently in Toronto and district, with his representative there, paying a visit to his many customers.

Mr. T. P. Bowen, representing Mr. Jas. Eastwood in Toronto, was in Montreal about the middle of May on business for the firm. By the by, Mr. Eastwood sent Mr. Harmon a most beautiful bouquet of sweet-smelling "Trailing Arbutus," which, it goes without saying, was much appreciated.

Mr. Walter J. Barr, vice-president and managing director of the Goldsmith Stock Co., was a recent guest at the Windsor Hotel, which is, indeed, the jewelers' house. Fortunately the genial Walter escaped being quarantined, which is said to be a most uncommonly tiresome experience. Mr. Alfred Eaves and family had fortunately just moved out of the hotel before the cases of smallpox occurred.

Mr. Joseph C. Barlow, bookkeeper to the Canadian branch of the American Waltham Watch Co., has taken a few days' holiday to recuperate after a heavy spell of work.

Mr. Chas. Bachley, the missionary representative of the American Watch Case Co., has been making an interesting tour through the Provinces. This firm is now showing a very pretty card with designs of diamond set filled cases, which show card will, we learn, be supplied to any retailer upon application.

It is stated that Messrs. J. and B. C. Silver, jobbers, are about to close out their business here and set up an establishment at Providence, R. I. The Messrs. Silver were called upon, but they were "too busy just now" to either affirm or deny the statement.

Mr. I. A. Brady, of Messrs. Smith, Patterson & Co., who was taken sick during a recent trip in the North-West, has now recovered sufficiently to return to business.

Mr. Frank Ellis, of the James E. Ellis Co., Toronto, was a recent visitor to Montreal, and afterwards left to inspect some of the factories of Providence, Boston, and other United States cities. While in Massachusetts Mr. Ellis will pay a visit to the American Waltham Watch Co.'s factory.

Mr. Moise Schwob, formerly of Montreal, and now of Schwob Bros., New York, spent a week in our city during May, looking after his various interests here.

Some years ago, Mr. William Eaves trusted a retailer named Goldbloom with some goods that were never paid for. More recently Mrs. Goldbloom has set up in business under the style

of Goldbloom & Co., and upon the stock Mr. Eaves made a seizure. This seizure was contested in the courts and Mr. Eaves won, but this decision has been reversed in the Superior Court, and Mr. Eaves has lost.

HOCHELAGA.

A REPLY TO OLD TIME WATCHMAKER.

Editor TRADER—Sir:

I noticed a letter by Old Time Watchmaker in your magazine in which two questions are asked which much interest me. To the first question, "Is the watchmaker of to-day a man who can creditably make and fit any part of any watch, or is he only a watch-cleaner?" I beg to say the good workman of to-day can, as in the past, make and fit any part to any watch, and more, he can get a finer rate out of it, as this is an additional requirement of the good workman of to-day. Putting them into proper mechanical order is the first necessary part, timing them is another.

So far as the general run of a workman of to-day is concerned, he is for the most part simply a watch-cleaner, and in general he does not make an extra good clean job of it either. He can neither make new parts, and, as a result, cannot intelligently purchase materials, for he does not know how and where to examine for mechanical defects, nor can he creditably alter the parts he buys. He does not understand the principles underlying his work, therefore has neither the skill and knowledge to adjust a watch to positions and temperatures.

This is a result of the conditions of to-day, and they cannot be worse, yet expert workmen are required as much, if not more so, to-day than they ever were. The fact is, apprenticeships have become meaningless; the boy who is taught the mechanical and scientific part of his trade is the exception. Out of several hundred Canadian boys who put in apprenticeships varying from three to five years, I have met less than six who could make a balance pivot properly, and not one who could make a square shoulder pivot. I have met but one who had any idea of technical drawing, and less than ten who had an intelligent conception of the term "watchmaker," and who prided themselves in the name when first I met them. Some think it next to a crime to waste a boy's time like that. Many of the best workmen and stores recognize that, under the present conditions, they cannot *teach* an apprentice and do not take them. Proper intelligence and liking for the trade is so often wanting in boys that employers should be very careful in advising them to follow it. From my experience in such matters, I can recommend an examination by a competent phrenologist; so far every boy I met who came so recommended made a success of horology.

It is my opinion, founded on an extensive experience, that in so far as the boy is concerned, two years should be the limit of his "apprenticeship" in a store; after that he should be placed under a competent instructor, who makes a speciality of *teaching*, for a sufficient length of time—about two years—to enable him, firstly, to make new parts, which also enables him, secondly, to *properly* choose, adapt, and fit bought-in material, and thirdly, to adjust watches. The workman who