

THE CANADIAN MECHANIC'S MAGAZINE AND PATENT OFFICE RECORD

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TO OUR READERS.

IN closing the fifth volume of this MAGAZINE, we cannot but express our deep regret at the great depression which still continues to affect all branches of manufactures and trades. The building trade, especially, has so severely suffered during the last two years by the great falling off in the value of real estate, that thousands of mechanics will, we fear, this winter, find it very hard to avoid running into debt. It should not be forgotten however, and the moral lesson now taught to us borne in mind, that for some years past, mechanics have had ample employment and at a rate of wages beyond what capitalists could long go on paying, and that very few of them have laid by out of good pay, any provision against a depression which is sure to follow a long train of prosperity. We hope that such proprietors who are able to spare their money in improving their property, will confer a boon upon a large body of industrious men by finding them employment, and help them to maintain their wives and children during the trying period of a long Canadian winter.

When we say that the building trade has suffered more than any other, it is because there are so many branches of mechanical trades involved in the building of a house; at least twelve different trades are interested in its construction; and when we know it to be a fact that a great number of these have been for a long time past, and are still, out of employment, and the rest working on reduced wages, it is not surprising to us when we are informed that all scientific publications feel the pressure of the times as well as those who have always contributed so largely to their support. To say that this Journal has not felt the effect of this stagnation in business, would be pretending to a degree of prosperity not in accordance with the facts; but still hoping that the day may not be far distant when the wheels of all our manufactories will be again revolving, and trade moving on a firmer basis, we look forward for the continued support of all those who have so gener-

ously retained their names upon our subscription list, and hope for a rapid increase of subscribers as soon as the times improve. We were in expectation that, ere this, the prospect of a change for the better would have enabled us to have added some additional attractive matter to the MAGAZINE, and we regret that the desire to add something additional by way of a useful supplement, must be deferred for brighter days, as at present every publication of this kind is carried on at a great disadvantage to the publishers. The subject matter, however, will be made more varied, and certain desirable changes will be introduced to make the reading lighter; although always keeping in view the useful and scientific, we desire to make its columns more generally attractive to a greater number of readers to whom heavy and dry mechanical matters, however important to large iron manufactories, have to a great body of readers little or no interest.

Hitherto, we have in vain sought for correspondence from both subscribers and non-subscribers, on subjects of general interest to mechanics,—such as those contributions and questions which fill the better half of the "English Mechanic and World of Science." We have no doubt but that there is a great deal of interesting information to be communicated with respect to our Industries, Manufactures and Inventions which would be most desirable for the country to know, and which would be more generally known if the facts were communicated to us, and some illustration afforded; besides, a great deal of information might be obtained through our columns in a page for Questions and Answers. A MAGAZINE of this kind is a natural channel for introducing to scientific men all such information; it would then be circulated throughout the whole Dominion and the United States (where, by the way, we acknowledge, with thanks, many subscribers). Such subjects, when accompanied with illustrations and appearing in this MAGAZINE, would receive far more attention from the public than when merely noticed by local papers. It should be the medium, also, of making known to the public all important inventions.

THE CANADIAN MECHANIC'S MAGAZINE being also embodied with THE CANADIAN PATENT OFFICE RECORD of Canada, is the best medium patentees could use for making known their inventions. The mere record of