

THE CASH REGISTER AND ITS DEVELOPMENT.

MUCH is heard in these days of the development of the telegraph, the telephone, electric lighting and various applications of electricity. None the less interesting is the story of the development of the cash register, which has become, in these days, almost an indispensable part of a merchant's equipment.

Some 12 or 15 years ago, the first cash register, in crude form, was shown to merchants. It originally consisted of a dial, showing two sets of figures for dollars and cents, and registering the amounts by the pointing of the hands of the dial. This was very crude, but was used by many merchants, because it was a decided advance upon the old methods of business.

The next step in invention was a paper strip, ruled in columns corresponding to definite amounts of money, which were indicated on the keys of the register. These keys when pressed, punched holes in the columns. It was necessary, to find the total of the day's business, at the close of the day to take from the register the strip of paper, count the number of holes in each column, multiply by the amounts represented by the columns, respectively, and then add the totals of these different columns.

Following this came the wheel register, in which the keys, when pressed, turned the wheels for each denomination. As they revolved they indicated the number of times each amount was sold. In order to find the total, the amount represented by each wheel must be multiplied by the number of sales indicated on the wheel and then the separate quantities must be added together. The next step in invention was to indicate on each wheel the actual total of the sales of that denomination. At a glance the operator can tell how much has been added on each wheel. These amounts must then be combined in order to obtain the total of the day's business. This machine is the detail-adder, so well known among merchants, and is still made. It served an excellent purpose, and was a very great improvement on all previous methods in retail business.

However, like the earlier telegraph and telephone, the detail-adder was satisfactory only for a time, because there was nothing better. Some merchants still use it, but with nearly all wide-awake dealers, both in the United States and Canada, it has become a back number and has given way to the later invention of the total-adder. This register, upon pressing the keys, adds into one amount all the sales of the different wheels. As a result, the total of cash receipts at any hour of the day may be seen at once. Special transactions, such as money paid out, money changed, money received on account, etc., are also taken care of by this register.

The latest development, however, is the register which combines the total-adder with the detail-printer and check-printer, giving a most excellent opportunity for complete system and for special forms of advertising, as well as showing a full history of the day's business.

The advantages of registers of this class are that they add into one total all the sales made during the day, print a check showing the amount of the sale, as well as the date, consecutive number, clerk's initial and proprietor's card, tell how many sales have been made each day, keep each clerk's sales or the sales in each department separate, take care, in the same way, of credit sales, money paid out and money received on account, tell at what time in the morning the store was opened, and print on a strip of paper inside the register, under lock, a complete, detailed record of each transaction as it occurs.

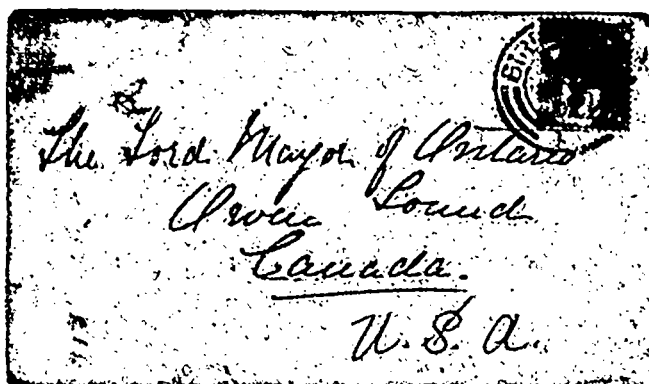
These later developments of the cash register are remarkable for their precision and comprehensive character. The merchant who desires to keep pace with the system and business of to-day is no longer satisfied with the detail-adder, but finds necessary, for

the most economical conduct of his business, the latest style of total-adder and check-printer. The various improvements made have placed the detail-adder far in the rear, so that the detail register that formerly cost \$150 or more, is now supplemented by one that will do the same work satisfactorily at a cost of \$50 or \$60.

These steps in the development of this important adjunct to good business show the advancement of invention as fully as do the more frequently heard of improvements in the applications of electricity.

AN EXTRAORDINARY BLUNDER.

THE ignorance which abounds in Europe in regard to the geography of Canada and the flag to which the country owes allegiance is astonishing. Even in Great Britain, the parent states grave mistakes are sometimes made in matters of this kind. The following cut, a reproduction of an envelope handed to THE DRY GOODS REVIEW by a subscriber, is an ocular demonstration of this:



There is no Lord Mayor of Ontario. In fact there are no Lord Mayors on this continent. We have mayors. Owen Sound, Ontario, has a mayor. His name is T. I. Thompson, and when he is not attending to his municipal duties he sells hardware. Into his hands the letter fell. It bears the postmark of "Birmingham, July 12, 1897," and was from a lady in that well-known city who desired the "Lord Mayor of Ontario, Owen Sound, Canada, U.S.A.," to supply her with certain information regarding certain real estate.

Judging from the chirography, the writer of the envelope had been taught to use the pen but not the book of geography, even of the British Empire.

Alas, alas! And is that all the preferential tariff, the visit of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Canadian troops to Great Britain has done for Canada? Talk about a father not knowing his own child, this doubly discounts it.

In the event of this reaching the eye of someone sitting in the same darkness as the Birmingham lady, we beg to remind them that Owen Sound is a town in the province of Ontario, that Ontario is a province in the Dominion of Canada, that Canada occupies the bigger half of the North American continent, covering an area of 3,456,383 square miles, and is the greatest of the British colonies and not a part of the United States.

STITOED EVER-READY DRESS STAYS.

The attention of all progressive merchants is directed to the advertisement on another page of this issue of the silk stitched "Ever-Ready" dress stays, a new and most attractive line just being placed on the market for the fall trade. That style, "Ever-Ready" ribbon, is a novelty entirely new in Canada, and you no doubt will want to see samples thereof, as well as the sateen and satin, any or all of which will cheerfully be sent on application.