



other staff, Dr. Geiger for optical department, Mr. Westby for the watch repairing department. Mr. J. McCauley, on behalf of the factory, presented Mr. Lackie, who is going to the Paris Fair, with a handsome watch suitably engraved. Mr. A. J. Brown presented Horst Sellis with a large signet ring from the firm's baseball club in recognition of past favors. Mr. Wilkinson presented Joe White with a handsome gift. The party reached home in good time, tired, but thoroughly pleased with their trip.

A TRUE PATRIOT.—The son of the Rev. A. Findlay, of Barrie, Ont., was one of the gallant young Canadians who gave up his life at the battle of the Modder just previous to General Cronje's surrender. In reply to a resolution of sympathy from the council of the town of Barrie, Mr. Findlay replied: "The fact that our gallant son fell in defence of the Empire and the rights and liberties of British citizens is to us a source of comfort. If this cruel war has the effect, which doubtless it will, of welding more closely together the varied interests of our noble Empire, while it secures for the down-trodden and oppressed those rights and liberties which under the British flag will be theirs, we feel honored in being permitted to bear a share of the terrible price, by which those blessings are being purchased." This has the right ring about it; and while condoling with Mr. Findlay upon his irreparable loss, we must admire the spirit in which he takes it, and his wish that out of the present evil may come good to mankind.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.—Trade generally during the past month has been quiet, especially during the last two weeks. The reason given for this by dealers throughout the country is that the unusually severe snow storms blocked the roads so completely as to prevent the farmers from hauling their grain to market, and consequently they did but little buying. This has been especially true of the jewelry trade during the first two weeks of March, but the latter half of the month has shown a decided improvement, and most of our jewelers have been fairly busy and making more than the average number of sales. American watch movements keep scarce and prices are as fully maintained as during the holiday season. Watch cases have stiffened somewhat in price on account of the advance in labor, more particularly in the engraving department of all the factories owing to the strike in the United States. Clock manufacturers are as busy as during last year and prices remain normal. In gold and plated jewelry the demand continues very brisk and appearances indicate that prices of last year will be maintained during the coming season.

MR. E. SAUNDERS, of Saunders, Lorie & Co., manufacturing jewelers, of Toronto, arrived home about the middle of March, crossing the Atlantic on the steamer *Lucania* and coming by way of New York. He reports a first-class trip in every way, and although diamonds were scarce and dear he managed to pick up some very nice lots of unset stones. Mr. Saunders says that the general impression amongst the diamond merchants of Great Britain and the Continent is that the price of diamonds will go up slightly in the near future, and that it certainly will not rule lower than at present for a long time to come, if at all. As is well known to the trade, the world's diamond supply is practically in the hands of one syndicate whose interest it is to keep prices up to their present standard as long as possible in order to recoup themselves for their tremendous loss during the present war in the Transvaal. It is said in England the first shipment of diamonds from Kimberley since its relief by General Lord Roberts is now on the way, and as the bidding for it will be very spirited, an advance of at least five per cent. on present prices is expected for it.

ASTONISHING.—We were somewhat astonished to learn the other day that the number of students who attend the Canadian Horological Institute from the United States is yearly increasing, and that if it keeps up at its present ratio it will only be a matter of time when the students from the other side of the line will far outnumber our Canadian students. It is singular that the same state of affairs obtains at the Veterinary College in Toronto, the fame of which is so great in the United States that more than one-half of the students for years past have been from across the line. While this is in a

manner to be regretted in the case of the Horological Institute, it must also be a source of pride to Principal Playtner that his school has intrinsic merit enough to draw so many students from a country where competition in this line is even more than keen. It certainly speaks volumes for the high standard of his institute, and the practical results which come from its course of instruction. The old book says: "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country." It almost looks like it, in the case of the Canadian Horological Institute.

A TORONTO CROOK NABBED.—Early on the morning of the 27th March, as Police Constable Crowe, of Toronto, was patrolling his beat on Yonge Street, he saw a man acting in a suspicious manner on West Richmond Street and followed him around until he entered a house at 188 West King Street. Here the policeman spoke to him, and, after a little questioning decided to place him under arrest on a charge of vagrancy. At the station the prisoner gave the name of James Phillips, but he was afterwards identified as one Fred. Thornton, a Toronto crook with a long and very bad record. In his pockets were found 38 gold plated watches, 119 rings, 48 penknives, 4 magnifying glasses, 4 match boxes and several other small articles. Phillips offered no explanation as to how he came by the valuables, and was placed in the cells to await developments. Only a short time elapsed before Constable Patterson reported at headquarters that Johnston & McFarlane's store at 110 Yonge Street had been entered by a rear door, and a large amount of jewelry carried off. The valuables found on Phillips were afterwards identified as part of the stolen property, and the prisoner was then charged with the shop-breaking. He pleaded "not guilty" and was remanded for a week for trial.

CORUNDUM DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA. Mr. Archibald Blue, director of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, last month received a letter from Mr. George Edwards, the millionaire silver manufacturer, of Bridgeport, Conn., U.S., saying that the corundum lands which he controls in Eastern Ontario, would be at once developed. Mr. Edwards is the chief figure in the syndicate organized last summer by Mr. B. A. C. Craig, of Toronto. He states that organization has been completed, and that orders have been given for the erection of a building and equipment on the York branch, a tributary of the Madawaska, in the Township of Raglan, and on which corundum has been discovered. The contract of the syndicate with the Ontario Government calls for the erection of works with a capacity of one hundred tons per day. The corundum rock on this basis, providing the mill runs 300 days in the year, should produce 4,500 tons of pure corundum per annum. The syndicate has a bona fide offer from one of the largest emery wheel manufacturers in the United States to take 3,000 tons annually if it has a monopoly of the Canadian product. The syndicate has refused this offer, because it has offers from Germany, England, and the United States to take all its product. Already emery wheels have been manufactured from the corundum on the York branch by the Prescott Emery Wheel Co., the Hart Emery Wheel Co., of Hamilton, and half a dozen firms in the United States, and will be exhibited at Paris.

NOT AN OPTICAL ILLUSION, BUT AN OPTICAL "AT HOME."—The Cohen Brothers, Limited, are nothing if not original. We are familiar with Gymkhanas, Smoking Symposiums and other fashionable frills, but a real live Optical "At Home" furnishes the scratch mark for the new century. The "At Home," which was held in the Forum Hall on the evening of the 17th of March as a sort of house warming for the new premises of the Company, was a delightful gathering of the officers and the employees and friends, and numbered upwards of a hundred. Dancing was indulged in until the "wee sma' hours," plentifully interspersed with edible and musical numbers, and a "real live cake walk." In a short speech, Mr. L. G. Amsden, the Secretary of the company, briefly referred to the part the employees had borne in creating a Canadian industry, and pointed with pride to the fact that of the large staff of experts in the employ of the firm not one had been imported, but all had received their training in their present employ. "Not only do we make the best spectacleware on earth, but we make the skilled mechanic with-