

ness examined has acknowledged their magnitude. Even the manipulators of frequent "corners" have confessed that the public must be the losers by such dealings. By them the price of the necessities of life are unduly raised, entailing stint and privations on multitudes of the poor for the benefit of a handful of the rich. When railroad stocks and other financial securities are "cornered," the people at large do not suffer; the losses and winnings are confined to a few; whether "bull" or "bear" is triumphant, the price of the poor man's loaf is the same. When the food of the world is "cornered," however, the people suffer, whether "bull" or "bear" is victorious. From the meagre loaf of the multitudinous poor man a slice is taken to add to the superfluous stores of the rich man. From such transactions the consumers always lose, but the producers seldom gain; for what one of them gains to-day he or another will lose to-morrow. By a fair amount of study and observation any intelligent farmer can obtain such a knowledge of the relation of demand and supply in any product as to be able to decide, with a fair chance of being right, whether to sell it at current prices or hold it for better. "Corners," however, raise or depress prices irrespective of the relation of demand and supply, and consequently often render the study and observation of intelligent farmers useless or worse in marketing their products.

In all such transactions trade and traffic are impeded and demoralized by a few unscrupulous capitalists in order that they may add unjust gains to their superabundant wealth. Scandalous as are the acknowledged evils of "corners" in produce, however, no legal remedy has yet been hit upon. The "sanctity of contracts" is the great bugbear to legislation repressive of this mode of gambling by millionaires; but the "sanctity of contracts" offers no impediment to legislation hostile to ordinary forms of gambling by "sports," though the latter is ten times less hurtful to the public than the former. It was thought that the Board of Trade of the great produce markets might be able to suppress or check the evil, but little is now to be hoped for from this agency. Some time ago the Chicago Board of Trade established a rule by which, in case of settlements, where a corner was alleged to have existed, the losers might demand the appointment of an arbitration com-

mittee to fix the terms for settlement. However, this rule was repealed by a large majority of the Board on the ground that the abuses to which it gave rise were as scandalous as those it was intended to restrain. For every evil there must be a remedy, and it is the imperative duty of legislators to discover one for corners in produce.

SCATTERING ACCOUNTS.

The financial difficulties that have overtaken many business men throughout the country are largely their own fault. Many of them came here with limited capital, and some with scarcely any. They opened an account with some wholesale firm in the city, and they, always willing to assist every honest endeavor, sold them goods to a large extent on credit. Had these men stuck to their first friends they would not have found themselves in the position in which they are placed to-day. Instead of continuing to deal with those who gave them the start in business, they have, in scores of instances, opened accounts with perhaps a dozen different firms. Every traveler who came along succeeded in getting an order. All kinds of inducements were offered. Dating goods ahead, promising renewals, etc., were the baits thrown out, and the unwary were as a rule caught.

The consequence is that now their notes are coming due and the merchants find themselves at the mercy of a dozen creditors. No one can take any special interest in carrying them through. Had they placed their accounts in the hands of good solid firms handling the goods they required, and dealt exclusively with them, it would have been in the interest of these firms to carry them through. Wholesale firms are not banking institutions. Far from it. But still we believe that the wholesale men of Winnipeg are able and willing to carry any man through the present crisis who shows honest intentions and whose prospects for the future are reasonably good.

The trouble so far has, as a rule, arisen through some foreign creditor taking action on some small account. They got him into their clutches and refused to let go. This explains to a large extent the cause of the numerous failures that have occurred.

Our advice to retail men is, deal with the best firms; don't open accounts with every Tom, Dick and Harry that comes

along with a sample case. Stand by the firm that supplies you, and in the day of adversity, if the business has been conducted honestly, they will be found ready to lend a helping hand.

LOTTERIES.

The success of the London lottery, which proved an easy way of making money to its promoters, has set all Canada ablaze with a mania to make money in the same manner. Several schemes have already been set afoot in Ontario, and Manitoba seems determined not to be behind, even if it is in this undesirable way of extracting money from the masses. Portage la Prairie has a gigantic scheme on hand, and amongst those who are lending the influence of their names and position in order to make it a success we are somewhat surprised to find the names of some of the most reputable citizens of that ambitious town. Lottery is nothing more nor less than gambling, with, as we pointed out in a previous article, the chances to the ticket holder much less than if the speculator ventured his money in a faro bank or on a horse race. These forms of gambling are all contrary to the law of the country. In Ontario, the authorities are taking active measures to put a check to the evil at once. Games of chance have an extraordinarily fascinating effect upon the general run of humanity, and once allowed an opportunity the victim soon becomes entangled in its toils. Men who consider themselves far too high up in the moral scale to play a game of cards, if only for pastime, are found taking an active part of lotteries, which in no matter how honestly they may be conducted, the odds are largely in favor of those who get it up. It is the introduction into our social system of a practice which, if allowed to go on, cannot but have a pernicious effect upon the youth of our country. There are plenty of snares and traps in this country already to entice the young and the unwary from the paths of rectitude. Whether cloaked under the guise of charity or for the benefit of the church or State, the evil remains all the same. Let this system of gambling be put a stop to at once, or if it is to be allowed to continue, then do not give one class of the community privileges which are denied to another, but allow faro bankers, thimble-riggers and wheel-of-fortune men to carry on their traffic without molestation. The principles involved are equally the same. But let it all be stamped out by the strong arm of the law.