

such reduction does not operate as an unjust discrimination against other persons travelling over the road. In order to constitute an unjust discrimination under the Act, the carrier must charge or receive directly from one person a greater or less compensation than from another, or must accomplish the same thing indirectly by means of a special rate rebate or other device; but, in either case, it must be for a like and contemporaneous service in the transportation of a like kind of traffic, under substantially similar circumstances and conditions. A party rate ticket, which is a single ticket covering the transportation of ten or more persons from one place to another on a railroad, is not in violation of the Interstate Commerce Act, although sold at a reduction from the regular passenger rates. Railway companies are only bound under the Interstate Commerce Act to give the same terms to all persons alike under the same conditions and circumstances, and any fact that produces an inequality of condition and a change of circumstances justifies an inequality of charge.

REPEAL OF THE SHERMAN SILVER ACT.

The United States House of Representatives has reached a vote on the repeal of the Sherman Silver Act, and by a large majority has decided to repeal the measure. This means a decided defeat of the white money men. The result of the measure adopted will be to relieve the treasury of the necessity of purchasing four thousand ounces of silver a month at current rates and the redemption of the certificates issued thereon in gold. This much the silver advocates were prepared to grant, but they sought to secure an amendment giving the right of free coinage at the rate of 16 of silver to 1 of gold. Unable to achieve this, they gradually raised the ratio to 20 to 1, but were defeated on each division, and finally the reading of the Wilson bill was carried by a majority which shows that the House is sound in its support of the Cleveland policy. But in the Senate the silverites are proportionately strongest, and it remains to be seen whether Mr. Hill and others may be able to thwart the administration, as they seem trying to do. It is greatly to be hoped, however, that nothing will prevent the speedy repeal of the Silver Act, for it has much to do with the present disturbed state of financial affairs among our American neighbors.

MILLINERY.

This week we have been reminded of autumn's near approach through the semi-annual invasion of Toronto and Montreal by the milliners. They have come in the usual large numbers, and our streets have now put on a bright and cheerful aspect through their presence. While male traders and bankers are discussing in anxious tones the monetary disturbances across the border and their resultant effect upon Canadian trade, all the future appears bright to these smiling women merchants. For merchants they are; and as we strolled through the various houses, it could be seen that their errand was not alone one of holiday pleasure

and sightseeing, but of business, and all were intent upon making the best outlay of the money which they had at their disposal. The openings which followed the civic holiday, taking place on Monday, were well attended, and if the amount of admiration expressed by visitors be a criterion of success, the stocks displayed were entirely satisfying to the many fair callers.

To depict correctly the beauties which Toronto wholesale houses in this line have prepared to welcome their visitors is beyond the homely words of a scribe. For beauty of both design and color our attention was first attracted by the fancy feather stocks. The osprey, a gauzy-looking plume, that bows with the faintest nod, is again displayed resplendent in all the season's prettiest tints. Ostrich, too, in mounts and tips, will be worn this season largely, and when combined with the osprey the effect is exceedingly tasteful. Fur mounts in wings and fancy mixtures of all descriptions are features which, if not new, have certainly never before received such prominence. Considerable attention is placed upon the incoming of fur tails for the ornamentation of hats, those in mink and sable perhaps meeting with the greatest favor; while fur trimmings of all kinds are meeting with the approval of those whose taste is best developed. Among the ornaments used in adorning the various hat and bonnet shapes are many in jet and steel pins and aigrettes. The fair merchants have shown unbounded admiration for the velvet roses, which will have a most important place in the season's trimmings. They are very pretty, as seen in all the newest tints, and at once win the approval of the popular taste.

In the materials of hats, felt continues to predominate. Velvets, however, are much in request, and can be made up to good effect. Many pretty shapes are shown in velvets with satin crowns, this combination having met with almost a general approval. The season's feature perhaps is the plaque, which in its embryo stage is simply a round, plain, limp disc, and not at all pretty. But when in its finished perfection, having passed through the deft fingers of the milliner and become adorned in a tasteful manner with trimmings, its appearance becomes exceedingly attractive. The various shapes into which the plaque may be made up extend almost into the hundreds, while it may be seen in either felt, fur, plush or beaver effects. The colors, too, are almost endless in their variety, green and bronze being the subjects of much admiration. A very attractive appearance may be created by having the upper surface of the plaque in ombre, while the under plane is finished in felt or velvet.

A customary variety of shapes are displayed. Hats this year will be both large and small, and in that respect will not differ from former years. Some have crowns of hatters' plush, while the rim may be of the same or different colors. The wide-rimmed sailor's hat still continues to meet with a good demand.

Ribbons may be seen almost countless in their designs and colors; satin and velvet, double satins and fancy ombres, are however deserving of special mention. Silks

are here displayed in their usual variety, including plain goods of all descriptions and the latest ideas in fancy styles. Velvets in plain and miroirs will undoubtedly be popular, while a great many ombres are shown.

The season's colors in millinery are exceedingly varied, and it is difficult to discriminate in favor of any particular lines as being most popular. Those which appeared most prominently are, perhaps, lumineux, emeraude, sphinx, tabac, vison, ascanio, lagune and eveque.

GROCERS, CULTIVATE A STEADY CUSTOM TRADE.

The aim of many a grocer reaches no further than to crowd his store with people. And to accomplish this end many and varied expedients are adopted. Articles are sold below cost as leaders, or prizes are given away to the fortunate one who guesses the number of beans in a jar or to the purchaser of every fiftieth pound of tea. People are attracted to the store, goods are disposed of and the merchant deems himself successful. But a crowd does not always mean profit; the test of prosperity lies in the balance remaining on the right side at the end of the year. If grocers would make the balance a large one, they must place their best efforts in another direction and strive rather to obtain *all* of their customers' trade. As men who deal in groceries too well know, many lines are handled with little or no profit; on the other hand, there are articles upon the sale of which a considerable percentage may be realized. Now there is neither sense nor satisfaction in selling goods that yield no profit, so in order to strike an average rate of profit from the trade of each customer the storekeeper must obtain that customer's full patronage.

To build up and retain a large custom trade in a growing Canadian town or city, is a feat requiring no little skill, and those who have accomplished it may be pardonably proud of their achievement. The grocer needs to master the names of his customers, and thus be able to greet each one entering the store with a friendly word of recognition. Then he requires to study the inclinations and tastes of his customers; some will desire only the best of goods without special regard to their cost, while on the other hand, price will be the first item of consideration to others. The patronage of the former class is naturally the most sought after; but the successful storekeeper will not neglect to seek favor with the latter class, which is by far the more numerous. Further, many people have a particular taste for certain things. It may be that they regard themselves as judges of the quality of teas or coffees, and while they may not know as much as they think they do, any little attention which may be shown to their tastes is always appreciated. The merchant who would hold a custom trade must always have his stock under careful inspection and never allow a line of goods to become depleted, thus placing his customers under the necessity of visiting other stores. This of course is not always within the range of possibility, as an exhaustion of stocks is at