

THE CANADIAN GROCER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
\$200 PER YEAR

& GENERAL STOREKEEPER

Published in the interest of Grocers, Cannery, Produce and Provision Dealers and General Storekeepers.

Vol. VI.

TORONTO, JULY 22, 1892.

No. 30

J. B. McLEAN, President. HUGH C. McLEAN, Sec.-Treas.

THE J. B. McLEAN PUBLISHING COMPANY,
FINE MAGAZINE PRINTERS
AND
TRADE JOURNAL PUBLISHERS.

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The main thoroughfares of this city still resound with the din of business—the throng of feet moving in all directions, the clatter on the pavement of horse shoes and wagon wheels, the rushing to and fro of delivery carts and the jangling of street car bells. But this uproarious medley is like a holy calm to the citizens who dwell and do business on these streets, and is a mere concord of sweet sounds to the frequenters of the same highways. They remember how the sense of hearing used to be dismayed and the medium of sound-transmission used to be troubled, when Bedlam was let loose for all day, and the pedlars led the riotous chorus. The pedlars are now relegated to the back streets, and discord has lost its fullest throats and strongest notes. The quiet retreats of the city now re-echo yells that formerly drowned the clamor of the reel and hose wagon on the main street and silenced the organ grinder three blocks away. But they don't shout so distractingly on the back streets, as there they have a wide field of unbroken stillness to vociferate in, and people can be stirred up by mere loudness.

In old times when the pedlars had the run of the main streets, trade in the interior parts of the city afforded them a rest. When they came out on the business streets they would pull themselves together to assert the supremacy of their lungs over the common pell-mell. It was then the observer could study the resources of the pedlar's gamut. Mere volume of noise would be poured forth unsparingly, the burden of the call would be horribly monotonous, but both these ways of assaulting the auditory nerves could be forgiven if the pedlar would not begin to play upon the chords or rather discords of human feeling. Some of them had command of the widest range of vocal torture. Voice-culture they had made a specialty of and had learned to imitate the most savage sounds in nature. Their yells were truly blood-curdling at times. Their yelling was more objectionable than their trade.

The restriction of the pedlars to the back streets, while it is a relief to the grocers of the main streets is an aggravation of the grievances of interior grocers, whose custom is now besieged by the whole peddling fraternity. The pedlars call this class-legislation and do not inaptly name it, as it discriminates between the grocers on main streets and the grocers on back streets, as well as between stationary traders and itinerant traders. It is desirable that the pedlars should have limited privilege in the matters of noise-making and street-obstruction, but it is probably not within the power of a city council to except certain streets from the scope of a pedlar's license. The pedlars are now making a test to see whether the Municipal Act gives that authority to a town or city council. That is a large power over a citizen's rights, and one that might be used against grocers themselves sometimes if it were vested in the city council. Suppose that some time the city should greatly

lower the pedlars' license fee. The grocers would probably feel that the best way to face the lightly-taxed and increased pedlars' trade would be to take out license themselves, and send out a wagon with cheap fruit and vegetables to cope with the regular pedlars. Would the grocers, in such circumstances, like to have their ground so circumscribed that they could not get at the best of the trade? Of course they and the pedlars would be on an equal footing so far as streets went. The by-law limiting peddling to certain streets also contains a clause prohibiting storekeepers on two of the main streets from doing a peddling business. That appears to be a step beyond the farthest limits a council is competent to go.

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It is not so long ago since the wholesale grocery trade was deemed a good one to stay in. Few retired from it in disappointment with its returns. It was considered a satisfactory trade to the majority of merchants engaged in it. The number of failures in it during the last ten years have been few and in most instances unimportant. Circumstances favored it as a remunerative business. The number of competitors was not excessive, and mutual interest was for a considerable time strong enough to bring competition under some control. Profits were protected on granulated sugar, tobacco and many manufacturers' lines by the adoption of a common price; loss through bad debts was minimized by the establishing of a uniform limit in the time given for credit, and uniform rate of discounts for cash payments; immunity from further competition was pretty well secured by the inflexible tendency of these discounts to check buying on a large scale by retailers. There seemed to be no other trade which had its own prosperity so much in its own hands as the wholesale grocery trade. But now we hear of men wanting to get out of