

GENERAL AND PERSONAL NOTES.

MR. ROBERT CUTHBERT, the recently appointed assistant dry goods appraiser at the port of Montreal, has assumed his new duties. Mr. Cuthbert takes Mr. Davidson's place, the latter going to Toronto as appraiser in the post rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Sergeant. Up to recently Mr. Cuthbert was one of the best known jewellers of the Queen City and a prominent member of the choir of St. James' cathedral.

Mr. Edward McKeown, the Toronto dry goods merchant, who was arrested at the instance of Gault Bros. & Co., charged with fraud and misrepresentation, has been committed for trial at Montreal and has elected to be tried by a jury.

Mr. Peddie, dry goods merchant, of Berlin, Ont., has removed to Toronto where he has gone into partnership with his brother. Before his departure from Berlin a number of young people called at his house and presented Mrs. Peddie with a beautifully worded and flattering address and valuable present.

Owing to depression in the cotton trade and demands of operatives, the English master spinners have declared a lockout in all the mills except those of Egyptian cotton spinners. The decision includes Oldham, Rochdale, Ashton, Bury, Stalybridge, Stockport and other centres. Altogether 17,500,000 spindles will cease, representing wages of \$250,000. The lockout will cause widespread distress.

The Supply Company of Niagara Falls, Ont., employ no travellers but send out their Price List instead. By this means they claim that they are enabled to sell goods at the lowest possible cost, and anyone who examines their Price List can readily believe that such must be the case. If any of our readers who deal in their goods have not received one of these lists, it would pay them to send for one.

The property of the Canada Cotton Manufacturing Company, Montreal, has been acquired by the Canada Colored Mills Company. At a meeting of the share holders of the former company to discuss the matter, a resolution was unanimously adopted handing over to the Canada Colored Mills Company the plant, assets, etc., of the Canada Cotton Manufacturing Company. The Company was represented by 7,500 shares and \$300,000 worth of bonds. The agreement is that the shareholders of the Canada Cotton Company receive \$400,000 in bonds and \$165,000 in cash and notes, and the Canada Colored Mills Company also assume the \$300,000 worth of bonds.

The Golden Lion of Guelph has been undergoing extensive alterations, and is now one of the most complete dry goods stores in the Dominion. A year ago new fronts were put into both stores, and more handsome fronts it will be impossible to find anywhere. This spring new alterations are being made by the proprietors, J. D. Williamson & Co., whereby they have been able to consolidate their business, having opened a large millinery and mantle show room on the second flat and put the cloths and men's furnishings into the department formerly occupied by the former branches. They have been able to save two thirds of one of their stores, which has been leased as a boot and shoe store to Mr. Neil, and the back of Mr. Neil's store is retained by them as a ready made clothing department. The Lion's show-room is pronounced by travellers to be one of the finest west of Toronto. They have introduced the latest and most improved cash carrier system in existence.

An influential deputation from the council of the Montreal Board of Trade, headed by the president, Mr. E. B. Greenshields, waited on March 28th upon Provincial Treasurer Hall, and asked for the repeal of the taxes upon commercial corporations. The deputation represented that the commercial corporation tax had the effect of driving business away from the province and of causing a discrimination between corporations and private firms, to the advantage of the latter. The council would accordingly be very glad, while fully recognizing the difficult position in which the new Administration was placed, if something could be done, consistently with revenue requirements, to reduce or abolish the tax. Mr. Hall, in reply, stated

that he would like to see the commercial corporation tax repealed, but in view of the heavy expenditure to which the province was committed he did not see his way clear to it at present. After what the deputation had said, however, he thought he might possibly be able to recommend some modification.

The Whiting cash and parcel carrier manufactured by Mr. W. H. E. Whiting, of London, Ont., has scored a great success everywhere it has been used, and Mr. Whiting has received many gratifying testimonials. He claims for his system the following points of excellence: It is neat in outline, a station being simply an ornamental bracket; it obstructs the view less than any other system in use; it is brass, nickel-plated, and adds to rather than detracts from the appearance of a store; it is very rapid, requiring but a few seconds for the longest line; it is the most noiseless system in use, it can be recalled as well as dispatched from either end; it is the strongest and most simple system in use, it is not dependent on a spring of any kind for power; it has not got a cord or spring of any kind about it; it permits the lines to run level or up grade, it has a brass car and brass cash box, not liable to breakage; it has nothing to get out of repair, it is the most expensively finished, yet most reasonable in price, it is the only system invented and manufactured in Canada by a Canadian.

A pleasing event took place in the warehouse of Gordon, Mackay & Co., Toronto, on April 16th. Mr. W. J. McMaster, on behalf of the employees of the firm, who had all assembled in the woolen department, expressed the gratification felt by one and all in the interest taken in them and the business of the house by Mr. A. G. Malcolm, the firm's head bookkeeper, and that, having heard of his approaching marriage, they desired to show their appreciation by asking him to accept as a token of their regard a cabinet of cutlery. The recipient was more than astonished, and found it difficult to express his gratitude and pleasure at the kind, opportune and most considerate gift. The cabinet, which is of black walnut, elegantly inlaid with satin wood and lined with blue satin, contained four dozen dinner, dessert, tea and fruit spoons; two dozen white ivory handled knives, with forks to match; two sets of carvers, sugar spoon, tongs and butter knife, all of solid silver. On the cover was a silver plate with this inscription: "Presented to Augustus Grant Malcolm by the employees of Gordon, Mackay & Co., on the occasion of his marriage, Toronto, 20th April, 1892."

TIME WORKS MANY CHANGES.

The flourishing condition of the wholesale grocery trade has been for some time back a source of envy to the wholesale dry goods men, but time works many remarkable changes. At present it seems singular that all the reports regarding sales from the whole sale dry goods trade this spring are favorable, and from the grocery trade the reverse. To account for this it may be that the grocers, not content with the agreement on prices on many lines of goods, took up sugars also, and afterwards shortened time sales and discounts. Theoretically this may be all right, but practically the result seems to be that many small wholesale houses, with a capital of \$20,000 or \$30,000, have got into the trade, and by cheaper working expenses and easy banking facilities, have curtailed the volume of trade done by other houses with ample capital and ability. Many of the dry goods houses on the other hand have disappeared into oblivion thereby cleaning the atmosphere and enabling the large houses to do an increased volume of business. Besides in late years the Ontario dry goods houses, who have remained in the field, have got a grip on the trade of the province, which has not shrunk from depopulation as has been the case with the trade in Quebec province and from what the Montreal houses have suffered in their own territory. Again Toronto and Montreal houses are both getting their share of the North-West trade and this combination of circumstances has helped the volume of trade in Ontario warehouses in a gratifying way this season, perhaps more than the bountiful harvest. But there is still room for improvement, and the "survival of the fittest" is not yet a thing of the past in the wholesale dry goods trade.