

about Riel and were only making use of his case to get into office, or being in, to stay there. While much may be said in favor of the Government's action, we fail to see how any loyal citizen can censure them for letting the law take its course and ridding the country of one of the most dangerous men that ever lived in it. If Riel was sane enough to raise two very costly and bloody rebellions, he was plenty sane enough to hang say we, and no matter what nationality he sprang from, he was a Canadian and amenable to Canadian law and justice. In our humble opinion, he was not half as crazy as plenty of those who at present for their own purposes desire to make him out as such.

We have always held that the Government did right in hanging Louis Riel and are to be commended for letting the law take its course in the face of the terrible pressure that was brought to bear on them to commute his sentence. But while we do so, we are strongly of the opinion that their administration of the North-West affairs was not what it ought to have been, and therefore open to a searching investigation by parliament. Two wrongs don't make one right, and no matter whether the Government was wrong or not—Riel was guilty and deserved the punishment he received. If the Government were equally culpable the place to try them is in the House and not on the Champ de Mars, and the jury should be their co-legislators, and not an ignorant rabble. If the House is satisfied that they have betrayed the trust reposed in them, they should make them give place to others who have their confidence.

It appears to us that if the Riel debate is going to crop out much oftener, that that gentleman is going to cost the country about as much dead as alive. Riel's memory is all very well in its way and if the bolters and their friends in Her Majesty's loyal opposition think so much of him as they now profess, they should take about three months during midsummer to fall on each others' necks and sob out their praises of the deceased, but for goodness sake let them let up during the time parliament is in session, for their emotion is costing the country at the rate of about one thousand dollars an hour. Grief is sacred and should not be kept too freely on tap, it is too high for general public use at the price charged for it by the House of Commons of Canada.

Since writing the above the action of the Government in executing Riel has been sustained by the handsome majority of 94. As all the prominent men in the Liberal party, Blake excepted, voted with the Government, it is to be hoped that the *Globe* will take their action as a quiet hint that in future that party proposes to manage its own affairs in its own way, instead of being bulldozed by an irresponsible clique of political heelers who happen to have fallen heir to a proprietary interest in the personal organ of a deceased statesman, whose shoe latches they are unworthy to untie.

COMMON SENSE PROTECTION.

In our February issue we took occasion to point out a few of the methods by which the retail jewelry trade could protect their own interests. We then stated that in our opinion the jobbing trade of Canada had done all they possibly could for the retailers' protection, and that if the latter desired anything further in that direction they must look to themselves for it. We pointed out, in the article referred to, some of the advantages that combination would have upon the retail jewelry business so far as selling goods is concerned, and if our readers will

bear with us further in the same direction, we will endeavor to show them how such a combination would advantage them in the matter of selling their own labor.

It is now a pretty well ascertained fact, that in any well regulated and prosperous retail jewelry business, the watch repairing department should at least pay shop rent and living expenses, leaving the profits of merchandise sales to go to the credit of capital account. We know of dozens of businesses in Canada whose watch repairs make more money than this, but we think this may safely be laid down as a guide for any ordinary jeweler to know whether or not he is doing a prosperous business.

We are aware that there are a great many jewelers on the other hand whose watch repairs do not come up to this standard, and in most cases it will be found that unless in some populous centre where they sell large quantities of goods, such businesses are rarely profitable. As a rule the most of our retailers make money, in the first place, by their mechanical ability to repair watches, and it depends very much upon how they turn this ability to account whether or not they ever acquire capital enough to pay for the stock of goods necessary to the successful carrying on of a first-class business.

The trouble of a great many jewelers is that in order to draw trade they are willing to do this repairing work, which as we have pointed out should be one of their principal sources of income and usually the corner stone of business success, at almost the price of the material they use. By so doing they may think that they are getting ahead their competitors and drawing trade to themselves, but this we think is an error, for the general public as a rule can't tell whether such work is cheap or dear, although they may by experience know whether it is well or badly done. We do not think that in one case in ten where retailers pursue such a system of cut-throat competition in watch repairing, that it does their opponents much harm or themselves any good. If they were disposing of some well-known article, with the value of which the public were thoroughly acquainted, we could understand how capital could be made out of it, but in watch repairing which is more a sale of one's skill as a workman than of anything tangible in the way of material, such a policy is the utmost folly.

During the past month we have had sent us from various parts of Canada advertisements of jewelers who used printer's ink to boast of this kind of nonsense. They were anxious to have the public understand that they would clean a watch, put in a new main spring, new jewel, new balance spring, at from twenty-five to fifty cents, the usual charge for which by their competitors was one dollar.

Now this to us looks pretty much like a man's cutting off his nose to spite his face, for by such a course they were bound to do themselves no good, while doing their opponents very little harm. People don't expect to get something for nothing; as a rule they expect to pay for what they get, and therefore, when one jeweler proclaims to work for half price of his competitors the public usually judge that he has rated his work according to its real value.

A good watchmaker is a mechanic of the very highest type, and does not learn his profession without a great deal of study and many years of hard and poorly paid toil. This being the case we fail to see why such a person should give away his skill for next to nothing and without advantage to himself. The doctor who makes you a professional visit when you are ill,