



class out of business. Since the revival in trade there has been an increase in the number of merchants anxious to beat the wholesaler. It is high time that steps were taken to defeat them."



While we are always glad to receive communications from all parts of Canada, we cannot hold ourselves in any way responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents. It is absolutely necessary that the name and address of the writer should accompany each communication, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

RETAIL MERCHANTS WANT LEGISLATION.

Editor TRADER:

Sir,—The Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, have prepared bills, and will bring them before the coming Dominion and Provincial Legislatures for the following measures:—

1st. To secure equitable legal recognition and protection of the just rights of mercantile interests, part of which is to make corporations and their officers responsible under the law the same as is now meted out to individuals when they commit fraud and practice deception.

As the law is at present, a corporation selling false measure or false quality cannot be dealt with by a police magistrate, the same as a single line dealer can be, and the Association claims that corporations can, and do, commit frauds, and as they are entrenched behind complicated laws, they escape punishment.

2nd. We want laws placed upon the statute books making it a criminal offence to advertise goods in the daily press, through circulars, catalogues, or by any other means, different to what they are, either as to weight, quality or price.

3rd. We want a legislative Act to prevent the false stamping of goods.

4th. We want to amend the Adulteration Act so as to protect the public against fraudulent and adulterated goods.

5th. We want proper equalization of personalty taxation so as to compel department stores and other combinations to pay their proper share of taxation.

The turnover tax bill will be again introduced, the same as at the last session, with some modifications, and will be made operative at the option of any municipality.

6th. We believe that it would be greatly in the interest of the laboring, manufacturing, commercial and purchasing classes of the Dominion to have all lines of trade defined and a record of them placed upon the statute books, and that power be asked to regulate and control, by license or otherwise, all such lines of trade in cities having a population of 30,000 or over.

The intention of this law is to apply more directly to regulating department stores.

To define a line of retail trade under the present statute is impossible, so for purposes of doing so, all lines of retail trade will be asked to assist in classifying what lines of goods belong to their trade.

The following is proposed for jewelers in large cities:

Watches, clocks, jewelers' findings and optical goods, jewelry, and gold and silver mounted goods, gold and silver plated goods, silver and silver-plated goods, bronzes, diamonds and precious stones.

If there are any goods not enumerated in this list that any jeweler may want added, we would be pleased to hear from him at once.

7th. We want to abolish, as far as possible, all gift schemes, trading stamps, cash coupons and coupons of all classes; also all systems that are injurious to the retail trade.

This latter requires no comment, as every jeweler in Canada will welcome legislation on these lines. The programme, as will be seen, is a large one, and shows that the Association has not been sleeping during the past year. The work we have done and the work we propose doing should receive the moral and financial support of every jeweler in the Dominion, and we trust that when the petitions are forwarded to the cities and towns for signatures, that the jewelers will take a personal interest in them, and in the Branch Associations that are formed in their towns, and see that the petitions are fully signed, as well as acquaint their member of Parliament with what they require done.

Yours truly,

E. M. TROWERN, Secretary,
Toronto.

OUR MONTREAL LETTER.

From Our Special Correspondent.

The phrase "rubber neck" is part of the popular slang of the day, much affected by the small boy, but it is unusual for a confessed "rubber neck" to brag of his achievements in public. This, however, was done recently in the Montreal police court by one Albert Asselin, who robbed a manufacturer of Three Rivers of a gold watch, chain and diamond stud, valued at three hundred dollars, while on a C. P. R. train. Albert told the magistrate a fairy tale about being in the Transvaal, where the Boers were so enchanted by his power to extend his neck that they threw considerable quantities of diamonds at him. In spite of his accomplishments, however, Albert was sent to the penitentiary for three years for theft.