

THE TRADER.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

To ensure insertion, changes or new advertisements must be sent to the office not later than the 20th of each month.

Editorial.

WATCHMAKERS, ATTENTION.

The letter of "Hamilton Jeweler" in another column suggests to the possibility of very much good being done by an interchange of ideas amongst Canadian watchmakers.

It certainly seems strange to us that jewelers and practical watchmakers in this country apparently take but little interest in the new and useful inventions that are continually cropping up in this line of business, and that might with great advantage to the trade, be discussed in such a paper as THE TRADER.

The difference between Canada and the United States in this respect is very marked, and we are sorry to see that the comparison is not at all favorable to us.

Take up almost any one of the many journals published in the United States in the interests of watchmakers and jewelers, and you will find in it ample evidence of the *Espre du corps* that American watchmakers have in their profession. Amongst these letter contributions from practical men, may be found some of the best and ablest articles contained in the paper, and these are entitled to all the more weight when it is remembered that they are principally the result of, in many cases, long and varied experience. Watchmaking is a science, and as everyone knows that ever hadanything to do with it, requires long years of patient study in order to master its intricacies and understand thoroughly its principles. Indeed, so difficult is the thorough mastery of the science of horology that but few ever attempt such a thing, and those who do are a kind of *rara avis* amongst their fellow workmen. A thoroughly skilled workman, as everyone knows, can always command the highest wages and need never be out of work; in fact, his services are in constant demand, and he has immeasurable advantages in every way over any ordinary workman.

Now, while we have many first-class watchmakers in Canada, it is no disparagement to the trade to say that we have also a great many inferior workmen who might be very much improved if they would but take the time and pains to improve themselves in their trade. If anything were wanting to prove this assertion, the mass of "botched" work that is continually pouring into our city trade shops would abundantly confirm it. In no way can such a desirable improvement be carried out than by an interchange of ideas upon subjects of vital importance to the craft.

For example, a watchmaker in some country village finds a difficulty in doing a certain kind of work, and he has no older head near by to get advice from, if he were to clearly state his want in some trade journal, some one perhaps that had experienced the same difficulty and overcame it, would enlighten him. Those who had made any useful discovery in any branch of the business would have a medium by which to communicate it to others, and in this way the general standing of the watchmaking trade might be very much improved. Many of our best workmen are self-taught mechanics, and they, more than any others, will be able to estimate the advantage that a little friendly advice furnished in this way, at the right moment, may do.

Now, watchmakers of Canada, is it not time that you were stirring yourselves in the direction of discussion and improvement? Are you, as a class, less intelligent than your fellow workers on the other side of the line? If not, why do you allow yourselves to drift along with the stream when you have such grand possibilities before you? Wake up and prove that you are live workmen, and not mechanical Rip van Winkles, whose ideas and abilities are just what they

were when they first learned the trade. Ventilate every new matter, and keep abreast of the times, take improvements by the forelock, and don't let them tread on your heels.

We have plenty of intelligent and educated watchmakers, let us hear from a few of them on live subjects, let those that want information be not afraid to ask for it, and if they do we are satisfied that some brother craftsman will be able and willing to give it to them.

To all we would say don't hide your light under a bushel. If some one asks a question, and you can answer it intelligently, do so by all means and you will do yourself no harm, and probably the enquirer a great deal of good.

As we have said before, the columns of THE TRADER are always open for such purposes as the above, and we shall be only too glad to help along such a laudable object by every means that lies in our power.

Now then fellow craftsmen let us hear from you.

THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN WATCH TRADE.

As everybody in the watch and jewelry trade knows, for the past four years it has been almost an impossibility to get as many low priced movements as the requirements of business demanded. We have often been asked, why is this, why can't we get the goods we want for our trade as easily and as cheaply as we did formerly?

The reasons, we think, are not far to seek. From 1873 till 1879 may safely be said to have been all years of depression, and bad years for business in general. The period before that was unusually prosperous, and as everyone knows, one particularly suited to an expansion in every line of business.

The watch industry, like every other, is governed by circumstances, in other words it is regulated by the law of supply and demand, and has to ebb and flow with the tide of commercial prosperity. Looking at the subject in the light of these generally acknowledged principles of trade, we cannot help being struck with the precision with which the watch industry has obeyed the ups and downs of mercantile life. We have often expressed the view, that as far as any one business can indicate the state of prosperity in any country, the watch and jewelry trade is certainly the most reliable for that purpose.