

The Leading Wholesale Trade of Toronto.

**THOMSON and BURNS,**

IMPORTERS OF

**SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE**

Crockery, China, Glassware,

AND DEALERS IN

*Canadian and American Manufactures*

OF

**HARDWARE AND AGRICULTURAL  
IMPLEMENTS,****10 & 12 Front Street West, Toronto.****GRAY, RENNIE & CO.****43 YONGE ST., TORONTO,**

Have a large stock of

**KNITTED WOOLLEN GOODS.**

Nubia's Scarfs and Sashes,  
Hoods and Hats,  
Mitts, Cuffs, and Infantees,  
Shawls and Cross-overs,  
Jackets and Polkas,  
Men's Cardigans,  
Shirts and Drawers.

**GRAY, RENNIE & CO.**

One result in such cases often is a long struggle with threatening bankruptcy, and the advantages expected frequently turn out to be little more than imaginary. A western town of Ontario is paying the price of a similar experiment in the shape of local taxes levied at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents on the dollar!

IMPORTATIONS of dutiable goods at the port of Toronto for October were \$906,275 as against \$784,355 in Oct. 1871, showing an increase of \$121,920. In free goods the figures were \$371,692 last Oct. and \$227,105 in Oct. 1871. The total increase in imports for the month was therefore about \$275,000.

EXPORTS at the port of St. John, N. B., for Oct. were this year \$391,459 against \$321,921 in Oct. last year, showing a gain of \$69,538.

THE "HORSE disease" is proving to be a rather serious matter for the trade of Ontario. Country storekeepers report a complete stagnation in many places in consequence of the almost total cessation of grain deliveries. This must be attended with serious loss to farmers. In a few weeks navigation will be closed and prices of grain must fall so that a less return will be realized for the year's harvest. Goods remain on the shelves of traders and outstanding accounts are unpaid. This has caused a most unusual falling of in remittances to the wholesale houses. A leading merchant replied to our enquiry as to remittances in these words "We are getting no returns at all; are living by faith." The demand for goods must feel the influence sensibly which has so seriously affected the collection of accounts.

WE UNDERSTAND that Messrs. T. Hunton & Son, dry goods merchants, Ottawa, held a meeting of their creditors in Montreal during the past

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**JOHN MACNAB & CO.,**

IMPORTERS OF

**SHELF AND HEAVY****HARDWARE,**

British, French, German, American and Canadian manufacture.

Agents for the unrivalled Chester Emery; also, Foundry Facings.

**5 FRONT STREET, TORONTO.**

JOHN MACNAB.

T. HERBERT MARSH

**TEAS.**

The Subscribers are now receiving ex "Thames" from London,

**800 HALF CHESTS AND CATTIES**  
CHOICE NEW SEASON'S**CONGOUS AND ASSAMS,**

Also in stock and to arrive,

1250 HLF. CHESTS & CATTIES Y. HYSON,  
375 PKGS. SOUCHONGS & CONGOUS,  
150 " JAPANS & PEKOES.

Which will be offered to the Trade at low prices and on favorable terms.

**P. G. CLOSE & Co.,**

59, 61 &amp; 63 FRONT ST., TORONTO.

week. Considerable surprise has been expressed at the statement exhibited. The firm had done a large trade and were supposed to be in a comparatively easy financial position; but at this meeting their statement showed a deficiency amounting to over \$32,000. Another meeting of the creditors is to be held at a later date pending which a Receiver has been appointed. The Messrs. Hunton occupied one of the finest mercantile buildings in Ottawa, they seemed to be prosperous and had their full share of the trade of the Ottawa valley. If such firms as this, and in so favorable a situation cannot make money out of the dry goods trade, there must be little chance for those inexperienced adventurers who are constantly assaying to make money out of dry goods which many others under favorable circumstances find it impossible to accomplish.

**CONDITION OF THE BUTTER TRADE.**

In the *Bruce Reporter*, published at Kincardine, we find a report of a meeting of merchants recently held there—and to which we have in a previous issue alluded—to discuss the unfortunate condition of the butter trade. Before making an extract, it may be mentioned that some entertain strongly the opinion that the establishment of butter factories would cure the evil, as it has done so effectually in the case of cheese. This remedy would necessarily be slow to operate, and would not do to rely upon as a cure for what is admittedly a wretched state of things. We think the merchants of Kincardine are entitled to all praise as public spirited men for taking hold of this question as they have done. The subjoined is their plan for uprooting the present absurd and ruinous system:—

The Leading Wholesale Trade of Toronto.

1872. FALL. 1872.

**THOMAS WALLS & Co.,****38 YONGE STREET,****ARE NOW FULL**

IN

*Every Department.*

TERMS LIBERAL

**BOOTS AND SHOES**

WHOLESALE:

**CHILDS & HAMILTON,**  
MANUFACTURERS.

THIS Business was established in 1847, and is continued at the OLD STAND, No. 7, Wellington St. East, Toronto.

Our Productive Power has so much increased, that we are now producing all classes of Boots and Shoes, and of just the kinds required by our largely increasing TRADE. We have only to say that all dealers in Boots and Shoes requiring goods to suit the wants of this Province, will do well to send their orders to, or call on

**CHILDS & HAMILTON.**Factory and Warehouse—No. 7 Wellington St.  
Toronto.

This state of things arises in a great measure, if not entirely, from the peculiar manner in which the butter is bought from the farmers—different from any other articles of farm produce at the present day, viz., by *barter*. Until the trade in butter, like the trade in wool and all other produce, is done on a cash basis, it will be in vain to expect it to develop itself into a perfectly sound and healthy condition, notwithstanding any temporary expedient which may be employed by the dealers for that purpose. The evil exists no doubt in some cases with dealers themselves in their careless packing and handling, but it originates and exists in a much greater degree farther back—with the makers. Yet they are not by any means altogether to blame, for what inducement has the farmer's wife to take pains to make a first-class article when she knows that she will get as good a price from her merchant for an inferior article. But it is the barter system that is at the bottom of the evil, so far as the maker is concerned, and is the great obstacle to improvement. The merchant is unwilling to offend a good customer by refusing to take her butter, and looks to his remuneration in most cases, not to the butter but to the profit on the dry goods he expects to sell for it, and so tries "to make things pleasant" by saying nothing about the quality of the butter. Again, he knows that he may sometimes lose a considerable amount of trade by refusing a lot that he knows to be bad or oversalted, and rather than run the risk of losing a good sale he takes it. Other considerations than the proper and legitimate one of the value given and received are thus allowed to interfere in the transaction between buyer and seller, and so long as this is the case the trade cannot be healthy. In the Eastern Townships, and in the neighborhood of Brockville, the only localities where first-class butter is generally made (in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec) and where it is all quickly bought up at high prices—the trade is altogether carried on on a legitimate and sound basis, i.e., for cash. A cash buyer is not afraid to tell the farmer his butter is inferior, if it really is so, and to refuse it; but the country