



"Whereas, it is generally recognized that an advantageous commercial bond is one of the strongest links in national unity, and that the maintenance and strengthening of trade is the keystone of a state's successful development, and

Whereas the stability of an empire is largely dependent upon the material prosperity of its people, therefore be it

Resolved, that in the opinion of this congress the bonds of the British Empire would be materially strengthened and the union of the various parts of Her Majesty's Dominion greatly consolidated by the adoption of a commercial policy, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, whereby each component part of the empire would receive a substantial advantage in trade as the result of its national relationship.

Further resolved, that in order to make the foregoing operative, the chair shall appoint, before this congress dissolves, a representative and proportionate committee of home and colonial delegates to devise a scheme of this nature, and report to this or a similar commercial congress, and that a copy of this resolution be officially forwarded to the home and colonial governments concerned in the proposition.

It was also unanimously resolved that the Toronto Board of Trade should at once take steps to have this resolution adopted by all the other Canadian Boards of Trade, so that, so far as Canada is concerned, our delegates should present a united front upon this question when it comes up for discussion. In this connection we would also suggest that they communicate with the leading boards of trade in the other colonies throughout the empire, with a view to obtaining their support when it comes before the London meeting. The resolution is first class in every respect, and we see no reason why the Chambers of Commerce in every British colony could not be got to give it a hearty and united support.

COMMERCIAL IMMORALITY.



I make no excuse for directing the attention of our readers to the editorial article given below, clipped from the *Toronto Evening News* of a recent date. The matter there treated of is one which concerns the welfare of every honest, hundred cents on the dollar dealer in Canada, whatever line of business he may be engaged in, and we are sure that the action of the creditors, mentioned therein, will be commended by every one of our readers. We are all the more ready to publish these comments seeing that the Canadian jewelry trade has, for the past decade, been singularly free from failures of this kind.

"Under the consideration of the wholesale men of Toronto is a question that has been brought to their attention periodically, and one which has figured prominently in the loss account in their books. It has reference to merchants who are always looking for an opportunity to defraud their creditors. One of the methods adopted was brought out at the trial of H. M. Winter, of Berlin, who was convicted on a charge of fraud. Many Toronto houses were interested in this case, and it was owing to the action of the leading creditors that the debtor was prosecuted.

On August 24, H. M. Winter, of Berlin, visited Toronto, and called on the large houses, stating that he was about to commence business in Berlin, that he had a capital of \$6,000 cash; that \$4,000 would be expended in purchasing his stock, and the balance, \$2,000, would be at hand to continue with. He was taken to the commercial agencies, where he made the statement of his finances as above. On the strength of this he purchased his stock, and paying half cash, was given the usual 30 or 60 days for the balance. On November 14, two months later, he assigned and his statement to creditors showed assets of \$1,000 and liabilities of \$6,000. Disappointed at such a statement, the creditors attended a meeting in Berlin, where the insolvent was examined as to where his money and goods had gone. He stated that he had visited Toronto, and became acquainted with some men at the Palmer House, whom he invited to Berlin to play poker, the result being that he had lost about \$8,000 at the various sittings. He did not know who the players were.

At the close of the examination Winter, who was known in Berlin by the sign on his store, "The Poor Man's Friend," was arrested on a charge of fraud preferred by J. G. Reiner of W-lesley. The creditors appointed Mr. J. A. Scellen, solicitor, of Berlin, to look after their interests and gather the evidence necessary for the prosecution. As a result of investigations it was found that relatives of Winter had opened up stores in Elmira and Guelph shortly after the insolvent commenced business. A man named Goldsmith conducted the Elmira store, and it was learned that goods had been shipped from the Berlin store to Elmira. An injunction was obtained restraining Goldsmith from disposing of the stock, and an order for his examination obtained. Goldsmith stated that he had not paid a dollar for the goods, and would return them to the creditors provided he was examined. This was agreed to, and a large amount of merchandise was returned. The same proceedings were taken in the case of Mrs. Hurley, who had the store in Guelph. This lady stated that some of the goods were not paid for, and returned sacks of coffee, pails of lard and other merchandise, which she said had been shipped to her without being ordered.

Before Judge Chisholm, Winter was tried, with Crown Attorney Bowlby prosecuting. The prisoner was defended by William Read, of Waterloo, who made a strong fight, under the circumstances, for the release of his client. The case lasted two days, and the jury after being out about five minutes returned a verdict of guilty. To three other charges Winter pleaded guilty. Sentence was reserved.

This is but one case out of a large number in which the wholesalers suffer, and a movement has now commenced with the object of obtaining protection from this class of merchants. In all cases where there is brought to the attention of the creditors sufficient information to warrant prosecutions the officers in charge of the estate will be given instructions to take the necessary proceedings. Not only has the practice resulted in the determination to prosecute, but it has influenced many wholesalers to refrain from granting compositions. Consequently many an upright but unfortunate merchant will find it difficult to obtain such concessions from his creditors. It will also, however, have the effect of keeping the immoral