

business section of the city, offering great advantages to parties visiting town on business. The charge is moderate, and the accommodation throughout first-class.

After the business of the day is over, the long winter evenings in country towns drag heavily along, no place of amusement to visit and your own stock of literary matter having been read and re-read, you naturally make a raid upon the resources of the hotel; their stock (I speak from actual knowledge) generally consists of Ayer's Almanack and a newspaper about a week old. Disgusted with your luck in trying to hunt up mental enjoyment, you take the notion to try a game of billiards. After a few shots on the table, you feel that you could play as lively a carom game on a skittle alley as on this apology for a billiard table, and not being desirous of an over-indulgence of muscular christianity, you quit at the consummation of the first game, and inwardly vow in your disgust to quit the game for a lengthened period. It is really a rare exception to find anything approaching a good table in country towns, and judging from the excuse I have heard made by their proprietors, the following is the chief reason: Most of the billiard tables in use in the Dominion have been imported from the United States, their high price prevents a man in a small town, with a limited number of players, assuming the risk of the purchase money; he, therefore, generally contents himself with buying a second-hand article, but utterly useless as a medium whereby we may indulge in an enjoyable game of billiards. As regards the price of a new table—now the objection—I will admit, has hitherto been a weighty one, but since Messrs. Riley & May, of Toronto, have started the manufacture of billiard tables, it has given all who desire such, the opportunity of purchasing at twenty-five per cent. less in cost than the imported article; and judging from the very great satisfaction these same tables give in the Rossin House, Toronto, and a score of other hotels where they are in use—they are equal to any manufactured on this continent.