

CROSSED CHEQUES.

Since crossed cheques were introduced by the Bills of Exchange Act, 1880, no case, bearing upon the effect of the crossing, seems to have been reported in Canadian Courts. The system is, as yet, very little used, partly, no doubt, because it has not had time to become generally known, but also because, in some respects, it does not seem to be in touch with our business methods. There is no reason with us for inviting trouble by drawing cheques payable to bearer, and, as they are usually drawn payable to order, and, as the payee must endorse them, they are useless after payment as vouchers. If a cheque, payable to order, be lost or stolen, it is hard to see that any crossing would afford much protection. The dishonest holder would have to forge an endorsement, before he could use the cheque. If willing to do that, he certainly would not hesitate to assume to re-open the crossing as provided sec. 70, sub-sec. 7, of our Act of 1890, by writing "pay cash" between the transverse lines and forging the drawers' initials.—*Canadian Law Times*.

HOW TO GET RID OF RATS IN STORES

Most grocers have been annoyed with rats on their premises, the odds being against the storekeeper generally. The sense of smell is known to be very acute in the rat, making his entrapment a difficult matter, particularly if his keen scent informs him that the trap set for him has been the prison house of a brother rodent. Recently, through boyish sport, a fine rat trap was discovered. Several boys were amusing themselves by tossing grains of corn into several large, empty milk cans. The next morning, on entering the store-room, queer sounds of squealing and scratching greeted the ears of the grocer. Investigation revealed scores of rats in the milk cans, vainly trying to escape. Lids were placed on the cans, which were rolled to a near-by faucet, from which the water was gradually let into the cans through the slightly opened lid, the drowning of the rats being thus made a question of a very few minutes.—*San Francisco Grocer*.

LOCAL SMELTERS HAVE NOT CREATED A MARKET.

The miners of West Kootenay are awake to the fact that the mere establishment of local smelters does not create a market for lead ores, and they are looking around for a means that will. They are of opinion that until the Dominion government increases the present duty on pig, bar and sheet lead from \$8 to \$12 a ton to a uniform duty of \$30 a ton, the local smelter owners will be unable to either run their plants continuously or at a profit, and unless another market than Canada is opened, the output of their mines will be restricted to just enough to supply the home demand, which is not large. The market hoped for in the United States; but until the Canadian duty is as high as that levied by the United States, the latter country is not likely to favor any reciprocal arrangement. The Canadian government, if it would see

the mining industry of this province flourish, should raise the present duty on lead so as to make it equal to that levied by the United States, then its commissioners to the Washington conference would be in a position to talk reciprocity on an equal footing. Petitions embodying these views have been numerous signed by the miners and mine owners of the various camps in the district and forwarded to Premier Abbott, with a request that he present them to the governor-general for consideration.—*Hot Springs News*.

WINDOW DRESSING.

The ability to properly dress and decorate windows and stores rises to the dignity of an art, according to a wide-awake authority upon the subject:

"No man without true artistic sense, and who is not a keen discriminator of color, with its lights and shades, can make other than a bungling dresser or decorator.

Decorators are born, not made. Crude artistic ability must exist in the first place, to depend upon practice, experience and study for perfection.

In every store where there are a quarter of a dozen clerks, there is likely to be one who leads the others in this branch of advertising art.

Perhaps it will be well to put the employees on competitive mettle, leaving the decorating for a given time entirely in charge of each one, and create the office of head decorator and dresser for the one who proves to be most proficient in this direction.

The effective store decorator will combine business with art. The true artist is a slave to his talent, and while his methods may not admit of criticism, if judged upon the platform of broad and undeffled art, they may totally lack that conjunction with business which is absolutely necessary in profitable window decoration.

The man or woman who can successfully decorate a store or dress a window, is particularly valuable to the merchant, whose appreciation should be shown by an increase of salary. The most elaborate decoration seldom interferes with the business arrangement of the store.

The show window was created wholly for appropriate dressing, and if it be not properly arranged, it is simply useless, a waste of space which cannot be filled or used for any other purpose.

The history of window dressing probably began with the first store which had a window. A show window is looked at. It is just where people have got to look into it, and if it be properly dressed it is one of the cheapest and most effective means of advertising the goods in the store.—*Dry Goods Chronicle*.

A SUGGESTION FROM HEADQUARTERS.

He (on the straw ride)—Don't you think you had better be wrapped up in my coat? She—Yes. But hadn't you better put it on first?—*Clothes and Furnisher*.

The shoe dealers are showing a new clasp for the front of shoes, warranted to keep the shoe strings in place.

A NOVELTY IN SHOES.

News comes from England of a decided novelty in the shoemaking line, as recently invented there, and for developing which a company with a capital of £100,000 has been organized. It consists of a removable sole and top lift, which can be changed when worn, by the person wearing it. The feature of the invention is a metal plate riveted to the bottom of the shoe when lasted. The sole, in the shape of a tap sole, is provided with a stitched welt, and under the welt is a thin band or strip of metal, which slides under the edges of the plate riveted on the bottom of the shoe. The shank is of steel, japanned black, and the joint end of the half sole is countersunk to fit under the shank where it is fastened and held in place by two screws. The top piece of the heel is fastened in by three screws. It is proposed to make shoes by this method and furnish an extra pair of soles and top lifts with each pair of shoes, as well as make the soles for sale separately.

SMOKELESS POWDER.

The most evident advantage of the new powder lies in the small amount of smoke created, which allows of better aim, and consequently better shooting. . . . A further advantage is in the better leading of the firing troops, the clearer observation of the individual and of the effect of fire. Unless required for other reasons, the absence of smoke also allows of the pauses, formerly considered indispensable during the period of rapid fire, being omitted. On the enemy's side, it prevents his recognizing at once the exact situation of the defensive position to be attacked. In conclusion, the battlefield is rendered far more open to observation. These advantages may be claimed equally by the troops employed in the attack and in the defence. Opposed to them, there are certain disadvantages to be recognized. The uncertainty of the aim (determining the enemy's position) will be greater than formerly, which will detract from the advantage claimed for clearer observation. The difficulties of command will be enhanced by this circumstance; they demand a higher tactical ability and initiative from leaders of all ranks. The difficulty of recognizing the enemy's position will demand a more thorough reconnoissance, and render the command more than formally dependent on reports of others.—*Col. V. Lobell, in the United Service Journal*.

A STAB.

Doctor—No man has to die more than once.

Maud—Aren't you sorry?—*Life*.

Slippers have superseded shoes for dress occasions. The toes are very pointed; the heels high; the back of the slipper coming up very high.

Two Chicago men have invented a magnetic button fastener for shoes, the buttons being fed from a hopper by means of a horse shoe magnet to a stamping mechanism which stamps them upon the shoes.