

of every reduction has been a huge gain in the volume of the business done by the roads. The same effect would follow the lowering of the passenger rate by one-third, and a very material part of the advantage would accrue to mercantile interests.

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The advantage of Chicago as a half-way stopping point for California green fruit in transit to this market, is that the bulk of the wasty fruit is stopped there and goes into consumption at that centre. The shippers' agents take advantage of re-shipping to sort the stock, choosing only what is in the most promising condition to come sound into the hands of Toronto importers. Herein is shown the value of an adequate peddling system. The fruit that is of the most doubtful keeping quality is disposed of at once to the pedlars, and in perhaps six or eight hours after getting into their hands is all in the homes of consumers. If it were not for this agency of swift sale, that class of fruit might be hard to get rid of in Chicago, and the condition of receipts here might be much less satisfactory than it is. Of course it is to the interest of shippers to forward good stock, but it is also to their interest to distribute good stock to the buyers at Chicago, and they are of immeasurably more importance in the matter of business than our buyers. Further, it was to the interest of California shippers to send us oranges in good condition, but did that fact guarantee us good fruit? Let the condition of some of this spring's shipments of Riverside seedlings answer. The pedlars of Chicago are the buffing apparatus between our fruit merchants and the shippers.

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The honey market is in a condition of utter stagnation. Last year's business was unsatisfactory enough to most people who had anything to do with honey, and more of it was offered on commission than was ever so put on the market before. But this year's experience is still worse. There is more honey produced than ever before, and less consumed, both relatively and absolutely, than there has been for years. People are not less fond of honey than they ever were, and it is not therefore to a declining taste for the commodity that the decline in its sale is chargeable, but to high prices. Honey must follow the same rule as the staple sweets—sugar and syrups—and as the latter have gone down remarkably in the last few years so honey should have gone down for its

sales to continue in anything like a constant relation to the sales of sugar and the preserved products of sugar, fruits, etc. But honey-raisers have kept up their prices, and in the last five years have varied little more than half a cent in their opening quotations, while sugar is three cents lower. It is impossible for the producers to make anything by the attempt to keep honey a luxury. Like everything else, it has most to gain by being made a necessary, and its producers should have endeavored to make it more of a staple than they have done. Some of the agencies that have cheapened the price of sugar have been at work on a small scale in reducing the cost of honey-production, and inventions and ideas in bee-keeping have done much to lessen the primary cost of honey. We have had good weather, too, so that loss through the perishing of hives has counted for little the last few years. Once honey is got on a parity with sugar, the market will become steady and sales will be larger, as there cannot fail to be a demand for this delectable article. This year's flow is reported good. The bloom is rich, the weather damp and warm—just what is required to be for abundant storage—and dealers are doing an immense business, according to their report, in selling supplies to beekeepers. But prices must be quoted on a much lower plane if producers expect to sell their honey.

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The quantity of bananas and pineapples handled on this market since the opening of the present season has been tremendous. For several weeks the receipts of bananas alone have exceeded fifteen car loads per week. The quantity of pineapples handled by one house in one day was greater than the same house handled in the whole of the season three years ago. Shippers show wisdom in selecting stock for this point, the bulk of the bananas coming in being of "steamer run" average, which is surer to yield better satisfaction all around than firsts. Reds are declining year by year, they being handicapped by their lower count, though the bunches weigh but little less, must therefore take up about as much car room, pay as much freight and cost about as much. Hence they are being left in the race, and fewer are seen here every year.

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The Methodist conference, by the stand it took on Saturday early closing, out of regard

for the better observance of Sunday, has put its influence on the side of the early closing movement to that extent. There is need of reform here. Saturday is a day of slavery to the majority of employees who serve in a store that does a business of any magnitude. The hours of labor are from 8 a. m. till 10 or 11 p. m., and often till midnight on that day of the week, in stores where they keep open on Saturday night. This is calculated to make of Sunday a day of rest surely, a day so wholly given up to physical restoration that there can not be time or disposition for anything else. Church synods, assemblies and conferences would do well to discourage this practice, as business can as well be kept within reasonable hours on Saturday as on any other day. The legislative committee of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council has endorsed the action of the Conference in this matter.

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A man's good faith is not always to be measured by his readiness to put his name to a written engagement. There are people who will sign an agreement to close early, when their only object in putting their hand to such a compact is to induce competitors to do the same thing, thereby committing those competitors to a course which they feel bound in honor to follow, while the insincere signatories are all the time calculating on the big advantage they will reap by their repudiation of the agreement when all the rest are bound. This dishonorable stratagem,—if it can be dignified by a name suggestive of cleverness—is very frequently resorted to, the man who takes to it going on the supposition that he is the only unprincipled party to the league, and that he will be allowed to enjoy the fruits of his own bad faith. He never seems to reason that every other party feels absolved the moment an agreement is broken by one party to it. Hence everybody is free to close when he pleases as soon as one man elects to do so. That admits everybody to the privilege of trading till late hours and extinguishes the special advantage. Then what is gained by such disgraceful practices? The grocers of a section of this city had bound themselves in an agreement to close at a certain time, but when that time came one refused to close, and rather boasted of his "smartness" in leading everybody to believe him a man of his word. This is the kind of men who make it impossible in some districts for traders to come to agreement on any matter.