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J. B. McLEAN,
President.

HUGH C. McLEAN,
Sec.-Treas.

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Unpromising indeed is the outlook for the currant growers of Greece. And a variety of influences seem to be working together to make certain what is almost assured. On the Island of Zante the conditions are particularly unfavorable. Last season the terrible little insect peronosporo, played sad havoc with the currant crop, and most of the 15,000 tons or thereabouts that now remain is of poor quality. To still further increase the misery of the inhabitants the island has been visited by earthquakes that are estimated to have damaged property to the extent of some two and a half million dollars, one half the towns being destroyed. It is now a question whether growers will be able to find men enough to cultivate their vineyards for the coming season. The condition on the mainland can scarcely be said to be any better than it is on the islands. There it is expected that the attack of the peronosporo will be renewed, and that the crop will turn out worse than even last year. Now the country is also passing through a financial crisis, and banks and capitalists are not disposed to make advances to currant growers, and on the mainland, as on some of the islands, it looks as if not a few of the vineyards

will be left to take care of themselves. Unfortunately it takes a much longer period to undo than to do the damage caused by the peronosporo. A gentleman who is somewhat of an authority on such matters informs THE GROCER that it will take some years, it being, as a rule, necessary to graft on new shoots. It is the general opinion among the trade that currants are at the moment pretty good property.

Some retail grocers seem to have lost sight of the fact that they are in business to make money. In the race for patronage they fix their eyes on the customer just as the runner does his on the tape measure which he is striving to breast first. It is a storekeeper's duty to get all the customers he can, but it is possible to pay too dearly for them as well as for experience. When there is too much eagerness to obtain the patronage of this and that consumer there is a tendency to overlook two important things. When a man goes into business for himself it is with the purpose of making a living. And in order to make a living he must have profit. This is one of the things that sometimes seems to be forgotten. A grocer should try to make a profit on everything he sells. Of course there are times when with certain goods of a perishable nature it may be necessary to sell them at a sacrifice in order to prevent incurring a total loss. But the same plea will not suffice to justify the selling of soap, sugar, and other such staple lines at or even below cost. Not only does it demoralize trade, but the practice is unjust both to himself and to his creditors. The other thing often lost sight of is in regard to discriminating as to who shall and who shall not be given credit. It is better to have a small and profitable business than a large and unprofitable one, and

to have one good paying than half a dozen bad paying customers.

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The action of the Toronto City Council in referring back to the Property Committee the report recommending a two-thirds decrease in the license fee, and removing restrictions as to street limitations necessitates the work being gone over afresh. And the Property Committee resumed its share of the burden last week. But the report it will recommend to the Executive is changed, and that materially, from that previously submitted. In the first report the Council was asked to make the fee on one-horse rigs \$10 instead of \$30 as at present, and to disallow the restrictions preventing hawking in the centre of the city. Now they propose to make the fee \$20 and to allow the restrictions to remain in force. Since the committee conceived the idea of reducing pedlars' licenses some of its members have apparently received a little education regarding the subject, it having taken no less than eight divisions to carry the motion favoring a reduction in the fee. Why the fee should be interfered with at all is not plain. The privileges secured for \$30 are cheap from more points than one, and the pedlars, if they only knew it, are injuring themselves by advocating lower fees. The Council will probably deal with the matter on Monday night.

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The condition of the hotels in some rural districts is anything but satisfactory. And commercial travellers, more than any other class of the travelling public, know it to their sorrow. In one the sample-room accommodation is inadequate; in another the lavatory probably consists of nothing better than a pump, a dirty pail, and a towel as black as coal. In others the sanitary condition is bad by reason of the filth that