

NATIONAL RETAIL DRUGGISTS' ASSOCIATION.

That the 35,000 or more druggists adjacent to us are still very much dissatisfied is evident by the history which they are just now so commendably making for themselves. They deserve the acknowledgment and the gratitude of every druggist in the world. No more fitting resolution could be adopted by us on this occasion than our endorsing the action and the wisdom of the druggists of the United States of America in uniting to form the National Druggists' Association. The declaration of the Committee on National Organization of that Association, that they were "firm in the conviction that the creation of a permanent national body is a necessary step to successful dealing with the various questions which demand consideration" should receive our warmest endorsement. And why, gentlemen?

THE WAR TAX AND ITS RESULTS.

A point particularly worthy of our consideration—War—a great part of "the white man's burden," is affecting our cousins over the border line. It is also touching our pockets in the shape of our contribution to this tax. The editor of the *Western Druggist* says: "Perhaps it would not be far from the truth to say that 80 or 85 per cent. of the tax is coming out of the retail druggists of this country, and the rest from the manufacturers," and "to put it in good plain language, it is legal robbery." If this be true, why do we sit still and bear it? Our own Government gains somewhat in the way of taxation; but the consumer of certain lines, on this side, in British territory, pays in the enhanced price to the wholesaler his share to this war tax. We have to raise our prices, so that they include all this taxation, as well as our living profit. The Canadian manufacturer and consumer may learn a lesson from this. Not only this portion of the British Empire, but even the Mother Land, may well enquire, "can we assist both ourselves and our descendants?" You all know a manufacturing institution known as the Potter Drug Co.

POTTER DRUG CO.

Since the Spanish-American war some of their preparations have increased in price in the following ratio: Cuticura ointment, now dearer by about 10 per cent.; Cuticura Resolvent, by about 13½

per cent.; Cuticura Plasters, by about 50 per cent.; Cuticura Soap, by about 31 per cent. This may be taken as one out of many examples to illustrate the position in which the Dominion is placed.

The marvellous awakening that has taken place in Great Britain with respect to this, her largest and nearest colony, makes every interest of ours a keen living question there. More especially is this the case where her own pecuniary interests are bound up with ours. Preferential trade has been given to the mother country. There is an opening here for the shrewd manufacturer in both Canada and Great Britain to supply our needs, without paying the war tax, or any share of it, to our shrewd neighbors. Washington Irving says, "the natural principle of war is to do the most harm to our enemy, with the least harm to ourselves," and this, of course, is to be effected by stratagem and with the least harm to the United States. We are certainly not anxious to put our hands into our pockets to pay Uncle Sam's indebtedness.

After all, is there not a levelling process going on? Are these patent medicine manufacturers not boycotting themselves? And by their greed and craftiness is not pharmacy likely to benefit?

To the recent graduates and all the young pharmacists who have come under my observation of late years, I would say be true to yourselves. Do not degrade your calling. Pharmacy is a grand science and can be made a noble and profitable profession. In various ways, business is often ruined by the errors of both young and old. Lack of integrity must bring disaster to any man, no matter what his vocation. A proper sense of right and wrong and the difference between *meum* and *tuum* are essential to success. The druggist who will stoop to questionable practices, and expose himself to the charge of criminality, should have his name removed from the register. Selling of powerful drugs for illicit purposes, intoxicants to dipsomaniacs, and the refilling of prescriptions containing harmful ingredients without sanction of the physician, cannot elevate pharmacy.

To thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the day the night,
Thou canst not be false to any man.

The man who knows but one thing feels capable of giving advice on all subjects.

Seneca Root.

Now that the season for gathering seneca root is starting, it may be well to call attention to some points which should be observed in gathering and preparing the article for market, as quantities of it are grown in Canada, principally for export. In the first place the root should be thoroughly washed, and then it should be dried thoroughly in the sun, so that it will be brittle and snap when bent. Root that will bend without snapping is too green to market. This is an important point. A great deal of root is marketed before it is properly dried. It may be spread out and dried afterwards, but it is not as good quality as when dried properly in the first place. The color is darker, and the root often becomes mouldy and damaged from being packed up before it is thoroughly dried. Green or damp root should not be taken on any account. The color is an important matter, hence the necessity for thoroughly washing and drying in the sun. Root dried in the sun has a brighter and more yellowish color than when dried under cover. Small, fine root is more valuable than large, coarse and bulby root. The large bulby root is hard to sell. The root should be well washed around the tops, and any sprouts or growth should be carefully removed. Root with green or reddish tops is almost unsaleable at any price, and should not be taken.

It is necessary that storekeepers who buy the root should be more careful, as wholesale buyers and exporters will be obliged to discriminate as to quality, more than they have in the past on account of the refusal of foreign buyers to take root of such quality, as has been frequently forwarded heretofore. The trade is quite an important one, and it is worth while that an effort should be made to improve the quality of our exports of this commodity.

A Find of Natural Carbonate of Soda.

An important discovery of a limitless supply of carbonate of soda has been made in Mexico, at Sonora. The deposit covers seventy acres, in the centre of which springs exist, the water being strongly impregnated. From the evaporated water which has covered the area, a crust of crystallized salts, one to three feet thick, abounds, beneath which is a foot or eighteen inches of water. On the removal of the crust the water takes its place and evaporates. It is supposed that at least 10,000 tons of the material are available at present.