

of the public burden of taxation, but as a rule they demoralize trade by giving away the money they have cheated the country out of to their customers. By this means they probably expect that their greatly increased trade will repay them for their increased risk, and so it probably would if they were never detected. It is an old saying that "The pitcher that goes often enough to the well is sure to be broken," and so it is only a question of time when the smuggler comes to grief. "The mills of the gods grind slowly but they grind to powder," and many a person who has practiced this illegal calling undetected for years has at length been brought up with a round turn when he least expected it.

The smuggler usually goes to work with his eyes open because he makes it his business. He knows or ought to know the risk he runs and what will follow in case he is detected, and therefore when he is caught we do not think any sympathy should be wasted upon him. It ought to be looked upon by outsiders as a matter of course that the Government should strip him of all his ill-gotten gains, and punish him just the same as for any other offence against the law and society.

In order that our readers may have a clearer idea of the penalties for smuggling and the powers vested in Customs officials for the detection of it, we append a few extracts from

THE CUSTOMS ACT OF 1883.

Penalty and forfeiture for smuggling goods, using false invoices, etc.

SEC. 153. "If any person with intent to defraud the revenue of Canada, smuggles or clandestinely introduces into, or attempts to pass through the Custom House any false, forged, or fraudulent invoice, or in any way attempts to defraud the revenue by evading the payment of the duty, or any part of the duty on any goods, such goods shall be seized and forfeited; and every such person, his aiders and abettors shall, in addition to any other penalty or forfeiture to which he or they may be subject for such offence, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be liable to a penalty of not less than fifty dollars and not more than two hundred dollars, or to imprisonment for a term of not less than one month nor more than one year, or to both fine and imprisonment within the said limits, in the discretion of the Court before whom the conviction is had."

Misdemeanor, fine and imprisonment

SEC. 154. "If any person offers for sale any goods under pretence that the same are prohibited, or have been unshipped and run on shore, or brought in by land or otherwise, without payment of duties, there and in such case all such goods (though not liable to any duties nor prohibited) shall be seized and forfeited, and every person offering the same for sale shall forfeit treble the value of such goods, or the penalty of two hundred dollars at the election of the prosecutor, which penalty shall be recoverable in a summary way, before one or more Justices of the Peace; and in default of payment on conviction, the party so offending shall be committed to any of her Majesty's gaols for a period of not exceeding sixty days."

Forfeiture and penalty for offering for sale goods pretended to be smuggled.

Imprisonment for non-payment.

SEC. 155. If any person knowingly harbors, keeps, conceals, purchases, sells or exchanges any goods illegally imported into Canada, (whether

such goods are dutiable or not) or whereon the duties lawfully payable have not been paid, such person shall, for such offence, forfeit treble the value of said goods, as well as the goods themselves." Penalty for harboring or selling smuggled goods.

From the foregoing it will readily be seen that if the Customs department choose to exercise the powers vested in them, it would be almost impossible for any merchant to keep smuggled goods on his premises, even though he experienced no difficulty in getting them into the country. The trouble is that heretofore the department has simply shut its eyes to the fact that any great amount of this dishonest evasion has been going on and if by accident they caught any one *in flagrante delicto*, they were content to confiscate the goods and let the culprit go.

Now, however, that so many and such flagrant breaches or law have been brought before their notice, the department has resolved to uphold the dignity of the law and to mete out punishment to all and sundry who can be convicted of such dishonest practices. To this end they have secured the services of highly trained detectives who will be given carte blanche as to their manner of working up the cases entrusted to them.

This action of the department is highly to be commended and should prove a most effectual check upon smugglers of all kinds, who may rest assured that if the government allow them apparent immunity for a season it will only be for the purpose of making a more complete example of them when they are ready to shut down upon them.

This action on the part of the Customs authorities cannot fail to be of great benefit to all honest dealers, as it will have no small effect in doing away with the cut-throat competition that unchecked smuggling is sure to bring about. For this reason every honest dealer whether wholesale or retail should do all that lies in their power to help the authorities to stamp out this evil.

Before closing we cannot help asking our retail merchants throughout the country to look out carefully for smuggled goods in the hands of unscrupulous so-called jobbers. As they will see by the foregoing extracts from the Customs Act, no matter whether they buy smuggled goods innocently or not they are just as liable to have such goods seized and confiscated as the original smuggler. There are so many reputable jobbers in Canada whose standing is above reproach, that they would be indeed foolish to purchase dubious goods from people of little or no responsibility simply because they appeared cheap. Such goods may often prove very expensive to the purchaser before he gets through with them.

A NEW METALLIC STANDARD OF VALUE.

Probably no question is to day receiving such universal attention as the depression of trade. Go where you will, whether to free trade England, or to the protected countries of Europe or America, the same complaint is heard, business is depressed, and as a consequence thinking men everywhere are looking for some panacea to this seemingly universal difficulty. As is usual in such cases, there are not wanting the-rist who pretend with certainty to account for the prevailing stagnation, and as a rule, each advocate has very plausible reasons in support of their pet contention. The two most in favor, however, seem to be the