

only in England, but in previous Canadian cases, employers had constantly failed in suing unions, because they were not bodies recognized by the law, being neither individuals nor incorporated entities.

Finally, however, it was discovered that a rule of practice existed, which enabled a plaintiff to have a number of persons represent a union and defend for the union, so that when an action was finally determined these parties representing the union in the meantime, the union itself would be responsible for the damages awarded. This practice has been followed with success in several other trade union cases since it was adopted by the Metallic Roofing Company, and it now appears a very easy thing to attack a trade union legally. The Metallic Roofing Company case finally came on for trial on its merits before Mr. Justice McMahon, who submitted certain questions of fact to the jury, and on its decision gave judgment against the Sheet Metal Workers' Union for seven thousand five hundred dollars.

The jury found that the workmen of the plaintiffs were wrongfully and maliciously induced by the union to leave their employers, and that although the actual interference was directly caused by the Local Union No. 30, it was endorsed by the International Sheet Metal Workers' Union. The jury also found that they conspired by threats and intimidation to induce the plaintiffs' customers to refrain from dealing with them. It is not too much to say that this is the most important decision that has been rendered on trade union law in Canada; it seems to settle once and for all, the rights of the employer against his union servants, and will, no doubt, exert a great influence in future disputes in Canada between labor and capital.

FALL TRADE.

The tone of the market in all the more important branches of trade keeps quite satisfactory, so far as the demand from a prosperous consuming public goes. That it is prosperous we find indicated as much by the high range of value in goods mostly in request as by the quantity needed. In some classes of articles the former feature is not so noticeable, but this is due perhaps chiefly to the fact that such goods are staples in which variation in quality is not a marked feature, that is to say, they are articles which, to be of any utility whatever, have to be of a fair quality, which remains more or less fixed. Of such a nature are many of the things that one obtains in the country hardware, or general merchandise store. Yet, even here the tendency towards "the best" is not invisible. The same purchaser who formerly would ask and only pay for a hatchet which merely looked a hatchet whether it would preserve a keen edge or not, now calls for and insists on receiving nothing but a hatchet which will stand the wear and tear of good hard usage. The other sort, of course, still find their purchasers, but it is the best goods that bring customers to the merchant's store, and keep them there.

In other goods of a more fancy character, however, this tendency is very marked, and is becoming more so every month. Dress and coating materials, ribbons, handkerchiefs, millinery, gloves, and the thousand and one articles that enter into a man's or a woman's toilet are all in strong demand along the line of quality. And while the city trade long ago

became aware of the consumers' wishes in this direction, that of the country, in proportion, is becoming even more so. The old idea, in fact, that country people want apparel and other goods at a cheaper price, and of considerably inferior grade than their city cousins is being abandoned.

Even in food products, the desire for goodness even at higher cost, is evincing itself. And to a certain extent, especially again in the rural districts, the luxuries of former days have become the necessities of these. The "higher standard of living," to which the prating of some of the American economists has accustomed us, is an accomplished fact in the Canada of to-day.

That these things conduce to a quicker movement, to a greater volume of trade, is a truism, and this autumn, unless all indications fail, the fact is likely to become more patent. So far as has come to our ears, wholesale merchants in practically all kinds of business, are meeting with satisfactory results of their year's trading. There can scarcely be said to be any strongly marked feature to which we have not referred in one recent issue or another, but the agreement of opinion is that "times are good." In some fields of activity, it is true that consumption has been restricted owing to high cost of materials and labor, but comparing this restriction with the sometimes extreme acuteness of the cause, it cannot be said that the net result is as much as might be expected. Woolens, for example, have reached a stage of value which may well be described as unprecedented. Yet the demand for woolens, while keeping as much to present requirements as is compatible with economic trading, cannot be complained of.

The above may be taken, as remarks representative in a general way, of conditions as they affect the older portions of the Dominion. But in the West, they apply still more forcibly. The advice which has been given to both merchants and farmers in our western country to pay outstanding debts before new ones be contracted, would appear likely to be acted on in large measure, and this will probably result in placing trade with that growingly important section on a more stable and satisfactory basis. This in turn will react favorably on trade in Ontario and Quebec, so that all in all, it may be said that the prospects for a good fall and winter's business were never brighter than they are now, especially when are taken into consideration the inevitable consequences of the past season's remarkably uniform good crops.

MONTREAL AND TORONTO COMPARED.

The figures published by the Montreal collector of customs, Mr. Robt. S. White, who visited Toronto some time ago to look into the reason for the large increase in duty collected at the port of Toronto as compared with Montreal, possess decided interest. He compares the relative progress of the two cities as regards population, assessments of real estate, street railway earnings, customs collections, clearing house returns, and value of the manufacturing output. Six items in all, the figures official in all instances. The record of growth is so plainly in favor of Toronto as to be somewhat startling, perhaps, to many stay-at-home Montrealers who have never been able to shake off their long-cherished impression of Toronto.

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