

has been organized in Canada for the purpose of manufacturing watch cases of all kinds. The new company propose to buy out the present plant and business of Mr. R. J. Ungley, and to add to it sufficient machinery of the latest pattern to enable them to turn out goods equal in construction and finish to anything manufactured on the continent. With ample capital and a pick of skilled workmen from the leading case factories across the border we do not see why this cannot be done, and we feel sure that if such a thing can be done at all, the promoters of the new company are the men to do it. Quite a number of the leading Canadian jobbers have become stockholders in it, and the company looks forward to a large trade in the near future. The company have secured four very valuable patents in cases which they will control in this market, and they propose to turn out nothing but first-class goods, and combine in them all the latest improvements. In a future number we may have something to say about some of these patented specialties, but in the meantime we congratulate the country upon this latest addition to its manufactures and wish it all the success that such an enterprise deserves.

THE STERN FAILURE.—The failure of Samuel Stern, wholesale dealer in jewelry and fancy goods, has passed the stage of being a nine days' wonder, and has ceased to be the general talk amongst the trade. The able report made by Mr. Charles Grant upon the business shows that it has been suffering from the "dry rot" for the past five years, having averaged an annual loss of about \$5,000 during that period. Mr. Stern's last stock-taking was five years ago, and he has neglected to take stock, balance his books, until the assignee was called upon to assist him. His non-success appears to have been brought about from two causes, extravagance, caused probably from want of knowing his exact financial position, and the erection of the block of stores, one of which he occupied for his business. Five years ago Mr. Stern showed a surplus in his business of \$25,000, but the interest he has paid on the money borrowed in order to erect his buildings, seems to have eaten this surplus entirely up. In addition to these things, Mr. Stern's business was not large enough in volume to make it a paying concern, and had he had an interest account around his neck, like a mill stone, it is scarcely possible that he could have held out for very much longer. So far as the creditors are concerned, the estate is likely to turn out a very unprofitable one, and if it pays twenty cents on the dollar it will do better than we anticipate. At a meeting of creditors, held last month, the creditors decided not to accept Mr. Stern's offer of twenty cents on the dollar for the stock, but to sell it off and put him out of business. They do not charge Mr. Stern with anything criminal whatever in the conduct of his business, but generally agree that he showed but little business sagacity or foresight in his conduct of it, and in view of these circumstances decided to act as they have done. In regard to this we may say, with all deference to the assignee, that his course in disposing of this stock is neither practical nor business like. We think that in justice to the wholesale trade, he should put up the stock *en bloc* and sell to the highest tenderer. His present course of slaughtering the goods to

anybody disturbs the market, and does the wholesaler harm without doing the retailer any good.

"EVER ALERT."—The following rich incident, which is true in every particular, occurred in Toronto about a fortnight ago. "A well-known jewelry manufacturer, who resides in Chicago, arrived in this city. The object of his visit was to ascertain the state of the jewelry trade, as it was his intention to start with another gentleman a factory in Toronto for the manufacture of jewelry and other fancy articles. Some of the wholesale firms in that business were visited, and a very encouraging report was received. He then telegraphed to his intended partner in New York that prospects were good, and requested him to meet him in Toronto. Brief visits were then paid to Montreal and Hamilton with satisfactory results. On Friday the gentleman from New York arrived in Toronto, and together the two visited every wholesale jewelry house here. Saturday was also occupied in this way. The matter came to the ears of the astute detectives. It is shrewdly suspected that some designing person who knew that the detectives could be easily duped, pointed out the two visitors to them as "crooks." At any rate during the two days they were in Toronto both the men were "shadowed" and watched to the utmost capacity of the Toronto detective force. They were followed to every jewelry warehouse they visited and their actions were watched intently. Their scheme, to the minds of the detectives, was a bold one. They were evidently taking surveys of the places where the most valuable goods were stored, in order to "break into" them all in one night, take possession of the goods, and make off to Uncle Sam's dominions. The fact that they had come from New York and Chicago was additional evidence against them. It did not seem necessary to the detectives to ascertain the business of the gentlemen in their native cities or at Toronto, for they honestly supposed that no honest person could come from such places. On Saturday morning the perseverance of the detectives met with a most disastrous check, and their hopes of making a big haul were dashed to the ground. The two American gentlemen, after having interviewed the members of a jewelry firm on Yonge street, near Wellington street, left the premises and were leisurely walking down Yonge street. Detective Burrows and another detective were on hand, and proceeded to shadow them. A city jeweler who happened to be passing was called aside by the detectives. "Hist," said Burrows, "we're Toronto detectives." The jeweler bided. "Them two men," remarked the detective, "are from the States. They've been around to all the wholesale jewelry houses to get the lay of things, and are going to try to make a big haul. We've got on to 'em and we'll arrest 'em before they work their little game." The jeweler was almost convulsed with laughter at the absurdity of the statement, and on recovering informed the detectives that the gentlemen were reputable persons, and told them their business in Toronto. "Be jabers," said Burrows, "is that a fact? Don't give it away on us, but we've been watching these two men night and day since they came to the city." Thus ended the little episode.

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WORKSHOP NOTES.

To Oxydize Silver: Dissolve one ounce of sulphuret of ammonia in one pint of hot water. Dip articles for a few seconds, lay them in water, scratch, brush well, and rinse.

Cement for Porcelain and China: Make a paste of fresh cheese mixed with silicate of potassa, or the white of an egg mixed with powdered lime. Apply immediately.

Silver Solder—Soft. Two parts of fine silver and one of brass wire. Three-quarters of a part of arsenic is sometimes added at the close of the operation to make the solder whiter and more fusible.

Black Lacquer for Iron and Steel. Boil together one part sulphur and ten parts oil of turpentine. Paint the metal with this liquid, and hold in the flame of a spirit lamp until the lacquer turns to a handsome black.

To Restore Discolored Pearls: Set pearls which have become discolored by wear, may often be improved by placing in a covered vessel with a mixture of whiting, ammonia, and water, and permitting them to remain a few hours.

Cementing Labels to Metals. If the tin or other bright metal is first rubbed with a mixture of muriatic acid and alcohol, the operator will find it an easy matter to cause the labels to adhere by using a very thin coating of paste.

Oil for Lathes, Etc. This oil can be prepared by mixing one pint of best sperm oil with four ounces best kerosene oil. If the odor of the latter is objectionable, add one drachm of oil of rose geranium. This is a most excellent lubricator for lathes, sewing machines, etc.

A Good Lacquer for Brass: One quart alcohol ninety-eight per cent., one and one-half ounces best orange shellac, one-quarter ounce gum sandarac, one-quarter ounce gum elemi. Mix and keep gently warm for two or three days, stirring occasionally, and strain; give it a wine color with dragon's blood. Warm the articles before applying lacquer.

To color brass Steel-gray or Black: Add one part of hyposulphate of soda and two parts of sulphate of copper to one hundred parts of water. Cleanse thoroughly the object to be colored, place it in the mixture and heat it. A darker tint is procured by adding more hyposulphate of soda, while a larger quantity of sulphate of copper will produce a bluish or steel gray color.

To Remove Stains from Watch Dials. To remove black or cloudy stains from porcelain watch dials which are generally caused by the tin boxes they are shipped in, wet a piece tissue paper in nitric acid and wipe the dial. This will instantly remove them. After applying the acid the dial