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By the best Tailoring Skill Military and all the latest prevailing styles put up at Short Notice. A splendid line of samples to select from. Full instructions how to measure and samples sent free to any one outside the city. **27 CAUTION.** As it has been reported by parties in the trade that we are making garments of Melrose, Derby and Heptonsett cloth, I beg to state that we are handling none but the MANCHESTER STEAM VULCANIZED RUBBER GOODS, THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

J. E. PARKER, Agent, 111 Granville St.

Editor Critic.

DEAR SIR,—An agitation has been attempted to effect "reforms" in the administration of civic affairs, but it seems unlikely that it will result in anything of practical value, because the root of the evils which all men agree are existing is not touched. That is, that the best and most capable business men cannot be induced to accept nominations for civic honors. It is within memory when some of our best business men sought and obtained seats at the council board. The business of the city was then conducted in a business-like and economical way. If then, why not now? Desirable men, as a rule, shirk the responsibility of assisting to administer civic affairs by pleading the pressure of business. Business interests doubtless require closer attention now than they did fifteen or twenty years ago. But a strong suspicion exists in many minds that it is not altogether business interests that prevent desirable merchants from acceding to the wishes of their fellow citizens in this respect. The fact of the matter is that the aldermanic standard has depreciated. Each subsequent year has seen it lower than the preceding one, until to-day a good many no longer look upon the position of an Alderman as an honorable one.

"I would not be found in such company," is an expression that one frequently hears. This is, indisputably, one of the reasons why desirable men decline to be candidates for civic honors. Another and a prolific reason is the dislike to take a hand in the uninviting task of assisting to unravel the much-betangled civic affairs. Yet, if there are none who will sacrifice some of their private affairs for the public good, how are the desired reforms to be accomplished? What Halifax needs is to have seated around the aldermanic board square men with good business and executive ability—no matter from what ranks they may come. The question that the voters have to solve is how to induce such men to serve. In some of the cities of the United States the live business men have, from time to time, stepped in and gathered up the reins that hung loose. What has been done in cities across the line can be done in Halifax if the right men can but be induced to step into the breach. Until this is accomplished, all the private meetings held at a leading hotel, followed by public meetings at the Lycoum or elsewhere, cannot result in any advance towards the ostensible object of civic reform, though they may aid in forwarding the desires of the bumptious persons who promote such "meetings" to obtain prominence or notoriety, if not seats at the Council board.

CITIZEN.

COMMERCIAL.

Throughout the Dominion business in general staple lines, though not rushing, is in a fairly satisfactory and healthy condition. Wholesalers report that orders are coming in more freely from country storekeepers, which orders cover a large variety of lines. Farmers, as they realize on their produce of various kinds, are purchasing more liberally, and the present prospect is encouraging for a fairly brisk fall trade. Fluctuations in values in most lines have been very slight and prices generally are well sustained. With the exception of a few heavy failures, chiefly in the line of boots and shoes, in the west, trade has experienced no important disturbing influences, and confidence among the commercial community is steadily strengthening. Banks and other financial institutions show more willingness to make loans on reasonable terms than they did. Collections are reported somewhat better than they were a few weeks ago, and the situation shows, on the whole, a gradual but steady improvement.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REVIEW OF HENRY CLEWS AND CO., NEW YORK, October 21, 1893.—"Still the Senate debate drags its weary course, and still Wall Street as wearily waits for its conclusion. If evidence were wanting of the serious effects of this delay, it stands out clearly in the fact that another of our great railroad corporations has been compelled to seek protection in a receivership. The statement of the Union Pacific's finances, on the application for a receiver, is mainly a recital of the immense losses of business pending the late silver depression and the protracted deferment of repeal, and it is very doubtful whether the Company would have drifted into its acknowledged bankruptcy had it not been for these drains upon its business.

The Union Pacific is by no means the only one of our railroad corporations that has seriously suffered from this cause, and there is too much reason to fear that, if the silver question were allowed to remain much longer unsettled, other embarrassments may not unlikely result. The signs at Washington however are now looking brighter, and we may be permitted to hope that the deadly incubus of suspended legislation will soon be removed from the business and the credit of the country. The people are so positively incredulous that the Senate will dare to persist much longer in disregarding their unmistakably expressed will, that their attitude is one of impatient waiting rather than despondency, nor is it supposed that, even were the repeal measure to fail of adoption in the Upper House, such defeat would amount to anything more than a transient postponement of success. In no

Dr. J. Wier, Dorchester, says: "Have prescribed Puttner's Emulsion with good results in pulmonary, scrofulous and wasting disease. Especially applicable to children, being so easily taken."

well-informed quarters is the continued unlimited time issue of silver money regarded as a possibility; and that confidence is an anchor that will keep the country from again drifting on the rocks of panic from which we have just escaped. The positiveness of this confidence is the main cause of the underlying strength of the investment market which is keeping the 'bores' timid about selling and induces a spurt of buying upon any improving changes in the posture of the Senate. It is evident that a similar view of the prospects of silver reform is taken in the foreign markets for our securities; for, disheartening as the action of the Senate may be supposed to be upon observers at such a distance, yet there has been no noteworthy return of our securities since the silver vote of the House of Representatives, except in the case of certain stocks which have been unfavorably affected by quite other causes.

But while this confidence in the ultimate suspension of silver purchases serves as a strong support to the market, the delay of that conclusion acts in many ways as a drag upon both values and transactions. It keeps up a reservation in the larger operations of corporate credit, which tends to the embarrassment of railroad finance. It puts obstacles in the way of the resuscitation of important roads now in process of financial reconstruction, and it throws a certain cloud of suspicion around properties which otherwise would enjoy unqualified confidence; all of which has a certain effect upon railroad investments for the time being.

Upon business operations at large, the position of the Senate also has a discouraging effect. Among the mass of traders, the situation is not so clearly understood as it is in the higher circles of capital, and therefore, the confidence in the ultimate adoption of repeal has a less positive sustaining effect. Consequently, in the retail business, the growing excitement at Washington rather tends to suggest distrust than to encourage hope. The past disasters have purged business of its weak points and the basis of credit is sounder than it was before the depression. Industries are resuming their suspended work, and in many cases under conditions which will yield improved profits. Labor is being correspondingly called into more regular employment and the purchasing power of the working millions is thereby being increased. The increasing supply of products has not sufficed to fill the vacuum caused by depleted stocks, and, as a rule, prices of commodities are consequently well sustained. Taken as a whole, the commercial situation is such that, in case of the passage of silver repeal, there could hardly fail to be a marked revival of trade and a large return towards general normal conditions. Considering that all the present indications point to the early forcing of a vote on silver repeal it will therefore be apparent how near we may possibly be to a general revival of business.

Monetary movements continue in the direction of an ease calculated to stimulate any reviving tendency that may arise in business. Throughout the entire country, money is accessible to sound borrowers. At this centre, the reserves of the banks have risen to figures rarely touched at this season of the year; and although this is an evidence of business depression yet it may at any moment become the cause of its revival. The course of our foreign trade is so largely in favor of this country as to neutralize the late uneasiness as to whether we might not find it necessary to return some of the gold lately imported from Europe. Upon the whole, therefore, present conditions are, in our view, suggestive of an early recovery from the effects remaining from the late depression.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Previous	Weeks corresponding to	
	Oct. 14 week.	this week—	
	1893	1893	1892
United States	340	406	216
Canada	31	32	60
			53
			83

DRY GOODS.—Retailers and jobbers complain that the fine weather has been a decided drawback to them, and that fall goods have hardly been broken into yet, and express a fear that if it continues much longer, that is, if colder weather does not soon set in, it may restrict the aggregate volume of the fall trade. A little improvement is being noted in the orders from the country this week, however, and it may be the commencement of a change. Underwear, cloakings, tweeds, in fact all woollen goods, furnish the bulk of the orders going forward. A feature in the demand for underwear is the call for fancy striped shirts and drawers, the stocks of which have been worked down to absolutely nothing. Travellers are now out on their fall trips, and their reports show a fairly satisfactory experience. Values hold firm generally, especially on white and grey cottons, and selling agents for mills say that their orders for spring goods for December delivery are quite up to those of the corresponding period of last year. Other lines of spring goods, such as cotton underwear, etc., have been the ground for fair orders.

BREADSTUFFS.—The flour market is without change. A fair local business is reported in small lots at about steady prices. A quiet local trade is doing in oatmeal. Stocks are light and prices steady. The market is amply supplied with mill feed, and prices are a shade easier. The public cable from Liverpool reports wheat steady; demand moderate; holders offer moderately. Corn firm under a moderate demand. At Chicago both wheat and corn have ruled stronger, but the actual advance in values has been fractional and there was a total absence of anything like speculative excitement.

PROVISIONS.—The provision market holds steady. Pork is in good demand and lard and smoked meats move fairly well. At Chicago provisions are very firm, but the demand had been small and business for export has been almost nothing. In Boston pork and lard are in fair request, with little change in the position of the local market. Quotations are not

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