

by that valuable institution, "The Horological Club," of New York. The subject agitating our "cousins" at that time was the same as is before us at present. The writer's remedy was to appoint a committee of five hundred, provide each one with a good stout hickory stick, and let them loose on the botches. Neither of these measures would work. We could not legislate, nor would the shillalah be effectual. Still, we are one with the spirit of both. When we have work before us over which we might readily think "the angels weep," is it not enough to suggest legislation, shillalahs, or any other means to clean out the perpetrators.

However, as has been said, we have the botch with us to stay. He *will* stay, and *won't* be educated. So let us shew that we are anxious to have an institution in our midst where those who *do* wish to improve can receive instruction in any branch of our art.

We believe with you that the time has come when a good horological school should be established in our midst; and we further believe, if entered upon by a man (or men) of the right metal, that financially the undertaking would be successful. But, as we hinted in January, there would have to be great care taken to keep up a first-class standard, as on that very thing we believe depends the ultimate success or non-success of the institution. And just here is where there is a danger of weakness in all such schools. The idea of the founder is not philanthropy; it is hard cash he is after, and seems to me the temptation to do "funny work" must at times try even the best of teachers.

There is one side of this question which has not been discussed, and which is suggested by the reference in your April editorial to the enlightening of public opinion *re* the botches. Why not organize ourselves into a Literary Society, each or as many as will, contributing original or copied articles treating on the watch, its peculiarities, the way to use it, its many troubles, etc., showing forth among other things the economy of good care, the fallacy of trusting such an intricate piece of machinery to every Tom, Dick, or Harry, who dubs himself "watchmaker," etc. Of course the articles would need to be as much as possible free from technicalities, not rancid, but reasonable and entertaining. They could be submitted to a chosen committee, and if we would each interest ourselves there should be little difficulty in having an occasional article appear in our own local paper. Your valuable journal would be a good starting point from which the articles could be culled as required.

In the articles there would need to be nothing savoring of advertising any particular watchmaker—no personalities; nor would any workman be benefited by using such in his own name. The suspecting public would catch on to this strain at once. "Oh! merely another trick, it's money he's after." The botch would also use it and pose as "the poor man's friend."

This course running in conjunction with a good horological school, from which a diploma could be as "good as gold," would, we believe, in very few years make the botch so sick that he would be obliged to leave our fair Dominion for pastures more green.

Trusting that the ball will roll till a good level is reached,

I am, yours, etc.,

ALEX. MOFFAT.

Port Elgin, April 17th, 1890.

[The columns of THE TRADER are always open to such articles as Brother Moffat suggests, and our jewelers can carry out his idea *at once*, by sending in their communications to us. ED. TRADER.]

MR. BILLINGS APPEALS TO THE TRADE.



Editor TRADER—SIR:

A PERUSAL of your April number clearly demonstrates the fact that the trade has at least been partially aroused on the "botch" question. Of all the remedies suggested, two only seem practical, and the question must be settled in the usual way by the rule of the majority, and the greatest good to the greatest number.

Now, shall we have an horological school or an association, or both; for of course both or possible, perhaps, and one would not antagonize the other. In starting and maintaining an horological school, it is generally admitted that Government aid is necessary, but on what ground financial aid is to be requested no one suggests. If the manufacture of watches was of national importance, Government aid might reasonably be expected; but, as the matter stands, the watch repairer is on the same basis as any other mechanic. No, gentlemen, don't waste any time or energy in the vain attempt to obtain Government assistance.

Mr. Beeton and his intimate friend, Mr. Playtner, warmly advocate such an institution, but I cannot see how such a project can succeed in the face of all the difficulties to be overcome at the present time. In the first place will the number of jewelers in Canada warrant such a proceeding? Look them over carefully, see what they are worth, how many or what percentage of them employ men, do their own work, or are botches; also, how many of the remaining few *could* attend, even if they so desired. Then, see the vast territory over which the anxious ones are scattered. Think it over well, and if any one can be found who is willing to furnish the "several" thousand dollars required for tools, machinery, etc., also to guarantee salaries to professional talent, which, beyond all doubt, will have to be imported, all very well. It will be a very hard struggle, and an ultimate and signal failure.

An horological school would be of great benefit, and would accomplish much, I am willing to admit, and I would do all I could to favor it, but I cannot see how it could be conducted on a paying basis, nor can I see in what manner it will act in the betterment of the botch. It costs considerable money to attend an horological school, and considerable more to purchase the tools to do the work one has been taught, and as we all know the botch is generally poor and works with his "fingers," and has, as a rule, evinced supreme contempt for the man who possesses a fine complement of tools.

What the trade requires, in fact demands, is *immediate* relief, complete if possible, partial at least. The Canadian Practical Watchmaker's Association seems to afford that relief in the most speedy and complete manner, and aside from that it grants a diploma to a competent workman who would have no occasion to attend an horological school. The possessor of a C. P. W. A. diploma would be able to show by his workmanship that he was entitled to it, and the business use of it in a business way would accomplish much in reducing the great number of botches.

I do not propose to drive any man out of the business, or to advocate bitter measures against anybody or class, but simply to place in the hands of the competent workmen a