

every one to his own free choice. But when the men accepted this condition, it was a breach of contract to join a labor union; and they cannot complain if the penalty of dismissal was enforced. About the number dismissed, there are some conflicting statements. Hon. Frank Smith puts it at thirty-two; the men speak as if there had been a general lock-out. A general lock-out of men who had not broken their contract would have been a harsh proceeding.

The duty of the city authorities to protect the Street Car Company from violence is plain. If the police are inadequate, additional force must be got. The first thing to do is to wipe out the disgrace of triumphant mob violence, and it should be done with all the energy which the circumstances may call for.

#### CASH OR CREDIT.

The evils of the credit system are receiving illustration from time to time. One example may be had in a case at Orono, last week. Nearly three years ago, a general store business was begun by Mr. C. G. Armstrong, in the Ontario village of that name, and in so short a period he found no difficulty in trusting over \$13,700 worth of goods in the hands of honest farmers on credit. The consequence is that to-day he is a bankrupt, with only \$11,638 worth of stock on his shelves and owing over \$22,000! Is it not absurd to speak of one's outstandings as being "perfectly good" when they cannot be collected when most needed.

We well understand many of the difficulties country storekeepers have to contend with, and it is useless to talk about the employment of the cash system, in some localities, especially when wheat is bringing less than 75 cents per bushel. Under such circumstances, farmers will look at goods and buy but little if any. They feel so poor that they will not part with money even though they may have it on deposit in some savings' bank. They prefer making small credit purchases if any. And although it is hard to refuse goods to regular customers, when they will not pay except on long time, we say to the retail merchant it is a hundred times better to do so and keep your goods on your shelves.

In a northern town, less than a hundred miles from here, a retail firm obtained a compromise last week. It had over thirty per cent. of its assets in open accounts. So large a proportion was entirely unnecessary, as there was a railway through the place, grain markets at the farmers' very doors and they could get money for everything they had to dispose of. Had this firm the goods on their shelves they would not have been obliged to suffer the humiliation and loss of *prestige* that is always attached to a compromise. The goods represented by their outstanding debts, if put on the open market, would have paid every creditor in full.

—Sir Henry Allsopp informs the world, through the London *Times* that he has retired from the brewing business.

#### THE "BOYCOTT" IN COMMERCE.

In these days of progress, enlightenment and Christianity, it seems a strange survival to find the spirit of retaliation strong, even among business men, in a way that recalls the middle ages. It is but a few weeks since we had occasion to notice the attempt of a certain labor union to "boycott" the wares of several stove manufacturers whose dealings with their employees were displeasing to the Union. This week we hear that the Bowmanville Board of Trade, with a narrowness of spirit unworthy of the title of such a body, has decided that "in case the proposed Board of Trade excursions were run from outside points to Toronto during the coming summer, our merchants will in a body remove their accounts from Toronto houses." We quote from a letter written to a wholesale house in this city in pursuance of a unanimous decision that each Bowmanville merchant should write to his wholesale correspondent in Toronto deprecating cheap excursions to this city. The reason given for such a proceeding is that "such excursions take a great number of our merchants' customers from their own doors and lead them away to the city, thus almost ruining the trade of the town for the summer."

We are at a loss to see how such excursion trips as those arranged for years past by the Toronto Board of Trade injure the trade of Bowmanville. Customers of retail dealers cannot profit by them; they are intended for the retail dealers themselves to make use of. Indeed, the Board was careful to require from every one of its members who purchased tickets, a certificate that the person for whom it was intended had purchased at wholesale from him. If Bowmanville were a wholesale centre, such an argument as that of its Board of Trade might have weight. As it is, such an attitude as theirs is childish. If the Montreal wholesale trade should this year get up similar excursions, as they have done, would the Bowmanville Board of Trade "boycott" them too, and divert their custom to Hamilton or Kingston?

Still another case in which the retaliatory policy is sought to be adopted: A retail dealer in Ontario is annoyed that a manufacturing firm in a certain city has accepted a compromise at so much in the dollar, from a neighbor of his in the same line of business. This dealer straightway asks every other dealer in the town to boycott the manufacturer referred to, and buy no more goods from him. But the scheme does not work, it does not deserve to work. It is a wrong policy to pursue, the wrong spirit to invoke.

#### TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

Merchandise imported into Toronto during the month of February last, reached a value of \$1,940,552, on which the duty paid amounted to \$889,789. In the same month of last year the imports amounted in value to \$1,752,111. But the quantity of Free goods is this year double what it was last, viz.: \$268,057 against \$137,793. Dry goods constitute half the imports of the month.

Compared with the previous February, cotton goods, hats, caps and bonnets show an increased import; woollens, silks and fancy goods a decrease.

#### VALUE IMPORTS.

	Feb. '86.	Feb. '85.
Cotton goods .....	\$298,678	\$252,696
Fancy goods .....	59,344	118,984
Hats and bonnets .....	38,665	35,165
Silk goods .....	116,169	139,812
Woollen goods .....	402,592	411,496
Total dry goods .....	\$915,448	\$958,153
Books and pamphlets .....	23,973	21,798
Coal, anthracite .....	144,949	176,815
" bituminous .....	35,376	44,716
Glass and glassware .....	16,035	12,212
Drugs and medicines .....	12,396	6,998
Iron and steel goods .....	62,308	53,265
Jewellery and watches .....	23,149	23,727
Leather goods .....	25,438	23,491
Paper goods .....	29,119	18,871
Wooden goods .....	10,360	5,653

Exports from Toronto to foreign ports were much larger during the month, being \$216,115 in value as against \$183,273 a year before. The greater quantities of seeds and barley shipped are sufficient to account for the difference. Shipments of manufactures are more than doubled, leather goods forming a portion of the increased amount, iron castings another, books a third. The different departments of exports are shown in the following table.

#### VALUE EXPORTS.

	Feb. '86.	Feb. '85.
The Fisheries .....	51	
" Forest .....	3,502	4,300
Animals, &c .....	68,797	76,972
Field products .....	115,250	89,113
Manufactures .....	28,515	13,076
Miscellaneous .....	423	1,836
	\$216,115	\$183,273

#### GLEANINGS FROM THE TRADE RETURNS.

What a variety of articles is represented under the title of "rubber goods," and how indispensable this valuable substance has become. True, we make, in Canada every year, hundreds of thousands of pairs of rubber boots and shoes; no other country, probably, uses them more than we do. And the rubber companies in Quebec and Ontario produce, besides, quantities of rubber hose, tubing, belting, packing, mats, springs, &c. &c. But still we import half a million dollars worth of India rubber and gutta percha goods, boots and shoes making up almost a quarter million of them. Waterproof clothing comes to us mostly from Great Britain; of the \$230,000 worth of it which we import, only \$92,000 came from the Americans. From France and Germany we obtained some thousands of dollars worth of articles made of rubber.

The value of books, pamphlets and periodicals brought into Canada from other countries in the fiscal year 1884-5, apart from Bibles prayer books and account books, was \$590,163. Of this large aggregate, \$374,683 represented imports from the United States, \$181,564 from Britain, \$32,222 from France—almost all into Quebec—the small remainder from Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy and China. The share of all this literature purchased by Ontario is put down at \$338,961 or say 58 per cent.; that of Quebec 23 per cent.; the Maritime Provinces 14 per cent.; British Columbia 3 per cent.; Manitoba 2 per cent. The aggregate value of bibles, hymn books and prayer books was \$148,045, half of which came in from Britain, \$12,221 worth from France (into Quebec) and nearly the whole of the re-