

as low, if not at lower rates. We suppose they argue that they are sure of home trade because we cannot send our produce any other way, while to get the American traffic they have to compete against the American lines running to New York and Boston. It is competition that lowers the rates to the Americans, and the want of it that raises them to Canadians. Surely this is a strong argument for the immediate building of the proposed line between Ottawa and Toronto; if this were completed we would then have a competing line to Montreal and correspondingly low freights. Competition is the life of trade.

The Toronto Board of Trade, at a late meeting, which the Minister of Finance attended, took into consideration the practice of the Customs Department in adding 2½ per cent to the value of all cash purchases, and then levying duty upon the increased amount. The members on both sides of politics seem to have handled the subject without gloves, and no doubt Sir Leonard Tilley left the meeting a wiser man than when he entered it. The general opinion seemed to be that the Government ought not to do anything that would resist the inclination of trade towards cash purchases, as that is the only sound basis on which a successful business could be conducted. That the Government ought to be the first to set a good example in this direction, and the last to throw any obstacles in the way of cash trading, and that it was moving in a wrong direction when it undertook to legislate against the man who paid cash and in favor of the man who bought on credit. This custom increases the revenue but a trifle, and has provoked a great deal of discontent amongst cash buyers, who are generally our best men; and it ought to be done away with at once.

ONE of the busiest "hums" in this or any of the Canadian city, and one moreover which was not visited by the Finance Minister when he was in Toronto, on his tour of inspection, was the jewelry manufactory of Messrs. P. W. Ellis & Co. Messrs. Ellis & Co. are enterprising and reliable, and keep the trade fully posted about what they are doing through the medium of THE TRADER; they believe thoroughly in printer's ink, and it seems to pay them. We had the pleasure of being shown through their watch material department and manufactory, a few days since, and were very much pleased to see the skilful and systematic manner in which their business is carried on. They deserve to succeed, because they put not only brains but honesty into their business, and their customers can always rely on getting goods from them that will turn out exactly as represented. At some future time we may give our readers a sketch of the various processes of jewelry manufactory, which we feel sure will be interesting to most of them.

THE estate of H. D. Parkes, jeweler of St. Catharines, Ont., who left this country very abruptly, much to the disgust of his creditors, has just been wound up and a first and final dividend sheet of one-half cent on the dollar declared and distributed amongst the creditors. Between the insolvent and the assignee the creditors fare very poorly, but it may be of some consolation to them to know that if they have not obtained anything substantial from the estate, they can have the honour (?) of being sharers in probably the smallest dividend on record in Canada. This young man is a brother of Parkes the Belleville jeweler, who also absconded about the same time, the precious couple taking

all the stuff they could conveniently get along with them. For some time they bought only for cash or paid for their purchases at such short dates as to be practically the same. By this means they raised their credit, which fact they were not slow to take advantage of, for they at once bought all the goods on time they could, and before the bills became due had skipped across the border and left their creditors in the lurch. The whole operation seems to have been a premediated swindle, and the only pity is that such a precious pair of scoundrels should be able to go unwhipped of justice because they are at present on the other side of an imaginary line. The sooner our government can make an arrangement with that of the United States for the arrest and extradition of such characters the better. It would be a long step in advance of our present situation, and would afford more protection against dishonest tradesmen than other law that could be put upon the statute book. We understand the Belleville Parkes stayed around the Suspension Bridge for some time and from his safe retreat offered terms to his creditors, which they were unwilling to accept, preferring to sell out the estate and keep such a character out of business. Parkes, on hearing this, disappeared and has not since been heard of. It is to be hoped that we have seen the end of such escapades as those of Knox, Montgomery and the Parkes Brothers. They have all met their deserts, the commercial atmosphere is now considerably purer for the clearance and it is to be hoped that the lesson will not be thrown away.

Business Changes during November.

BURNED OUT.—C. D. Edwards, safe manufacturer, Montreal, Que. Chalmers & Carney, hardware merchants, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

RETIRING FROM BUSINESS.—Henry Brown, hardware merchant, St. Thomas, Ont. Wm. Risdon, hardware merchant, Fingal, Ont.

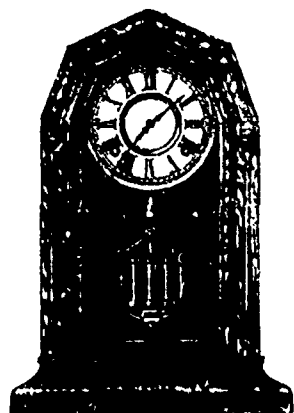
SOLD OUT.—C. Lewis, hardware merchant, Yorkville, Ont. John Risdon, hardware merchant, Wallaceburg, Ont. has sold out to Arch. Gow.

ATTACHED.—John E. Rose, hardware, Kingston, Ont. James A. Brown, hardware, Hopewell Corner, N.B. William Bryan, hardware and tins, Whitby, Ont. James Brown & Bro, hardware, Montreal, Que. Joseph Lavigne, hardware and tins, Riviere du Loup, Que. O. Caron, hardware, Three Rivers, Que.

OTHER CHANGES.—Boyd, Watson & Co., wholesale fancy goods, London, Ont.; dissolved, business will be continued by James Watson and George Boyd. C. & J. Donally, wholesale fancy goods, Toronto, Ont.; given up business and gone to the United States. D. A. Huntley & Co., hardware merchants, Parrsboro', N.S.; dissolved, business will be continued by W. H. Townshend. Wycott & Wellbank, hardware dealers, Pictou, Ont.; dissolved, Wellbank continues business. A. Brownley & Co., jewelers, Ailsa Craig, Ont., dissolved partnership.

—“Ah! yes,” said Mrs. Partington some years ago on February 22nd, as she watched the military pass by. “Ah! yes, Washington is dead, and the worst of it is that his mantel-piece don't seem to have fallen on any man now living.”

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—On a honeymoon tour recently, the young husband, going across from Dover to Boulogne, was suddenly very strange. “Are you ill, love?” exclaimed the anxious model wife. “O! say, Alfred, be loved, are you ill?” He was afraid of being doubted, and faintly replied, “I think the shrimps I had for breakfast this morning must have been alive.”