

THE TRADER

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Sent free to every Jeweler and Hardware Merchant in the Dominion of Canada.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

To ensure insertion, changes or new advertisements must be sent to the office not later than the 20th of each month.

Editorial.

THE OUTLOOK.

The recent returns furnished by the Ontario Bureau of Statistics of the crop reports for the Province of Ontario are very reassuring, and indicate a decided change for the better so far as this fall's trade is concerned. With very few exceptions this report goes to show that the crop of this Province is fully up to the average, and if nothing occurs between now and harvest to damage it, there will be a very decided revival in all branches of business. Trade of all kinds has been very dull for the past four or five months, and this depression must mainly be ascribed to the short crop of last year. Canada, like every other new country having few or no manufactures, depends mainly for her prosperity upon her agricultural products. Last year our crop was about twenty-five million dollars short of the average, which simply means that our national purchasing power has to be curtailed by that amount; hence our present depression.

In addition to the prospect of a good crop, a very reassuring thing is the immense falling off of our imports of

manufactured goods. We are informed upon good authority that the shrinkage on our imports of dry goods during the past month alone for the whole Dominion will aggregate fully one million dollars less than for the same month last year. This is a hopeful sign as well as a healthy one. If our importers only buy for the real wants of the country there will be less revenue, it is true, but less slaughtering of goods, more careful credits and a very much healthier commercial pulse, than when with immense over-importations our wholesale men are forced to sacrifice goods on any terms in order to raise paper to meet their foreign obligations.

So far in spite of the recent developments on Wall Street, money is plentiful and only waits legitimate channels in order to put it into circulation. The financial crashes of Wall Street are simply indications that in the game that the stock gamblers there have been playing, some of them have come out second best, that is all. As far as legitimate trade is concerned it is just as sound financially as it was before the burst, and will only be indirectly affected by it. If people will gamble, and it don't matter a particle whether they gamble with stocks or cards, it is bound to end disastrously for some of them. If they lose they are not deserving of sympathy.

On the whole we think that the business outlook is good. The commercial barometer at present indicates fair weather and has an upward tendency. Canada is in a position to stand a prosperous harvest this year as well as she ever could, and if it should providentially turn out as well as it now indicates, our citizens, whether merchants, agriculturists or mechanics, will be greatly benefitted by it.

THE PROPOSED JEWELERS' LEAGUE.

We learn from several sources that it is proposed to organize a "Jewelers' League" in Ontario, apparently as a panacea for the present depression in the jewelry business, and any others that it may fall heir to in the future. Before entering into the subject of this proposed League, we may say very briefly, that although we are opposed to this League as now proposed, we are thoroughly in accord with the idea of a Jewelers' League if properly organized and managed. In

an editorial article in our issue of January, 1882, after pointing out the advantages of such an organization, we said: "It is for the Retail Jewelers of this Province to determine whether such an association will be of any practical advantage to them in conducting their business. If, as many of the foremost amongst them say, it would be, then the more quickly they set about its organization the sooner they will enjoy its benefits. It seems to us that the time is now ripe for such a development, and it only wants a few well known men to put their shoulders to the wheel, to make the project go." Although we offered space in our columns to ventilate the scheme, nothing came of it, which proves conclusively to our minds that the time was not fully ripe for the organization of such a League. Whether the time is any more propitious now we very much doubt, as so far there seems to have been no indications put forth upon the subject from disinterested parties whose expressions of opinion would carry some weight with them.

So far as this proposed League is concerned we object to it for two reasons: *first*, because its aims are illogical and not practical enough to be successful; and *second*, because we have no faith in its promoters.

As regards its aims, from what we can learn they are thoroughly Utopian, and in this common sense dollar and cent age, could never be enforced. What these aims are exactly we do not know, probably neither does its projector, but the following extract from one of his letters may serve to throw some little light upon this rather hazy question:

From those who have answered so far I find that all are suffering from some source. I trust the day is not far distant when we shall be able to remedy many things, get incorporated, prevent those who are not watch-makers from calling themselves such or dealing in time-pieces without the sanction of the Union.

With some of the above we thoroughly agree. We know for a fact that many, in fact nearly all our Canadian jewelers, are suffering from some source. This source, however, is we think an ordinary business depression caused by the poor crop of last year. The jewelry trade, being one which deals principally in luxuries, is from its very nature the first to feel the effects of such depression and the last to recover from it. The jewelers of the United States who have enjoyed