

THE TRADER

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

Advertising Rates.

Full Page. - - \$20 00 each issue
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 Small Advertisements, 8 cents per line

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Business and other communications should be addressed to

THE TRADER PUBLISHING CO.,
 13 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.

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 PRICE OF WHEAT.

The price of wheat is a thing that is of interest to every man, woman and child in the Dominion of Canada, because upon the price as well as the quality of our wheat crop depends very much of the volume and success of our next year's trade.

A bountiful harvest is an assured fact in almost every wheat producing country in the world, and as a result the price of grain will be low. It is low at present, and the probability is that it will be lower before the year is over. This being the case, every dealer should exert himself to get his customers who are farmers, to market their produce as soon as possible. It is their safest plan, as they will save on the weight of the grain as well as have the advantage in price and the interest on their money. The sooner this year's crop can be marketed and the money put into circulation amongst our storekeepers the better for the general prosperity.

The outlook is favorable, for although the price of grain is low, our harvest is far more abundant than usual, and we therefore look forward with confidence to a very prosperous mercantile year.

CANADA'S GREAT FAIR.

The citizens of Toronto delight to dignify their annual exhibition with the name of "Canada's Great Fair," a title

which some of the other cities in Canada were disposed to resent as being an appropriation to which they had no real title.

Especially was this the case with the directors and supporters of that moribund institution hitherto known as the Provincial Exhibition, which has apparently outgrown its usefulness and only manages to exist by having itself grafted upon the Dominion. In spite, however, of such jealousy and opposition, the Toronto Exhibition has grown and prospered until it has, without any shadow of a doubt, become the most important annual Fair in the Dominion, and is now really entitled to the much disputed distinction of being "Canada's Great Fair." Indeed, our own individual opinion is, that outside of the Centennial Exhibition of Philadelphia, in 1876, as regards the size of its buildings, the quantity, variety and quality of its exhibits, or the great assemblage of visitors from all parts of Canada and the United States, it is equal, if not superior to any similar Exhibition on the American continent.

It is an institution that reflects the highest credit upon the management that originated it and brought it to its present high state of efficiency, and every citizen of Toronto should feel proud of its success. The increase in the gate receipts over last year is \$2,941.61, and as it may be interesting to our readers to compare the daily receipts of this year with those of previous years we give them below:

Day	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
1.	85 60	84 00	18 20	44 75	108 45	6 20
2.	80 20	201 67	101 76	111 25	1,039 80	220 05
3.	825 40	201 67	653 76	511 50	821 05	678 40
4.	221 46	846 49	1,423 02	908 85	1,051 70	575 65
5.	1,030 60	1,175 85	723 75	868 89	4,572 25	2,277 91
6.	978 90	1,414 15	1,657 03	1,008 10	2,380 45	6,883 34
7.	4,471 11	1,629 92	3,907 70	4,210 35	5,205 60	8,253 84
8.	1,724 11	3,051 09	3,000 00	6,468 50	6,901 63	6,659 94
9.	1,860 25	4,010 47	6,408 85	5,225 60	6,920 08	6,012 50
10.	1,293 25	4,458 20	6,016 85	1,039 25	2,087 75	2,223 70
11.	869 95	6,072 64	1,271 45			
12.	825 55	56 25	18 05			
13.	2,208 60					
14.	3,856 60					
15.	4,089 65					
16.	1,147 00					
Total	\$25,818 53	\$23,181 30	\$22,501 15	\$25,298 00	\$32,080 21	\$35,871 82

A COMMON SENSE VALUE.

Our readers will recollect that in our last issue we passed some strictures upon the absurd way in which our Customs Department make their valuations upon the goods imported into Canada.

We said then that we thought the watch case seizure was pretty much on a question of value, and that from what we know about the subject the Government were in the wrong and the importers in the right. Recent developments have strengthened this view, and it now looks as if the Department will not only have to give the goods back, but may think themselves lucky if they escape an action for damages. There is surely something wrong, either with the law or its administration, when any customs understrapper has it in his power to have an importer's stock seized and his good name taken away, on the merest suspicion. Surely if our Customs Officials are not to be men thoroughly conversant with the goods they attempt to appraise, they should, at least, be men endowed with enough common sense to know that they should make sure of their ground before they proceed to jeopardize the good name of any importer. We have not the slightest doubt but that both Messrs. Schwob Bros. and Saunders & Co. will come out of this affair with clean hands; and that the reputation for honorable dealing, which they have enjoyed for a quarter of a century, will not suffer in the least; but it surely is no credit to our law that the reputation of such merchants can be at any time menaced and themselves put to expense and inconvenience simply at the caprice of some greedy official, who imagines he has a chance of making a haul out of them.

As we said before, the seizure was made pretty much on a question of difference in value between the importers and the Customs Department.

Boiled down, the difference is this: The Customs Department claim that they are entitled to levy *ad valorem* duties on the *Credit* value of an article, while importers, as a rule, contend that the real value of any article is what it cost in *gold*.

We think that the case has only to be stated in cold blood, without any arguments, in order to have any intelligent man make up his mind that the importers are right and that the Department is wrong.

The basis of all commercial intercourse