



they may make a specialty of. Their specialty is the "Secret Society" line. Their years of connection with the Dominion Regalia Co. (now we understand quite a separate concern) has given them an experience which makes them an authority on the many fine points of emblems, colors and distinctions too numerous to mention. In their enamelling department they have the best of skilled help and are certainly turning out beautiful work. Enamelled silver novelties also form an important department, and as in the past the trade may look for originality from them. We wish the company success, and our readers may hereafter look for a series of spicy advertisements of the old time "straight from the shoulder" kind.

**THE OUTLOOK.**—The outlook at the present time of writing is particularly encouraging in nearly every line of trade. The prices of nearly all agricultural products show an upward tendency, and, generally speaking, money is more plentiful with the farming community than usual at this time of year. In the jewelry trade the demand for better goods still continues, showing that the public have more money to spend. Silver goods of all kinds are still in active demand, and it looks as though their sale during the coming holiday season would be larger than ever. In this class of goods, like many others, prices have a decided upward tendency, particularly in flat ware, on account of the increased price of silver bullion. In the watch trade, American movements continue to be about as scarce as ever, the prices ruling the same as last month. In the watch-case business there is also a shortage in the staple lines of gold-filled and silver goods, while solid gold cases are bound to be very hard to obtain before Christmas, as the stocks in the hands of manufacturers and jobbers are, generally speaking, very light. The volume of the clock trade has been well maintained, and prices rule same as last month. In general jewelry, while there are a good many lines to be had, stocks, generally speaking, are light, and desirable goods should be picked up as speedily as possible. Taking it altogether, it may be safely said that jewelry stocks of all kinds are more than usually low, prices are well maintained or inclined to stiffen, and the demand is such that in many lines there will be a scarcity before the holidays. Money is also coming in freely, and accounts are being met more promptly than usual.

WE UNDERSTAND that there is a disposition on the part of the newly-formed Canadian Association of Opticians to refuse any assistance from the wholesale and manufacturing opticians of the Dominion. From the standpoint of an outsider, we should say that this was a very unwise step. It is imperative, we think, that the Association should be managed and controlled by the retail opticians of the country, but this should not prevent their receiving every encouragement and assistance that is in the power of the wholesale trade to afford, and which they are only too willing to give them. As we understand it, the wholesalers don't ask for the control, or even for membership in the Association, but only that they may be allowed to aid the good work which has been so successfully inaugurated, to the best of their ability. If this modest request is refused, it will, we are afraid, evidence a spirit of intolerance which augurs but poorly for the future of the Association. As we have stated on several occasions, the real fighting work of the Association is still in the future, but when it does come, as come it must, and it may be nearer than we at present expect, the retail opticians of Canada will want every help that they can bring to bear upon the Local Legislatures to maintain their right to practice their chosen calling. This is why we think it is unwise of the new Association to reject the assistance of the wholesale trade, and we think that when they come to reflect upon the matter they will probably see it in this light. Canadian opticians, whether wholesale or retail, are all in the same boat in some things, and they will learn by experience, sooner or later, that "what is the concern of one is the concern of all," and that only in union is there strength.

**A RELIC OF NAPOLEON.** Probably of all the human beings that ever lived, none, taking them all in all, ever equalled the great French Emperor Napoleon. Certainly no man ever filled so great a place in the world's history and none has left so deep an impress upon mankind. Napoleon is a great force to-day, not only in the

France he loved so well, but all over the civilized world he commands the admiration of millions of thoughtful men, who if they cannot admire all that he ever did, are yet ready to pay a sincere tribute to his transcendent genius. Napoleonic relics are not scarce, and although Canada possesses but few of them it is not because of any lack of appreciation either by our French-Canadian or British citizens. We are glad to learn, however, that the Boer war will be the cause of at least one valuable relic of the "Great Emperor" finding its way to this country, for amongst the valuable souvenirs brought home by Lieut.-Col. Pelletier from his trip to South Africa is a clock formerly the property of Napoleon I. during his captivity at St. Helena. Upon leaving Cape Town with the first Canadian contingent, Lieut.-Col. Pelletier received instructions to stop at St. Helena to hand over 200 Boer prisoners to the military authorities at that place. While on the island Lieut.-Col. Pelletier visited the Roman Catholic chapel at Longwood, and upon leaving the sacred edifice met Father Danes, the chaplain. The latter, upon learning that the brave colonel was a Canadian, seemed to take great interest in him, and escorted him over the place, showing him, among other things, the quarters formerly occupied at Longwood by Napoleon I., his bedroom and the bed which the French Emperor occupied while a prisoner on the island. As the colonel was about taking his departure Father Danes presented him with the clock, which is accompanied by a parchment, which perfectly establishes its authenticity.

THE ELECTION of William McKinley as President of the United States by such a sweeping majority was received throughout Canada and the British Empire generally with satisfaction. The McKinley administration have not only provided good clean government for the people of the United States, but they have been manly enough to acknowledge the help Britain afforded them during the Spanish-American war and to return it in kind when the South African conflict afforded them an opportunity; and this in spite of the fact that an attempt was made to stampee a large section of the Republican party on account of their friendship to Great Britain on this occasion. Canadians are glad to know that under President McKinley's administration the relations between the British Empire and the United States have become far more cordial than ever before, and although there is no written treaty of alliance between the two countries their interests in many questions are so identical and closely interwoven as to make them allies in fact, if not in name. Speaking upon the result of the United States elections at the recent Lord Mayor's banquet at London, Lord Salisbury said, speaking for the British people generally: "We believe the cause which won is the cause of civilization and commercial honour. We believe these principles lie at the root of all prosperity and progress in the world. Therefore, I claim that we have as much right to rejoice as the Ambassador." This speech may not have been very orthodox from a diplomatic point of view, and this the British Prime Minister evidently thought when he apologized to Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, for making it; all the same, however, it expressed the real sentiments of the British Government as well as of the British people, and is all the more noteworthy on that account. We trust both the United States and Canada, having got through their elections for another four years at least, will continue to go ahead and prosper.

THE ASSESSMENT Commission appointed by the Government of Ontario to examine into and report upon the question of municipal assessment, held sessions for about a week during the past month at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and during that time heard a great deal of evidence regarding the matter they have in hand. It is pretty safe to say that every assessment crank and every faddist in the province was on hand to post the Commission on the proper way to raise taxes equitably. The single taxers, the income taxers, likewise the old line taxers who want to cover everything, all were there, and one and all obtained a patient hearing from the Commission. So far as we can learn the consensus of opinion amongst manufacturers and business men generally was that the personalty tax should be abolished, as it opened the door to frauds of all kinds and was unjust to the honest man. The favorite substitute for the