

THE TRADER.

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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.

WARNING.

In our "Trade Notes" this month we are sorry to have to chronicle two of the most daring and successful jewelry robberies that have ever taken place in Canada. Mr. G. L. Darling, of Simcoe, and Mr. James Trotter, of Galt, are both jewelers of the very highest standing, and carried large stocks of fine goods, which, although confined in fire proof safes, were not sufficiently protected against the skillful scoundrels who burglarized their premises almost under the noses of the watchmen employed to look after them. These two burglaries following so closely upon each other, prove that we have in our midst at the present time a regularly organized gang of scoundrels, not only skillful enough to laugh at the protection afforded by an ordinary fire proof safe, but daring enough to hazard their liberty and even their lives to make a haul whenever they can find things to their liking. As most of our readers well know, nearly all the safes used in Canada by jewelers are simply the ordinary fire-proof safes. They are good as far as they go, but the trouble is they don't go far enough. They were never intended to withstand the operations of a skillful burglar and are not so guaranteed by the makers. If all of our jewelers were possessed of real fire and burglar proof safes, such as are made by J. & J. Taylor, of this city, they

might sleep soundly and let these scourges of society do their worst, but the trouble is that not one jeweler in a hundred has a safe that can by any stretch of imagination be considered burglar proof. If they could afford it we should certainly advise every one of our readers who has a valuable stock of goods to invest in a real burglar proof safe; this, however, is beyond the means of most, and we therefore throw out a few hints regarding the protection of premises and stocks of this kind, that may be of value to some who have never before given this matter serious thought.

In the first place we think every jeweler should place his safe as close to the street window as possible, and have it in such a position that any passer by can see it plainly and tell at a glance if anything is wrong about it.

Secondly, a strong, clear light should always be left burning close to it every night. This will enable the watchman outside, or any passer by, to see it as easily as in the daytime. If there are any two things that disagree with burglars they are light and publicity. A good strong light in a store at night is about as good a watchman as you can get.

Thirdly, unless you can afford to employ a regular watchman, a good sharp dog is no mean substitute for one. Burglars don't like dogs, especially those that have a habit of putting their teeth into trespassers. Even if they should not be biters, a dog that will make a lot of noise and raise an alarm is not well considered by them.

The above are very simple, and, we think, very effective, and we are of the opinion that it was owing in some measure to the lack of such simple precautionary measures as these, that the two burglaries which we have to report this month were made possible. THE TRADER warned its readers about this very thing over two years ago, and we now repeat the warning in the hope that it may be of benefit to some of our readers.

In connection with this subject a few words on the improved methods of operation pursued by our modern burglars may not be out of place, as it may help to convince our readers that the danger of which we warn them is more real than perhaps they are disposed to believe.

"During the past few years the art of burglary has made rapid strides, keeping pace with the march of science. Evidence which has been ferreted out through Pinkerton's detective agency shows that

the latest scientific aids have been used in the burglar's art. According to the new method safes are opened with greater celerity than heretofore, and the artists work so noiselessly that a person in the adjoining room will hardly be disturbed. The use of powder is dispensed with, and there is hardly any safe so obstinate that it will not yield its contents to experts who handle the new tools in less than half an hour.

A safe recently gone through exhibited evidences of very masterly and peculiar skill in the burglarious art. It had been opened by boring a half inch hole between the combination and the handle. After boring the hole a thread had been cut in it, and an instrument had been inserted that forced off the wards of the lock, and, breaking it in two, forced it into the inside of the safe. This plan of forcing in the lock is something novel in burglary. It may be called the pushing system, in contradistinction to the pulling system.

By the new system upwards of fifty jewelry safes have been opened in the States during the past few months, in most of which the thieves have got off with hauls ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$15,000. Chas. H. Mayhon and John Moore, two notorious burglars, were recently captured in New York, and at their lodgings were found a couple of sets of the new tools which are so handy and so light that they can be carried with ease in the pocket, each set not weighing above three pounds. In fact the thieves have termed the set of tools, "the pocket edition." At the lodgings of the man Mayhon was also found complete machinery for making these new tools along with the portion of the door of a safe covered with very hard steel for the purpose of proving the drills and other instruments. It is just probable that a branch of the gang who formerly operated in New England is now working Canada, and with these new appliances. This appears more likely from the fact that Pinkerton has information showing that a number of burglarious experts have made their way northward."

COMMON SENSE BUSINESS.

We have had put into our hands a circular purporting to emanate from a London (Ont.) retail jeweler, which is not only unique in its grammatical construction and general get-up, but characterized by a display of egotism that fortunately very few merchants care about displaying to the public. Apart altogether from the numerous misstatements with which this circular abounds, we notice the writer has apparently endeavored to impress the public of London with three things: (1) That he is the *only* man in London, and we should think in Canada, who is a thorough, practical