



white transparent celluloid can be purchased and about its cost. I was thinking of placing this over the hands to protect them from the snow. I notice when it is soft and heavy it blocks up the whole face.

Any other information that you think would be helpful for the construction of such a clock will be most thankfully received.

Yours,  
ELECTRIC CLOCK.

Melita, Man., Aug 17th, 1900.

[If this correspondent will refer to our Editorial Notes in the July issue he will find an account of an electric clock constructed by Mr. James Trotter, jeweler, of Galt, Ont. No doubt Mr. Trotter would gladly answer any inquiries regarding it. If any other of our readers can give information regarding this matter we shall be glad to publish it.]—Ed. TRADER.

### TO FORM AN OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

*Editor TRADER—Sir:*

Permit me through the columns of your excellent journal to call the attention of Canadian Opticians to the coming meeting of the "Canadian Association of Opticians." This Association was founded three years ago with the highest aims and brightest prospects, but met with poor success owing in a large measure to the unsatisfactory condition of the jobbing trade at that time, to which an association of this kind must of necessity look for assistance and protection at the commencement of its existence. These conditions are happily changed, and the Association has the assurance of hearty support from this quarter.

Jealousies and misunderstandings among the local opticians also contributed to the result.

Those men, who were then comparative strangers have since had an opportunity of knowing each other better and the result is that they are anxious to know more of each other and also their country brethren.

The good that can be accomplished by an organization of this kind is immense—both in matters of business as well as education.

The meeting is arranged for September 4th, during the Fair, when it will be an easy matter to get away.

The place of meeting has not yet been arranged, but I will be able to furnish callers with full information.

Yours truly,  
E. CULVERHOUSE.  
(Ryrie Brothers).

RECENTLY Mr. Martin, eastern agent for the wholesale drug firm of Frederick Stearns & Co., Detroit, wrote to the head of the foreign department: "The King of Siam has over 400 women in his harem and all use perfume." So the firm had Wright, Kay & Co. make a handsome box with another box enclosed containing a set of solid silver perfume bottles, at a cost of \$100. The gift will shortly be sent to King Khoulalongkorn's favorite wife.

### OUR MONTREAL LETTER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

The shirt waist for men, to be or not to be, that is the question of the hour, and gallons of ink have been wasted (no pun intended) over it already. It is said that the first woman who wore a blouse sneaked a man's shirt to make it with, and, if that were so, and it must be conceded that the evidence is very black against her, it seems a confounded cheek upon the part of her sisters to try to bar the men from sporting their own special garments. The great objection is the name, all the while it is called a shirt, pure and simple, no gentlemen will wear it in the presence of a strange lady, unless it is partly covered by a coat and vest, but call it by some high sounding title, fix it up with ruffs and fancy trimmings and things, and the girls would "run after them;" that, at least, is the opinion of our fashion editor. In the wild and woolly west some bold spirits have already defied custom and have appeared in the street and elsewhere without coats and waistcoats; but in the old world, alas, custom has proven too strong for the would-be reformer, and a bank clerk is not allowed to wear even a straw hat upon the street, but is made to continue to don his frock coat and his "black stovepipe," otherwise known as a "topper."

Apart from the shirt waist razzle dazzle, the heat has taken the stiffening out of all starch goods, including the Boer war, the latter now dragging on even to the disgust of the clean burghers, if such a thing can exist in nature. It seems to be certain that Lord Roberts, who should have been a Canadian, has treated the Dutchman too kindly, and now he ought to threaten them with disinfecting powder if they do not soon stop their nonsense. That threat would soon put an end to the guerilla business.

We are buying our ice now by the moisture it leaves on the pavement, and when we grumble the iceman threatens us with the winter. Let it come, let it come soon, let several winters come all together, for we have made up our minds in our house that we are never going to kick at a winter any more. Oh, for ice and snow and the bitter breath of the winter winds, ad. lib., so that we all could become permanent curlers!

Once upon a time there was a stout man on our street who used to curse periodically respecting the length, depth and breadth of our Montreal winters. He, alas, is now only a grease spot! Let us trust that he is happy. He was that rara avis, a mean-minded jeweler, and he has saved the expenses of a funeral.

Alonzo Alain, a clerk in the employ of Mr. Richard Hemsley, jeweler, was arraigned before the magistrate recently on a charge of stealing \$75 worth of jewelry from his employer. It appears that after stealing the jewelry he gave it to a train newsboy, named George Dion, to sell for him. Both pleaded guilty to the offences charged and were remanded for sentence.

A beautiful corner-stone trowel for the church of St. Louis de Gonzague, was made recently by Mr. Richard Hemsley.