

The Hardware Trade.

During the severe crisis through which the country has just passed, probably no class of business men have stood the strain better than those in the Hardware trade.

It is true that in this as in all other trades there have been failures, but the percentage has been small, and the causes have been, in most cases, the direct violation of the ordinary principles of business. Although the cutlery and fine class part of the Hardware trade has been dull for the past five years on account of the depression of the times, yet the extreme cheapness of all classes of builders' hardware and material caused that branch of the business to be more than usually active, and although goods were cut fine they still left a paying margin.

With the prospect of good prices for our large crops, the Hardware trade ought to take a long stride forward in prosperity, for not only will building be stimulated, but a greater demand will be felt for fine goods, which heretofore consumers have compelled themselves to do without on account of their inability to pay for them. Prices for Hardware of all kinds are now exceedingly low, and the indications are that with better times and an increased demand for this class of goods, prices will be somewhat advanced.

Goods are now as low as they possibly can be sold at to pay the manufacturer a profit at all, and this being the case we think it would be sound policy for such of the trade as can afford it to lay in a full stock in anticipation of the rise in price which must follow returning prosperity as surely as daylight follows darkness.

The abuse of the credit system by the Hardware trade, especially when carried on by general store-keepers, is an evil that ought to be remedied, as it probably works the trade more injury than any other thing they have to contend against. If they could sell for cash, or shorten the time of credit to three or four months, it would enable them to sell goods cheaper and vastly improve their position in every way.

The Jewelry Trade.

Perhaps no branch of business has felt the recent depression more than the Jewelry trade. Dealing as it does mainly in articles of luxury, it is little wonder that in hard times the consuming public

"shut down" on such goods rather than on articles of necessity. For this reason the Jewelry business may be justly regarded as the barometer of trade. As a rule it is the first to feel the depression of hard times and the last to derive any benefit from the return of prosperity. We are glad to know, however, that the cloud which has so long rested over this business seems now to have fairly lifted; signs of the revival of trade this fall are already apparent, and the jeweler who has so long struggled with hard times may confidently look forward to a recompense for his prudence and frugality. His stock ought to be light, and his liabilities lighter, and his position altogether would safely warrant him in buying new and fresh goods with a better chance of turning them over to advantage than he has had for many years. The stocks of the wholesale dealers in Toronto seem now to be fully assorted with all the latest novelties both in staple and fancy jewelry, and dealers wanting an assortment of goods for their fall trade should take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the Industrial Exhibition to make a personal selection.

In the way of novelties, rolled-plate Necklets and Bracelets, with fine leaf work patterns, are attracting attention and having large sales. In rolled-plate and fire gilt Chains the assortment, quality and designs exceed that of any former season. In Gold Chains, the American make still continues to hold its lead on account of its superior quality and finish, and many new styles are introduced. The most saleable patterns, however, either in gold or plate, are the close and open curbs. In Gold Jewelry the American styles are gaining somewhat, although there is still a good demand for the English colored lines in Brooches, Ear-rings, Sets, &c. In Watches, the "Waltham Company's" goods still take the lead. In Cases, the "Boss" Gold Filled Case is making good headway and is increasing in favor. While equal in finish and appearance to any gold case, and guaranteed to wear at least twenty years, it costs less than half the price.

In Jet goods, the "Ball" patterns still maintain the lead as the favorite design both in Ear-rings and Necklets.

Space would fail us, however, did we attempt to convey to our readers an idea of the many new and elegant lines that are being put upon the market this season. Our idea is that it will pay them one and all to personally visit this market during the Exhibition and see and select for themselves.

The Industrial Exhibition.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition, which opens on the first and lasts until the nineteenth of this month, will, if the weather holds good, be without doubt the most successful affair of the kind ever held in Canada.

Not only are the buildings and other equipments of the Exhibition very complete and attractive in themselves, but the number of entries and the quality of the exhibits, will, it is believed, far surpass any previous effort, and enable visitors to form a tolerably correct estimate of the manufactures and resources of our country. The Canadian exhibits at Philadelphia and Paris were excellent in their way, and impressed foreigners with an idea of our great natural resources. But the main purpose of this Industrial Exhibition will be to shew its visitors what our manufacturers are doing, and where we stand when compared with other nations. The additional attraction of the Vice-Royal party, and the amusements and entertainments incident to the visit of these distinguished personages are of such a nature and on a scale so comprehensive as to make Toronto for the next three weeks the centre of attraction throughout the whole Dominion.

Excursions have been arranged on all the railroad and steamboat lines running into the city, and the very low fares thus obtained will make this a favorable opportunity for our country friends to see the "Queen City."

These excursions and low rates will also afford unusual facilities for buyers to visit the markets of Toronto and enable them to make a personal selection of the goods needed for their fall trade. Wherever this can be accomplished, it is certainly a desirable thing to do, as a buyer can nearly always make a better selection from stock than from either cuts or samples. For these reasons we trust that as many dealers as can possibly do so, will avail themselves of the opportunity, and by judiciously combining business with pleasure, make the trip pay in more ways than one.

A list of the attractions in honor of the Vice-Regal visit will be found in another column.

—The Rev. Mr. — was once called upon to marry a man to his fourth wife. As he approached the couple he said: "Please to rise." The man wiggled about in his chair a moment and finally spoke, "We've usually sot."