what he has to buy decreases in a greater ratio than what he has to sell, then his condition must be improved. And this is exactly what is happening in Canada to-day.

We state, without fear of contradiction, that there never was a period in the history of this country when a bushel of wheat would purchase more manufactured goods than at present. If wheat has gone down in value, manufactured goods have lessened in value also, and in our opinion, at a very much greater ratio than the farmers staple product.

Every jeweler who has been connected with the business for over twenty years knows that the same watch that in 1869 cost the farmer 50 bushels of wheat, can now be bought by him for 35 bushels, and the clock that he then had to give 10 bushels of wheat for, he can now, low as he thinks the price is, purchase with the proceeds of eight or nine bushels.

And as it is with these articles, so it is with nearly everything that the jeweler or the merchant has to sell. The following extract will show just how much this difference amounts to during the last seventy-three years on some lines of staple goods:—

"In 1816 it took just one bushel of corn to buy one pound of nails, now one bushel of corn will buy ten pounds of nails. Then it required sixty-four bushels of barley to buy one yard of broadcloth, now the same amount of barley will pay for twenty yards of broadcloth. It then required the price of one bushel of wheat to pay for one yard of calico, now one bushel of wheat will buy twenty yards of calico."

But while wheat (and perhaps barley) has gone down in price, it is an undoubted fact, that almost everything else that the farmer has to sell has advanced very materially during the past twenty years. Compare the present prices of meat, milk, butter, vegetables, and everything else that people eat, with those of twenty years ago, and you will find that such produce has advanced from 50 to 100 per cent. So that if the farmer has to sell his wheat for less money that formerly, he should be able to recoup himself for this depreciation by the advance he gets on the rest of his produce, to say nothing of the saving he effects on the goods he has to purchase.

It is hard to persuade our agricultural friends that they have no just cause for grumbling, but if one looks at the style in which our farmers live, and the comforts, not to say luxuries, which they now enjoy, which were not thought within their reach twenty-five years ago, it must be confessed that their grievances are not so well founded as some people would try to make them believe.

Over-production is just as prevalent amongst manufacturers as it is amongst the farmers: competition is certainly as keen in trade as it is in agriculture, and taking the percentage of failures as a criterion, it is safe to say, that although farming may not present the exceptional but elusive prizes which tempt so many men to rush into business, neither does it, on the contrary, have to have charged against it those dismal records of failure to which ninety-seven out of every hundred men engaged in business have to confess. While farming may not be the most profitable business in the country, it is certainly one of the least risky and offers few chances of failure.

This continual grumbling of Free Trade journals has begun to make our farming friends believe that they are really so hard up that they should not pay their honest debts. We have tried to show that these assertions are not well founded, and as they have a bad effect on business, we trust our readers will "set their foot" on such complaints whenever they come to their notice. Self-reliance and faith in the future is one great factor of success, and those who can see and talk of nothing ahead but disaster, are not only hurting their own chances of prosperity, but those of everybody else with whom they come in contact.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE JEWELERS' LEAGUE

Editor TRADER--Sir:

HAVING read in THE TRADER an article relative to "The Jewelers' League of New York," will you, as a member of such, kindly give me some particulars and information of said League, as I, being a jeweler, may also become a member of it, if satisfactory. A reply will much oblige.

Yours, etc.,

Dec. 5, '89. RETAILER.

THANKS.

Editor TRADER—Sir:

I send you, by mail to-d , a photograph of my store front, which will ser . to decorate the back office or waste basket. With myself, I presume you are not personally acquainted, but with the *gent* with the *Christy* on, I think you will be better acquainted, as he is a western man who is quite an advertiser with you. Wishing your spicy journal all prosperity, which it richly deserves, and yourself and staff a Merry Christmas, I remain, yours respectfully,

FRED. CLARINGBOWL.

Hamilton, Dec. 19, 1889.

TOO MANY JOBBERS.

Editor TRADER—Sir:

IN REPLYING to your kind invitation to the trade to give their views as to whom the jobber should sell his goods, you may put me down as a *kicker*. I think this is the only real grievance the trade has to fight against to day. While you partly admit in your editorial that there should be a line drawn somewhere to confine the jobber in distributing his goods, you do not seem to draw one yourself. But no doubt you view the question more from a jobber's point of view than from a retailer's. I don't know how jewelers in other towns suffer, but I will give you my own experience, and no doubt it is a fair criterion to go by. The place in which I do business has a population of about 800, there are two regular jewelers that carry about as much stock as the business of the place demands, in addition to this there are two drug stores and two general stores handling watches, jewelry and silver-plated ware. In fact when some jobbers strike here they call on nearly every man in town except a waggonmaker and a