



THE *Evening Herald*, of St. Johns, Newfoundland, has the following complimentary notice in a recent issue: A few days ago we had the pleasure of a call from Mr. R. H. Trapnell, who has been absent from Newfoundland for the past eighteen years, during thirteen of which he has been engaged in business at Windsor, N.S. Finding business dull there since the fire a couple of years ago, which destroyed the greater portion of Windsor, and which to a large extent dislocated trade relations, Mr. Trapnell visited Sydney and St. John's for the purpose of making up his mind concerning the prosperity of business, and after spending a few days at each place had no hesitation in deciding in favor of his former home. He has taken the store on Water St., lately occupied by A. L. Michaels & Co., and will open business about the first of May, with a first-class stock of staple goods and of the leading novelties in his line of business. Mr. Trapnell is an expert watchmaker, jeweler and engraver, and for a number of years has made a special study of optical science, holding first-class diplomas from the Spencer Optical Institute, New York, and the Detroit Optical Institute, Detroit. Mr. Trapnell comes with the very best recommendations from the citizens of Windsor.

SHOULD BE SPANKED AND PUT TO BED.—Last month the school-boys of Philadelphia held a great public meeting in the Academy of Music, the ostensible object of which was to send a message of greeting and encouragement from 22,000 scholars of that city to President Oom Paul Kruger, at Pretoria, South Africa. It is said that Judge T. Ashman, presided, and the principal speakers were Mr. W. Davis, Mr. W. Cockran, Attorney Graham, Mr. T. Meek and W. P. Wessels, of Bloemfontien, Orange Free State. In order to make the farce more dramatic, a fourteen year old messenger boy in uniform was called to the stage, handed the address, and instructed to proceed at once to Pretoria and hand it personally to Mr. Kruger. If this farce were gotten up entirely by school children it would be amusing, simply as showing how they reflect the opinions and ideas of the grown-up people around them, but that men of mature years, and more especially public men, should participate in such silliness, shows how even years often fail to bring wisdom. It is such people as these who bring discredit upon any nation. This demonstration appears to have been inspired by political motives, but if so, surely those using it must be verging on political imbecility. The children should have been spanked and sent to bed, as for the grown up men, well—probably they have been punished enough by making themselves ridiculous in public.

DOLLAR WHEAT BY COMBINE.—It is announced by the Executive of the Farmer's Alliance and Industrial Union of the United States, that they propose to form a trust amongst the farmers throughout the world for the purpose of restricting the acreage of wheat, and thus forcing it up to one dollar a bushel or more. When we consider the great number of countries which now produce large quantities of wheat the scheme seems to be so utopian as hardly to merit consideration even for a moment. Were the world's wheat producing area, confined exclusively to North America, we very much doubt whether the farmers of Canada and the United States could by any possible means be got to co-operate so as to restrict the acreage sown. Human nature is essentially selfish, and just as much so in farmers as in any other class of people, and we have no doubt that thousands of them would be found not only refusing to go into any such scheme, but willing to take advantage of its anticipated benefits by sowing even more than their ordinary acreage. This, so far as even America alone is concerned would, in our opinion make it hard to work out the scheme in a practical way; but when we come to consider that in addition to North America, Argentina, Russia, India, Egypt and Australia are now wheat producing countries, and in favorable years have a large surplus of this grain to export, the scheme becomes doubly and trebly difficult to put into execution. We are afraid that the promoters of this utopian idea have misjudged human nature when they made their calculations of restricting the wheat output, and it is a very good job that they can't carry out their scheme, for wheat is so universally used to-day that any real curtailment of the supply would work untold misery to millions upon millions of people to whom it is truly the staff of life.

THE ATTEMPT to blow up the Welland Canal last week, although practically a failure, was nevertheless sufficiently successful to bring before Canadians the danger that such public works have heretofore always been exposed to. That the entire Welland Canal system was not wrecked and hundreds of valuable lives taken, was simply on account of the ignorance or nervousness of those who perpetrated the outrage. One thing is certain, however, and that is, that hereafter all the locks belonging to our great canals must be vigilantly guarded against similar attempts, whether of labor cranks, Fenians or Boer sympathizers. A couple of charges of dynamite properly exploded in the right place would not only entail a loss of millions of dollars, but entirely close the canal for at least a year. Such a thing should not be possible if the locks are all properly guarded, and we have no doubt that they will be patrolled day and night hereafter. The perpetrators are now in jail, and will shortly be tried for the offence, which is one of the most serious that could well be brought against any person. If they are found guilty, we trust that no misdirected sympathy will interfere in any way with their getting the extreme penalty the law can inflict for such an offence. At the present time it is impossible to say what prompted the outrage. All that is known, is, that they came from the United States, but whether they are connected with any labor, or secret Fenian or pro Boer organization is a mere matter of surmise. Whatever it turns out to be, all law-abiding citizens of both countries will be agreed that they should be severely punished all the same.

WOULD MAKE A GOOD DETECTIVE.—When Mr. M. Moss, jeweler, of Lunenburg, opened up his store one morning about a fortnight ago, he found that burglars had paid him a visit during the night and ransacked the premises. Goods were scattered about the floor promiscuously, and on examination he found quite a considerable quantity of valuable stock which had been left outside of the safe was missing. He concluded to say nothing about the matter to anyone but make a still hunt on his own account for the thieves. A few days later a young man entered his store and asked him to value a watch. Mr. Moss at once recognized it as one of his missing ones. The young man stated that he got it from a Mr. Fried, in a trade. A search warrant was taken out and Fried's premises were searched, but only a charm, one of the stolen ones, was found. Fried stated that he got the watch and charm from a person he did not know, but thought he could identify him. From the description given, John Mason, son of the constable of the town, was arrested. Next day after the arrest a man named Willneff called at Mr. Moss's house and stated that at a late hour on the night of the robbery he met John Mason, Lindsay Tanner and Gordon Burns, and they told him they had robbed the jeweler's shop and gave him a watch and chain and some jewelry, saying that was his share of the booty. He declared he was not present when the robbery took place. Hardly had Willneff departed when Tanner called on Mr. Moss and returned some of the stolen goods and stated that Willneff was present when the robbery took place. As a result Tanner, Burns and Willneff were arrested and have since been committed for trial.

AN ECHO of the J. B. Williamson, Montreal, failure, came to the surface last month in the assignment of James Baxter, a well-known broker of that city. As most of our readers know, Baxter was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for five years for conspiring and assisting to rob and wreck the Ville Marie Bank of Montreal. Shortly after sentence was pronounced Baxter made an assignment of his property to an assignee on behalf of his creditors, who were pressing him. The estate amounted to \$200,000 mostly in real estate, which will hardly realize anything like the amount it is valued at. Backus & Strauss, the well-known London, England, diamond merchants, are creditors for \$2,798 on a note Baxter seems to have obtained from J. B. Williamson for advances secured by diamonds. It is even said that it was reported that Williamson had given these diamonds as security to Baxter which eventually precipitated his (Williamson's) failure. Baxter's detection and punishment furnishes but another illustration of the truth of the old adage, "that the pitcher that goes often to the well gets broken at last." Baxter has, it is said, been connected with quite a few