

Young men in banks, city offices, warehouses, government offices and lawyers, have generally reasonable hours, and holidays as well, and they do more work, and are the better servants, because they are better men on account of it.

Any owner of a store who seeks to fulfil the obligation he is under to his assistants and considers them, doing all he can for their benefit, will tell you that he loses nothing, in fact, he has more willing and intelligent service: which more than compensate him for any benefits he may confer. We know this is done in London, and in busy towns in England, and employers and employees alike appreciate the boon.

Now for the stock arguments against early closing. "It has been tried," you say, "but with no success." Well, you didn't try long enough; the greedy tradesman would in a short time find that he gained very little, because customers had got out of the habit of shopping on that afternoon, also that he was losing prestige, and he would in time be won over.

Another argument against it is: There are sure to be black sheep, men so selfish that they couldn't sleep at night thinking of the possible dollar they might have lost; there are always those who will find a plea for their greed. Of course if Jones the grocer will keep open, Brown in the same line of business cannot close. This would right itself in time; for the better part of the community would not deal with Jones because he happened to be open, and he would steadily lose the good opinion of those he most cared for.

There is yet another consideration, that people coming in or going out by the boats may want to shop or do business, and so we may be playing our business into the hands of Seattle and other Sound cities.

But as everyone can find an argument in favor of the thing he wants to do, all we can say is, those who argue in this way are proving too much, are arguing the case in favor of our plea: for if they are so weak, or so greedy as they make themselves out to be, then the law should step in and protect them against themselves.

Shall we go a step further, and say we rather blame the employees for not asserting themselves? The difficulties are great no doubt; in fact they seem to be so great, that in England the House of Lords lately appointed a commission on this matter, which issued a very full report, with the result that tradesmen can be compelled to do what their greedy pro-

Worms in Dogs.		The Kennel Male Fern Capsules are the Best.
DEAN & HISCOCKS, Cor. Yates & Broad Sts., VICTORIA, B. C.		

pensities would not bring them to do otherwise. That a bill should be brought into the Lords by Lord Avebury and carried, and has up to the time of writing, also passed unanimously a second reading in the Commons, speaks for itself. The report of the commission says: "It was found that while voluntary effort was in many places general, yet the fact that thousands of young people were working so many hours, that their lives were a monotonous round of work and sleep, and to be thus deprived of any reasonable opportunities of physical and mental culture, constituted a serious moral danger."

The evidence of the committee went to show that employers are as eager as their assistants for legislative remedy.

We should very much like a committee to be appointed for the same purpose here, and evidence taken as to what hours are exacted from employees, and we should hope to see, as they have in England, a workshop Act and inspectors appointed.

For while human nature is as it is legislators, who have to consider the well being of the whole community must make laws to protect those who need it. All the writing and arguments will come to nothing, unless the assistants who desire the benefits take some initiative. Let them start a committee, which will be able to find out what proportion of shop keepers would close, what amount of support the scheme would receive from the public, how many people would promise not to shop on a certain afternoon.

We trust they would not fear to prejudice themselves in the eyes of their employers. It is much more likely they will find that their employers would appreciate the boon as much as their assistants, if they were sure they were losing money.

However, it can't be done by wishing and bewailing our fate; if the assistants but put their shoulders to the wheel, and start an early closing association, or take some steps, half the difficulties will disappear, solved by the steps they have taken.

A bird dealer, not a hundred miles from Charing Cross, was considerably startled the other day by a man rushing into his shop and insisting on the return of a parrot he had purchased some time back.

"Why," remarked the dealer, "you've had him three months. What's the matter with him?"

Customer: "W—w—well, the b—b—b—blessed b—b—bird st—st—st—stutters."—Fun.

E. G. PRIOR & CO.		Estab- lished 1859.
LIMITED LIABILITY.		
Miners' Tools and Camp Outfits a Specialty.	DEALER IN HARDWARE	Tools, Iron, Wagons, Carriages
FARM AND GARDEN IMPLEMENTS and MACHINERY		
OF ALL KINDS.		
Jessop's and Canton Drill Steel.		
Headquarters: 123 Government St., VICTORIA, B. C.	Branches Vancouver and Kamloops.	