

combination a pure system as it does to keep competition healthy. To be efficacious a combination must embrace all the wholesale dealers, and must be held together by the most righteous good faith among its members, and the most scrupulous adherence of all to its articles. The combination should, if possible, comprehend not only all wholesale dealers, but also, where possible, all commodities. In the cases where it does not include all commodities, free play is allowed for price-cutting, and this tends to loosen the influence of combination where it is supposed to bind. Where all wholesale traders are not included, the capricious methods of those outside of it are a constant temptation to those within to resort to the same tactics, even if they are forbidden.

FAILURES IN CANADA AND THE STATES.

The following figures showing a comparison between the number and amount of failures in Canada and the United States, for the first nine months of 1889 and during the same period of 1888, are particularly interesting.

CANADA.				Pro. of Assets to Liabilities.
No. of Failures.	Assets.	Liabilities.		
1888.	1,274	\$5,618,552	\$12,441,839	47
1889.	1,175	4,376,155	9,279,963	47
Dec.	99	\$1,242,397	\$ 3,161,876	
UNITED STATES.				Pro. of Assets to Liabilities.
No. of Failures.	Assets.	Liabilities.		
1888.	7,330	\$44,649,552	\$83,941,991	54
1889.	8,334	50,757,994	101,755,518	50
Inc.	1,004	\$6,108,442	\$17,813,527	

While we in Canada can show a decrease of 8 per cent. in number and 25 per cent. in value of losses by failures, our neighbors have to acknowledge an increase of 14 per cent. in number, with an addition of 12 per cent. assets and 21 per cent. liabilities. We do not propose to deal with the causes of these great differences and will be content, so far as comparisons with previous years are concerned, to congratulate ourselves and rejoice that we are not as other countries. It does indeed look as though Canada were passing out from under the commercial cloud with which she has been surrounded during the last six or seven years. But there are some other points which are worthy of special notice. It will be seen that in 1888 the proportion of the American assets to her liabilities was 54 per cent., while ours was only 47 per cent., and even this year when we are making such a progressive stride our proportion is still 47 per cent., while in the States it is 50 per cent. From this it is evident that our failures are of a worse type than those across the border, and it is a lasting shame to our commercial community that this should be the

case. To bring the average down to so low a figure as 47 per cent. how many must there be that yield almost nothing? That these figures display an incredible amount of dishonesty goes without saying, and until the creditors make up their minds to inflict the severest castigation in their power on all whom they deem as dishonest debtors, we can scarcely hope for a material change for the better. But there is even a worse phrase to consider in the fact, that though our population is only one-tenth of the American population, our failures number one-sixth of theirs. To every one the cause must be evident. The system of giving long credits so needlessly in vogue in Canada is keeping back our country more than any other cause, political or commercial. In engenders ignorant and useless competition and prevents thereby the worthy dealers who should be the backbone of the country from making the steady headway that they should but reasonably expect. We invite correspondence on this very important question.

A REMARKABLE EVENT.

Last year the Christmas Number of the Montreal STAR created a genuine sensation, not only in Canada and the United States, but throughout Great Britain and the continent. The Old Country people were loud in their praises of it and readily admitted that it surpassed the Graphic and Illustrated London News and all similar publications. Competent judges say this year's Christmas STAR eclipses all previous issues. Not a specimen copy has yet been shown, nor an advertisement of it published, yet dealers' orders are pouring in, some dealers ordering as high as a thousand copies each, while some of the newsmen of the United States are endeavoring to secure the exclusive sale for that country. It will be remembered that last year Montreal dealers bought up a large part of the entire issue of the Christmas Number of the Montreal STAR, and sold them like hot cakes at an advance to a dollar a copy. This shows the tremendous demand for such a first-class Christmas souvenir.

PRACTICAL PERFECTION IN MUCILAGE BOTTLES.

About a year ago the first air-tight, rubber tip mucilage bottle was put on the market by the Nassau Manufacturing Company, of New York. It met at once with a large and ready sale, and has been a success from the start by reason of its many unique and desirable qualities. This enterprising company, not content with the result of its past efforts, has just produced a new style which is claimed to be as near perfection in mucilage bottles as is possible for human ingenuity to attain. The rubber tip entirely supersedes the brush or the sponge. To

open the bottle and prepare it for use it is only necessary to stick a small knife blade into the tip at the index mark, cutting a transverse slit as shown in the engraving. This slit may be made large or small, according to the supply of mucilage the user desires. This converts it immediately into a self-feeding brush, which is afterward always ready for use. Holding the bottle vertically with the end of the rubber tip or "spreader" pressed gently against the surface to be gummed, the slit opens and the mucilage is fed out and spread in the usual manner. By inclining the bottle somewhat, a large surface may be gummed with equal facility. As soon as the pressure is removed the elasticity of the rubber causes the tip to resume its normal shape, closing the slit perfectly and leaving the bottle sealed air-tight under all conditions, and effectually preventing any



leakage or evaporation. The curved shape of the tip allows every particle of mucilage that escapes through the slit to be spread upon the surface to be gummed, and effectually prevents it from accumulating on the tip of the bottle. Attention is called to this feature, as it insures the article being at all times perfectly neat and clean, and renders its use a pleasure. The ease with which the bottle may be refilled also commends it to constant users. It is filled with extra strong and quick drying mucilage of the best quality. The Nassau Manufacturing Co'y made a very creditable exhibit at the Paris Exposition this year, and received from the jury the highest credit for mucilage bottles. Several leading houses in Canada can testify to the merits of the device and can supply the trade, among whom are Messrs. Morton, Phillips & Bulmer, of Montreal, and Messrs. Warwick & Sons, of this city.

"At my finger's ends"—One of Esterbrook's delightfully easy writing pens.