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#### WHY HE COULD NOT PAY.

A local barrister has received the following letter from a customer of a big wholesale house that placed an account in his hands for collection:

"My Dear Sir,—Absence from the city prevented me writing an answer to yours of recent date.

"It will be utterly impossible for me to settle the claim you mention at present, for the very simple but good reason—I haven't got it.

"I have simply been initiated into the Lodge of Sorrow, Hard Luck Chapter, Fool Division No. 69.

"My picture, hanging crape-aden in the Hall of Fame, bears the legend, "Sucker No. 33876234.

"My motto is, briefly, 'I would if I could; but I haven't; so I can't.'

"Fortune may smile, but up to the present time it has given me the laugh. I have hopes. Sincerely."—London Free Press.

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#### THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

During the past twenty years, says the Deutsche Tabak Zeitung, the cultivation of tobacco in Germany has suffered a notable decrease. In 1884 there were in that country 187,582 planters, who cultivated 52,116 acres, and produced 104,042,631 pounds. In 1894 the census showed only 151,261 planters. The area cultivated was 43,427 acres, with a production of 84,474,645 pounds. In 1903 the number of farmers fell to 105,991, the acreage to 40,899, and the pounds to 72,910,750. The number of planters has then decreased by 81,591, and the production by 31,131,881 pounds in nineteen years—from 1884 to 1903. The consumption of tobacco, on the other hand, has been on a constant increase. From 151,488,258 pounds in 1881, it has risen to 201,784,449 pounds in 1903.

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#### TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Sept. 28, 1905.

Chemicals, Drugs, etc.—No new feature comes up this week for comment in connection with the local drug trade. Quinine and opium remain steady, and the situation is much as before. Prices for other lines are without appreciable change.

**Dry Goods.**—All staple articles continue very strong in price. Woolen goods are particularly firm in sympathy with the results of the London wool sales, and with reports from the textile centres of Europe and elsewhere. The demand is beginning in earnest for such heavier goods as flannels, flannelettes, etc. Travellers on the road report prospects for a good fall and winter trade as quite bright.

**Flour and Grain.**—The general quoted price for ninety per cent. patents for export is \$3, in buyers' bags. The movement is now about average. Manitoba flour is hardly yet on a fixed basis. Ontario wheat is firm, not so much having come forward as was anticipated. There is a good movement in Manitoba wheat, and values are slightly easier, in sympathy with Chicago conditions. There is a good demand for oats, and it is firmer. Rye and barley are also firm. Shorts is in very brisk demand. Oatmeal and rolled oats are about the same as last quoted.

**Fruits and Vegetables.**—The receipts of fruits are falling off now with the advancing season. Peaches, however, still continue in abundance, and the quality of those offered would seem to have improved. Tomatoes are a little firmer, owing to early frosts. Lemons still continue very scarce.

**Hardware.**—The hardware trade is experiencing a brisk movement, and all lines of seasonable goods are in demand. Fencing is in request, and so are guns and ammunition. Interest is being manifested in skates. Builders' hardware is also wanted to a somewhat more than normal extent. In metals no very appreciable changes have taken place. Pig iron remains much as before, with a normal movement.

**Hides, Skins and Leather.**—While prices retain their dearness, the situation in hides has become a little easier, owing to heavier receipts. Leather is very strong in sympathy with hides, and stocks are said to be on the light side in some grades, which may still further strengthen the situation.

**Live Stock.**—Probably if the quality of the cattle offered at the market last week had been better there would have been a rise in prices. As it was, the demand was brisker, owing to the scantier offerings, but prices remained unchanged, though firm. Few export cattle were offered, and they were poor stock. The demand for good butchers' was quite good, but they were scarce.

**Provisions.**—All lines of provisions range high in price. Prices for butter are about the same, but the decrease in offerings has given the market a firmer tone. Cheese is unchanged locally from last week's firm prices, but at outside points it is said to be a little easier. Eggs are in heavy supply, but prices remain good. Poultry is plentiful, but prices are fairly good at 10c. for live spring chickens and 14c. for dressed. New crop hops have hardly started to move yet, but considerable interest is manifested in the prospects. Some English hops are said to have already arrived here, and sold at 19c. The crop there and on the Continent is described as good.

**Seeds.**—The market for seeds has been active and prices good. In fact, the prices have gone almost too high for an export basis, and a certain dullness has set in for the moment. Alsike is quoted at \$4 to \$6 per bushel; red clover is \$5.25 to \$6.

**Wool.**—Not much change has taken place in the local wool market, the new

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