

of introducing a new line of stoves. On the 1st of April last we abandoned nearly all of our old styles of stoves and commenced the manufacture of a full line of cooking stoves and ranges."

A general merchant at Ayton, in the county of Wellington, sends what follows. What he says about creameries is sound: "P. S.—Crops in this vicinity were light, though of good quality. This combined with low prices for grains and cattle and mild weather, has made a dull trade. If farmers could be induced to go more strongly into butter making in and through creameries or cheese making, I believe that it would be better."

A bank agent at Parrsboro', on the Bay of Fundy, thus expresses his opinion on the West India question, which is a particularly 'live' one in the Maritime Provinces just now:—"If you would aid in promoting confederation or reciprocal trade with the West Indies, you would do much towards placing us in a position to report 'State of trade in this part of country, good.'"

From Montague, P. E. Island, a bank agent sends us what follows: "Business has been dull this season, but a good amount of produce is being shipped; and as prices are fair the merchants here will be able to collect fairly."

Bowman & Wiegand, merchant millers at Arthur, Ont., put the pith of their letter in a postscript, thus: "P. S.—A general complaint of dulness in trade. Grains a good sample, but low prices induce farmers to hold on. This following a failure of crop last year and low prices this year could not produce any other result. Our N. P. 'boom' is a boomerang."

In reply to our enquiry as to the state of trade, the Adams Tobacco Company of Montreal says: "We found business pretty good during the spring and summer, but a slight falling-off was perceptible during Sept. and Oct. However, November has picked up again."

Lucas, Leacock & Co., of Bridgen, say: "The depression has been severely felt throughout this locality more especially in the lumber trade, sales of hardwood being extremely slow. The prospects for the winter are anything but good. Stocks put in will be light."

In the opinion of a banker at Kincardine, "Storekeepers as a rule are carrying lighter stocks, and seem to be doing a moderately safe business. They appear to meet their paper promptly. Farmers have very little money to spend. This fall the cattle trade was more active than usual, but is now quiet. There has been an average business done in other branches of trade."

The well-known dealer in bees and honey, Mr. D. A. Jones, writes from Beeton, Ont., on the 6th: "Business is not so good as it might be. We have had no sleighing as yet; and the Christmas trade will not amount to much if we do not have sleighing soon."

A New Brunswick merchant in the fish exporting business, Mr. John Windsor, of Petit Rocher, tells us that "Our trade for general merchandise over the counter has not been as good as 1883, as the figures show: From 1st Feb., 1883, to 1st Dec., 1883, we sold \$35,208.03, and from 1st Feb., 1884 to 1st Dec., 1884, we sold \$30,106.63, being a decrease during last ten months of \$5,101.40, compared with like period last year. Our export trade, consisting chiefly of canned lobsters, was better this season than last, as, in 1883 we only exported about \$24,000, and this season we have exported about \$36,000. Prices have also been better than last season and although the retail trade here has been lighter than 1883, business on the whole has been more satisfactory with us."

Here is how they feel in Cornwall, according to Messrs. Kirkpatrick Brothers: "Trade is

exceedingly dull, partly owing to the fact that our factories are employing fewer hands than during former years, and at reduced wages, and partly in consequence of the low prices and languid demand which exists for farm produce. It is questionable if business at this particular season has been as depressed during any year in the past decade."

A bank agent at Picton writes us, on the 8th instant: "Trade has been dull here for some time back, and prices are low. Nothing but 'reciprocity' with the United States will mend matters in Nova Scotia, the natural market being there."

#### WESTERN ONTARIO COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday, 6th inst., in their rooms, Masonic Temple, London. The President, Mr. William Lind, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of members. The President characterized statements which had been made regarding mismanagement of funds as alike untrue and unjust to the Association. "In place of the funds having been squandered, the following statement will show the relative position of our funds:—When I had the honor of being elected President our surplus funds were \$2,754, at present they are \$6,000. During my time of office we have paid for death and sick claims \$2,500, but for which our surplus would have increased \$5,800. The defalcations of our late treasurer were a serious loss to the Association, but we were exonerated from the responsibility thereof."

Mr. H. D. Long reported that delegates of the Association with others from Toronto, Montreal, and Maritime Province Associations had a conference with the General Passenger Agents of railways as to privileges, and were now informed that the passenger advantages at present enjoyed by members of the Association would be continued for a year.

The election of officers was then taken up, and resulted as follows:—

President—Mr. W. J. Reid, elected by acclamation.

First vice-president—Mr. H. D. Long, elected by acclamation.

For second vice-president four nominations were made, but the other three withdrew in favor of Mr. Munroe, who was declared elected.

Third vice-president—Mr. R. H. Green (elected.)

Treasurer—Mr. S. N. Sterling (elected).

Nominations were then made for directors. Seven to be elected by ballot by next meeting.

Directors elected for Hamilton were: John Crothy, John Booker, R. K. Hope. Directors for Toronto—John J. Quarry and F. W. Heath. Stratford—James Doyle. Brantford—Geo. Watts and James Smith. Paris—James Maxwell. Ayr—J. G. Watson. Oshawa—E. O. Felt. St. Thomas—W. T. Cochrane. The time for holding the annual meeting was fixed as Friday December 26th, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

#### TRAINING OF APPRENTICES.

This is an important subject. Among the papers of popular interest read before the section of Economy, Science and Statistics, at the recent meeting at Philadelphia, was one on the apprentice question, and industrial schools. The speaker declared that the system in vogue in the latter country, upon which exclusive reliance is placed, is utterly inadequate to supply trained and skilled mechanics demanded by the growing industrial wants of the country. This proposi-

tion he endeavored to establish not by the utterances of recognized authorities on the point, which are not altogether harmonious, but by reference to certain general considerations tending to show the rapid decay of apprenticeship that he deemed of a conclusive character. Chief among these is the unprecedented subdivision of labor and the increasing use of machinery in modern industrial enterprises. An illustration of this was afforded in the watches from Swiss apprenticeship schools, almost entirely hand-made, shown at the Paris Exposition of 1878, and the machine work done at Waltham, where nearly a thousand distinct operations contribute to the manufacture of a single watch. As tending in the same direction, the present indisposition of boys to be a part of their master's household, and of the masters to receive them in that capacity was mentioned. In contracts between boys and their masters, having in view work and pay and not instruction, it is only exceptionally that boys apprenticed to a trade have an opportunity of really learning it. The laxity of the relations of master and apprentice moreover permits boys to leave the shop with a trade half learned so that they may work as journeymen in another shop, an evil which some employers, notably the carriage makers, have combined to check.

The writer, Mr. T. Hampson, then proceeded to the enquiry whether the system of apprenticeship admits of modifications which will adapt it to current industrial needs and concluded, notwithstanding a few exceptional cases in which the experiment has been successfully made, such as the Altoona shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad, that there were great obstacles in the way of such modification. Turning to consider, finally, with what apprenticeship might be most advantageously replaced, the speaker as a first step advocated the establishment in all important manufacturing cities of the evening courses of scientific instruction of a practical character; such courses, whether consisting of lectures only, as in the famous Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Metiers, at Paris, or individual instruction in manual works, as in the night trade schools of Belgium or Germany, to be sustained by the municipality and to be free or nearly so to the public. He also urged that such cities should provide one or more manual labor schools well equipped with laboratories and apparatus, to which a succession of volunteer classes from the public schools might resort for two or three hours of daily instruction, pupils undertaking this work to be allowed to drop some of the literary work in the regular school course. The possible objections of the cost of the innovation recommended were considered, but it was shown to be warranted by what is now done for a class numerically unimportant in high schools, and to be likely, moreover, to increase production out of all proportion to its cost.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. C.; COLLINGHAM.—Yes; Mr. James L. Foulds is authorized to receive subscriptions for this journal in Britain, as well as advertisements. His address is 11 Bothwell St., Central Buildings, Glasgow.

W. H. V.; EXETER. The Canada Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. is virtually wound up. The bank held all the securities and no dividend has been paid except from the Government deposit for the benefit of policy holders and creditors, and which has been distributed by the Court of Chancery. All who proved their claim received, we are told, a very small dividend.