

THE FIGHT IN ILLINOIS AGAINST DEPARTMENT STORES.

A BILL THAT MAY NOT PASS, AND WILL BE FOUGHT IN THE COURTS BY BIG ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN Illinois the fight against the department stores has assumed the shape of a bill in the Legislature. Mr. Salomon, who introduced a measure somewhat on the same lines in the Illinois Senate a few years ago, attended a meeting of business men in Chicago to promote the movement.

In his address Mr. Salomon said in his opinion department stores depressed business. The new bill now before the State Assembly was aimed at big concerns by insisting on a separate store for each class of trade. A man could not carry on a butcher shop, an art store and a photographic gallery under one roof. No law, he said, could be passed to prevent the advertising of articles for sale below cost.

Another speaker, Mr. Meyer, said that in Germany, if a man advertised a "fire sale" when there had been no fire, or if he announced in the press that he had 1,500 overcoats worth \$10 for sale at \$3 each, he could be sent to jail. But this was not prevented in the States. Twenty years ago there were twenty wholesale dry goods houses in Chicago; now there were three.

The bill divides articles for sale into 75 different classes. These classes are grouped together so that a store may carry a certain number of lines. For instance, a dry goods store would include the following lines:

DRY GOODS.

Classes 1 to 8: Fabric in pieces and manufactures of silk, ramie and other vegetable fibre. Cotton, linen, wool woven and felted, and mixtures of wool and fabrics of hair, alpaca, rubber, etc. Ready-made dresses, gowns for ladies and children, habits and costumes. Knit goods, hosiery and corsets. Gloves, woven of leather and skins. Laces, embroideries, notions, trimmings, artificial flowers, fans, hand or needle work, etc. Parasols and umbrellas. Rubber goods, caoutchouc, gutta percha, celluloid, and zylonite clothing, mackintoshes, capes, coats, etc.

CLOTHIERS & FURNISHERS.

Classes 9 to 16: Men's and boys' ready-made clothing. Shirts, collars, cuffs, cravats, suspenders, braces, etc. Gloves and mittens. Draper and tailor and trimmings for tailors. Hats and caps and felt goods. Furs and fur clothing. Traveling equipments, valises, trunks, toilet cases, fancy leather work. Umbrellas and canes.

SHOE STORES.

Shoe stores would take in class 17: boots and shoes and shoe findings.

JEWELERS.

Classes 18 to 20: Watches, clocks, spectacles, eye glasses, opera glasses; jewelry and ornaments; gold and silver mounted umbrellas, canes, pens, pencils and pocketbooks. Gold and silver and bronze ornaments, statuary, diamonds, precious stones.

GROCERIES.

Classes 21 to 30: Cereals, flour, bread, biscuits, starches, baking powders, etc. Sugar, syrups, confectionery. Vegetables, potatoes, tubers, and other root crops and culinary vegetables; fruits and nuts. Preserved meats and food preparations. Preserved fish and preparations. Dairy products, milk, butter, cheese and eggs. Aromatics and condiments, coffee, chocolate, tea, spices, flavoring extracts, essences. Fats, oils, laundry soaps, candles, kerosene, vinegar. Preserved fruits and vegetables, jams, jellies, etc. Detergents and apparatus, alkalies, brushes, sponges, brooms, etc.

BUTCHERS.

Classes 31 to 34: Meats, fresh, smoked, preserved, and preparations of meats. Fish, live and preserved; shell fish, dried,

smoked, cured, salted, tinned, etc. Farm products and garden vegetables. Poultry and game.

LIQUORS AND TOBACCO.

Liquor merchants would carry classes 35 and 36: Whiskies, brandies, wines, liquors, cordials, malt liquors and alcoholic liquids. Mineral waters, aerated waters, and non-alcoholic beverages generally and cigars.

Tobacco stores would be limited to all manufactures of smokers' articles.

FLOWERS AND BIRDS.

Classes 38 and 39: Floriculture, arboriculture and seeds. Live animals, domestic, monkeys, parrots, canary and other birds.

FURNITURE STORES.

Classes 40 to 44 are: Furniture of interiors, tables, chairs, beds, suits, refrigerators, etc. Upholstery, tapestries, curtains, portieres. Artistic decorations, artistic furnishings, mirrors. Art work, china, metal, wood. Mats and matings, floor oilcloths, carpets and rugs, baby carriages and manufactures of rattan.

OTHER CLASSIFICATIONS.

The classes from 45 to 75 continue the same system of dividing up the various lines and grouping them together. A hardware dealer, for instance, would carry three different classes pretty much on the present basis: The plumber, the coal dealer, the wagon dealer, the bicycle agent, the harnessman, the rattan manufacturer and dealer in baby buggies, and the sewing machine agent, each have a class to themselves. So has the man who sells footballs, boxing gloves and other athletic goods. The druggist may sell all the articles usually carried and may also continue in the stamp-selling business. The same dealer who supplies hats and other millinery may also deal in false hair and toilet articles.

AGAINST THE PRESENT BIG STORES.

The section which strikes at department stores says: "Upon and after the taking effect of this Act no store building or buildings or premises situated in cities of 100,000 population shall be used or occupied by any person, firm or corporation, or under a unit of management or superintendency, for the sale of goods, wares and merchandise at wholesale or retail where other goods, wares and merchandise are kept for sale and sold than is comprised in any one class of Sec. 1 of this Act, or in the classes designated in any group mentioned in Sec. 2 of this Act."

Another section provides that the city authorities may issue licenses for department stores, license to be no less than \$500 per annum. Any one breaking the law may be fined or imprisoned. The bill only applies to cities with 100,000 or more of a population.

CLEAN SWEET PILLOWS.

How often does one upon entering a bedroom detect a heavy close odor as if the room had not been aired for several weeks. This is often caused by the bed-pillows, the feathers in which, if not properly deodorized before being made up, are bound to give forth the smell mentioned. It is caused by the oil contained in the quills and also in many cases by decayed carrion left on the quills when plucking the feathers. This is not only unpleasant, but it is injurious to the sleeper to inhale it during the night. The goods manufactured by the Toronto Feather & Down Co. are free from any such trouble and every pair sold are guaranteed so, or are returnable.