

Company, of Lancaster, Pa., is offered for sale by the assignee, including real estate, buildings, machinery, tools, finished and unfinished watches, drawings, patterns and patents, the total value being estimated at \$300,000.

It is estimated that 40,000 persons are employed in the watch and clock trade in Switzerland, and that the total annual production of watches in that country averages 1,600,000, equal in value to 88,000,000 francs, or nearly seventeen millions of dollars.

The Waltham Watch Company at Boston has given notice that a large reduction will be made immediately in the working force and wages. Those remaining will be reduced 10 to 20 per cent. The number to be discharged is from five to nine hundred. The company employs 2500.

MR CHAS. B. ALEXANDER, who for several years past has held a position of trust in the jewelry store of Mr. Robert Cuthbert, Toronto, has recently shifted his quarters to Portland, Maine, U.S. where he will occupy a similar situation in the store of Mr. A. M. Wentworth, of that place. Charlie's many friends in Toronto will wish him the success he so richly deserves.

**THE BOOKSELLER**—We are just in receipt of *The Bookseller*, a journal devoted to the interests of the book, stationery and fancy goods trades. The paper is owned and edited by Mr. J. J. Dyas, and seems to be admirably suited for the purposes for which it was intended. Its editorials are short, crisp, and to the point. We wish it success.

**THE XMAS trade in the jewelry business**, although lacking the snap and volume of the past three or four years, has been on the whole fairly satisfactory. Fair profits seem now to be the order of the day, and the jewelers who select carefully and well of holiday novelties have not much cause for complaint. The grumbler is one who is usually behind our age.

We were sorry to learn that "Ryrie, the Jeweler," of Toronto, has been ill with typhoid fever for the past couple of weeks. Sickness never comes in a good time, but it couldn't have struck James in a worse period, as his sales about this season are generally something enormous, and take his own best efforts as well as those of his assistants. Mr Ryrie, we are glad to say, is now almost well again.

MR THOMAS FITZSIMONS, the well-known jeweler of St. Catharines, has also been under the weather, we are sorry to say, and was compelled to stay at home for about a week. His was a case of typhoid fever also, and was, we are glad to hear, attended with no serious results. We trust Mr. Fitzsimons will be as well as ever before this meets his eye.

**STILL ANOTHER WARNING.**—The jewelry store of Napoleon LeFebvre, on Notre Dame street, Montreal, within a stone's throw of the head police office, was burglarized early on the morning of the 18th Dec. The safe was blown open with powder and \$10,000 worth of diamonds, gold watches, and jewelry carried off. In addition \$5,000 of promissory notes and certified cheques were appropriated. No clue to the perpetrators. This is another case where membership in the Jewelers' Security Alliance would be of infinite service to the person robbed. In the face of so many burglaries, comment is almost unnecessary.

**THE BUSINESS of the Canada Clock Co. of Hamilton, Ont.,** is being wound up, as it has been unsatisfactory for some time and has apparently proved but a poor investment. As this is its second collapse it will probably not survive it. It is thought that the available assets will pay about 60 cents on the dollar. Evidently this country has no use for a clock factory of its own.

**THE Assignees' auction sale of the stock in trade of Woltz Bros.** took place during the last week of November, and attracted quite a number of buyers. The bidding was spirited and the lot was finally knocked down to Messrs. I. Joseph & Sons, of Montreal, at 41 cents on the dollar. The purchaser has since disposed of it to Mr. Culliver, one of the largest creditors, and the business will be continued in future under the style of Woltz & Company.

A RATHER unexpected failure is that of W. W. Beckett & Co., of Sherbrooke, Que., extensive hardware dealers, and one of the oldest and most prominent business firms of the town. The failure has been brought about through complications with endorers for C. G. Beckett & Co., of New Mills, N.B., large manufacturers of spoons, formerly of Sherbrooke, which endorers, to the amount of \$30,000, the hardware firm has been called upon to make good. An assignment has been made to Thos. Darling of Montreal.

**SAYS A Stayner exchange in a late issue:** "A jewelry drummer struck this village last Friday and after victimizing our local jewelers for large bills set about buying poultry; and at about 4 o'clock was seen with a ten cent grain bag stuffed with turkeys, geese and chickens and a pig-tail protruding from his coat pocket." We congratulate this enterprising drummer upon his success and trust that he may enjoy them in their gay and festive season.

**A WARNING.**—An impudent case of sneak thieving was reported to the Toronto police on Saturday, the 13th Dec. George Gowland keeps a jewelry store at No. 174 1/2 King Street east, and kept in a large case on the counter a large assortment of ladies and gents' gold and silver watches, chains, etc. On Friday evening just it was getting dark, Mr. Gowland had occasion to go down street, and he left his wife in charge. A few minutes afterwards Mrs. Gowland paid a visit to the basement, leaving the front door unlocked. She was not absent five minutes, yet in that time a sneak thief entered the store, opened the case and abstracted seven gold watches and several valuable chains, the whole being worth about \$700. Mrs. Gowland did not hear the door open or shut, and saw no one hanging about the window, but there is no doubt that the thieves had been watching for a favorable opportunity. Subsequently detective Cuddy arrested "Ducky" Walsh, one of the notorious Garner gang who proved to have three of the stolen watches in his possession. It is probable that Walsh will be entertained at the public expense for some time on account of this job, but it should be a warning to all jewelers to look very carefully after their stock.

Since the above was put in type, Walsh has been sentenced to three years and an accomplice to two and a half years in the penitentiary.

**THE MENDELBAUM.**—Everybody will remem-

ber reading about Mrs. Mendelbaum, the greatest receiver of stolen goods New York ever produced. For years she plied her infamous trade, ruining hundreds of young men and growing enormously wealthy. About the middle of the summer the New York police raided her establishment, and despite tremendous influence brought to bear in her favor she was committed for trial, heavy bail being accepted for her appearance. About two weeks ago the old naridan jumped her bail bonds and fled to Canada. She is now in Hamilton and will probably make Canada her headquarters for some time. Burglars in Canada have had a soft thing for some time, their only drawback being the want of suitable "fence" with whom to conceal or sell their plunder. The Mendelbaum being the "queen" of "fences" they will probably induce her to open business in Canada and transfer her headquarters to Toronto. If so jewelers may look out for squalls. Canada is unfortunate. The absconding bank cashier is bad enough—"Shoe-Box" Miller was a bitter pill, John C. Eno is a heavy load, Charles W. Lee was fortunately sent back, "Bucket-Shop" Fleming was bad—but Mrs. Mendelbaum, good Lord, deliver us!

**OUR OLD FRIEND J. W. Jackson**, the well-known jeweler of St. Catharines, is not only a first-class workman, but is able to take a frost seat along with most of our native aspirants in the poetic line. Mr. Jackson's muse is of a very versatile turn and is equally at home in singing of love, war, or politics, but when it gets right down to hard pan and puts in its work on commerce, it makes things hump. For this year's Christmas circular J. W. J. takes up the agricultural and mercantile aspect of the present depression and couches in rhyme some very common sense and practical ideas. From his poetic nosegay we cull three of the fairest flowers:

What though some mourn the price of grain,  
Shall I not wake a joyful strain,  
When Christmas and the glad New Year  
Are nearing with rare gifts and cheer?  
Yes, yes, I'll sing, though wheat be low,  
For it will rise—and that I'll show.  
The wheat is good, 't will rise, I said,  
When kneaded and made into bread.  
This my first note of joyful strain  
For Christmas as it comes again.

O, farmer, sell your golden grain,  
Nor haply spoil my joyful strain  
Far better sell at present price  
Than store it up for rats and mice.  
Our Neelon's waiting at his mill  
With cash your pockets well to fill  
And Norris says he'll buy some too,  
And bids me sound my loud kazoo.  
Each joins my song that wheat may rise  
In bread, in pudding, and in pies!

And now I'll blow some Christmas chimes  
The farmer's pockets filled with dimes.  
The farmer's taken good advice,  
He heard the note I sounded twice.  
The product of large yield of grain  
Has wreath'd his face with smiles again  
He comes to town and largely buys.  
Lo! smiles light up the merchant's eyes  
Each joins my song of Christmas cheer.  
"And many more—a glad New Year!"