

rolls were made up for the edification of the best butter dealers; the best of fluids were supplied at the expense of—no one knoweth,—and the article was pronounced first-class. But, for some cause or other this failed also, as did its predecessor in Hamilton.

The company next acquired a "Carpet Beating" patent which, while it cleaned the carpets, managed to throw the dust into the eyes of the general community, and beat out cash from the coffers of another institution. A Last Manufacturing Co. was acquired from one Wm. Phillips, and various other patents from other sources.

The manipulation of the Gardner Extinguisher machines to form the nucleus of paid-up stock, and Mr. Carter's valuation of the same, are scarcely of sufficient interest here. The brass-founders, Messrs. Outhbert & Son, are not less likely to have forgotten all about the business than some of those who were neither decoy-ducks nor founders.

The last enterprise of the company was a Card Board Factory, which, now that the moneyed bank president is no longer by, has fallen into trouble, and against which a winding up order has been applied for.

This concern was started by E. F. Carter, who severed his connection with it some five years ago. It had a capital subscribed of about \$35,000, of which it was claimed on behalf of the concern that some \$25,000 was paid in. The business almost immediately got into debt to the Exchange Bank for advances, which to the date of the stoppage amounted to \$16,000. After the suspension of the Exchange they went to another bank where the account was taken up, and they now owe to the latter some \$10,000 for advances, and have under discount some \$15,000. They had made an offer to the Exchange Bank directors of 50 per cent of the \$16,000, and this was in a sense agreed to, but the directors refused to surrender the stock which had been pledged as security, and thus the matter rested when their new bankers, finding no reasonable alternative, applied to the courts for the appointment of a liquidator. The outside liabilities are some \$7,000, of which \$3,000 is due in Germany to the friends of E. Jaeger, the late manager, about a similar amount in England, and some two or three small sums to parties in the United States. A meeting is called for to-morrow, to be held in the Court House, this city, where the future course of the Montreal Manufacturing Co. will probably be determined.

THE WHOLESALE GROCERS' ASSOCIATION.—A step in the right direction is that of the wholesale grocers of this city, who have formed themselves into an association for the purposes set forth as follows in the preamble to the constitution and by-laws of what is to be known as the "Wholesale Grocers' Association of Montreal:" "The necessity of co-operation and the benefits to be derived from reciprocal interchange of opinions and uniformity in the customs and usages of merchants, have induced the subscribers to associate themselves together for the purpose of promoting by all legitimate means the advancement and prosperity of the grocery interests; and further: To enforce the principles of justice and equity in all business transactions; to regulate as far as practicable the prices, terms of credit and discounts of the

trade; to facilitate the speedy adjustment of all commercial disputes; and by concerted action to protect the interests of the members of the association against unfair discrimination in regard to foreign or local freight rates, adverse legislative enactments or any other obstacles that may interfere with the success of their respective interests. Having these objects in view, we therefore agree to be governed by such rules and by-laws as may be from time to time adopted by the "Wholesale Grocers Association of Montreal." The by-laws, while comprehensively framed, are not forbiddingly arbitrary, the desire evidently being to depend for cohesiveness rather upon mutual benefits than upon coercion, and we, therefore, must bespeak for the association a longer and more useful existence than has been vouchsafed to similar organizations. There are many subjects to which the intelligent attention of such an association may be directed, not least among them that relating to the inspection of Newfoundland fish, as already noted in these columns. The modern adulteration of one of the principal articles of home preparation by means of sulphurous acid might also furnish food for contemplation. But the association will doubtless find still greater work before them in the regulation of credits and the maintenance of fairly profitable prices.

Our Christmas Story.

One of our special correspondents, emboldened by the recent insertion of a communication from Miss Finesse, of Boston, writes us what we may fairly term a "Christmas Story:" "My father, being a merchant doing a very extensive business, the labors and anxieties of which had seriously affected his health, took into his employment as confidential clerk a gentlemanly-looking person, who came to him very highly recommended, preferring to do this rather than to take a partner, because there are several of us young children for whom he designed his business to provide careers. As the confidential clerk was a stranger, and would have the handling of moneys and securities, and would be empowered to sign receipts, etc., my father required him to furnish security in the shape of a guarantee bond from one of the insurance companies, being under the impression that the inquiries of the insurance company would be such as to confirm the good report of the makers of the testimonials which the clerk brought with him.

Being the principal merchant in the village and, indeed, I might truly say, in the locality, my father was often solicited to accept the agencies of insurance companies of all sorts, and he accepted several of them, on consideration that one of the young men in his office or in the store should do the work and receive most of the benefit, although my father persuaded his friends and customers to become insured, and set them the example by paying out his share of the income for policies of all sorts, so that whoever came along might see that his precepts were borne out by his practice. He was, however, very particular in revising the application, in order that there might not be any difficulties after a fire occurred, or any temptation to carelessness.

The district in which we reside is comparatively newly settled, consequently the farmers

and others, although not poor, are somewhat strained for money wherewith to pay for their land, implements, buildings, stock, seed, clothing, etc., so that they buy a great deal on credit, with the understanding that they are to pay in the winter when they sell their grain, or pork, or logs, or timber; and, as some of them are not good managers, others not good men, and others have ill luck, my father has lost a great deal of money by reason of the bad debts, but he has always said that the country will gradually improve, and the people will be better able to pay for their goods when once they finish paying for their land and get their farms in good order and well stocked, so he has never been very hard with those who were unable to pay their debts to him.

Business had been fairly good for the past year or so, and my father thought this winter would be a very good one for him, because the building of a new railway through the district would make a home market for ties and such like things, so he laid in a stock of goods larger than usual, but he became despondent, by reason of the prolonged fall which made very bad roads, as ours are new and rough, mud and corduroy, and not gravelled as they are in older districts. Men could not work in the swamps by reason of the water, neither could they draw anything they cut on the highlands, nor had they attempted to draw their grain to market, so bills were coming due from time to time, and nothing was coming in to meet them with, while goods were remaining on the shelves unsold, because the people could not come in to buy them,—so my father sent out his confidential clerk to take promissory notes from those who were indebted to him, and to get renewal notes from those whose old notes were past due, and, when he returned, sent him to Ottawa to get the notes discounted, in order to pay off such accounts for goods, etc., as were becoming due.

The clerk was expected to be away for three days, but five days elapsed without his re-appearance, when we all became very uneasy lest anything should have befallen him, so my father made preparations himself to go to Ottawa to see what was detaining him, and had everything in readiness for his journey, when some one ran in and said that a drunken man had upset one of the lamps in the store upon a pile of brooms, and that they could not put out the fire. We all ran over but, by the time we got to the store, the whole of the inside was on fire, and a very large part of the goods were burning. My father bethought himself of the account books in the office, and ran in to save them, but got out very few of them when the smoke grew so dense that he fell over something and broke one of his legs and fell on the floor insensible, after having inhaled some of the heated smoke.

It was with very great difficulty three or four of the men rescued my father from the now burning office, and as the doctor was away in the country we had very little hope of being able to resuscitate him. Fortunately, however, the doctor arrived after a while, and pronounced him alive although in great danger, because of the inhalation of the smoke, as well as from the shock to his system by the fracture of the limb.