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# THE TRADER.

"A Journal devoted to the interests of the Hardware and Jewelry Trades."

TORONTO, MAY, 1880.



## SHEFFIELD STERLING SPOONS AND FORKS.

The last advices from England inform us of an advance in the price of Nickel Silver of all grades, of from 10 to 15 per cent. on old figures, and that a further increase may shortly be expected.

In consequence of these advances it is impossible that Nickel Silver Spoons and Forks can continue to be sold at former prices, but must go up in proportion to the rise in Great Britain. As this rise must of necessity affect the price of cheap goods more than that of the finer qualities, dealers will find it more than ever to their interest to buy reliable goods that they can safely recommend to their customers as being value for their money.

We have now in stock over 800 gross of our celebrated

## SHEFFIELD STERLING SPOONS AND FORKS

which we fully believe to be the best unplated Flat Ware ever offered to the Trade of Canada. Superior in Quality, Design and Finish, and as low in price as any goods ever offered in this market. Every dozen Forks or Spoons, have a guarantee wrapper, of which the following is a copy:

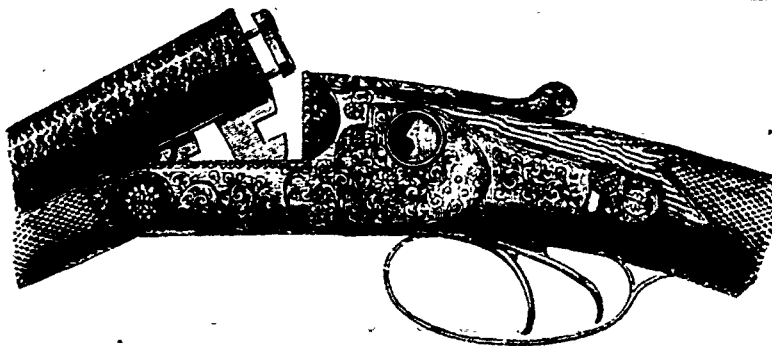
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SHEFFIELD STERLING CROWN  
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to be of the above metal throughout; and the trade is authorized in all cases where these goods prove defective to return them to their Canadian Agents and draw upon them for their invoice value.

Dealers who have tried them will use no other.

**THE SHEFFIELD STERLING CO., Sheffield, England.**  
WHOLESALE ONLY by the CO.'S CANADIAN AGENTS,  
**ZIMMERMAN, McNAUGHT & CO.**



**W. M. COOPER,**  
MANUFACTURERS' AGENT,

**DEALER IN RIFLES, GUNS & SPORTING GOODS**  
23 Front Street West, - TORONTO.

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**W. M. COOPER,** Canadian Agent for W. W. GREENER, Birmingham, W. & C SCOTT & SONS, Birmingham; GEORGE GIBB, Bristol, WILLIAMS & POWELL, Liverpool, THOMAS TURNER, Birmingham

P. W. ELLIS.

M. C. ELLIS.

# P. W. ELLIS & CO., MANUFACTURING JEWELERS AND WATCHMAKERS,

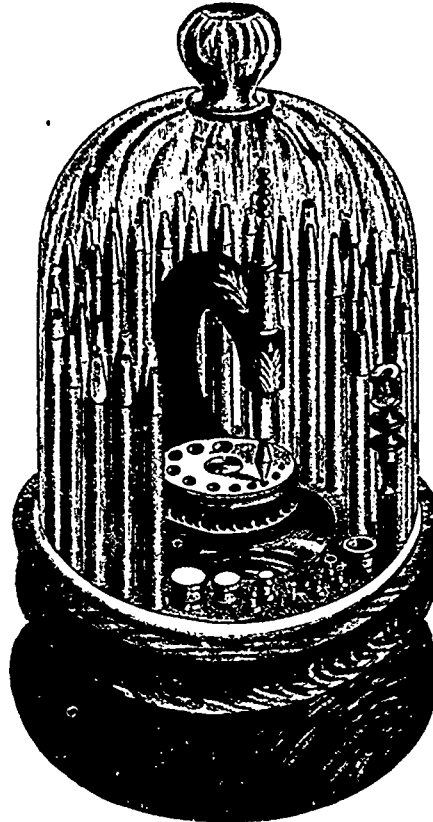
IMPORTERS OF WATCHMAKERS' AND JEWELERS' SUPPLIES,

Dealers in Diamonds and other Precious Stones.

**NO. 4 TORONTO STREET, - - - TORONTO.**

### IMPROVED STAKING TOOL.

Watchmakers and Repairers will find this perfect and improved Staking Tool their best friend in doing nice work with rapidity and correctness. The frame is nicely finished, top and bottom nickel plated, japanned in black and ornamented in gold leaf. Die is made of finest steel, hardened and highly polished. It revolves on the frame by a bolt in the centre and tightened by a thumb screw. Whole mounted on highly finished cherry stand to take in punches, stamps, &c. When not in use, glass shade covers all, making it dust proof. The whole furnishes an ornament to any Watchmaker's bench. Send for prices and descriptive lists.



This tool comprises:

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Frame and Die. | 1 Roller Abstracter. |
| 41 Punches.    | Wood Stand.          |
| 10 Stamps.     | Glass Shade.         |

The punches are made of finest quality of steel wire, carefully straightened and tempered according to their respective uses, and highly finished. They comprise: 1 Set Punch, 12 Flat and 12 Round Faced Hollow Punches, 4 Flat and 4 Round Faced Solid Punches, 2 Hour Hand Punches, with concave ends, 2 Cylinder Punches, one Roler Punch, 1 Cross Hole Punch, 1 Peen Punch, and 1 Minute Hand Punch, 10 Stumps or Anvils, 1 Large Solid Punch, 4 Hollow Stump Punches, and 1 Goblet Shaped Punch for resting lower end of centre arbor, while driving minute hand to its place.

Above Cut is one-half size of Tool.

### STYLE C.



### NICKLE DUST PROOF WATCH KEYS.

Full stock of Pocket and Bench Keys now on hand, and all orders filled promptly for any quantity and size required. Send for Descriptive Price List and samples.



### SOLE AGENTS ALLEN'S PATENT COMBINATION WATCH TOOL.

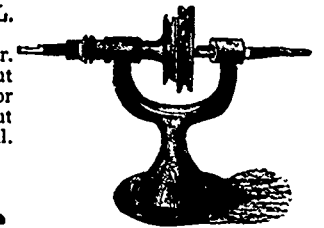
With this little tool you can take a watch to pieces. It is used as a Screwdriver. Nothing can beat it for taking off minute, hour and second hands, for taking out the dial pins, for removing the roller and hairspring collet and adjusting it, for setting a watch, for tightening canon pinions, and for holding and cleaning out second hands. Full directions accompany each tool. Send for one on approval.



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Made from the best Cast Steel, with working parts hardened. Guaranteed to outwear any three imported Swiss Pin Vises. Handle drilled through to take in long wire.

### POLISHING LATHE HEAD



This indispensable tool, warranted perfectly true, for polishing, grinding and drilling purposes, at greatly reduced prices. Only

\$3.50.

Goods sent on selection if desired. Particular care given to filling special orders.

Yours Respectfully,

# P. W. ELLIS & CO.

## THE TRADER.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, MAY, 1886.

Distributed free to every Jeweler and Hardware Merchant in Canada.

## Advertising Rates.

Full Page, - - -	\$20 00	each issue.
Half Page, - - -	12 00	"
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Small Advertisements, 8 cents per line.		

A Discount of 25 per cent. will be allowed from the above rates for yearly contracts. All advertisements payable monthly.

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"THE TRADER PUBLISHING CO.,  
Box 1325, Toronto, Ont.

## THE INSOLVENT ACT.

From the present indication it is evident that the Hon. Mr. Abbot's bill will not pass parliament this session. In answer to the Montreal deputation that visited Ottawa for the purpose of pressing upon the government the necessity for passing during this present session, a bill providing for the equitable distribution of Insolvents' assets, the Minister of Justice replied that he sympathized with the views of the deputation, and had himself been extremely anxious that the old insolvency law, defective as it was, should be sustained in default of a better one being substituted, but as they all knew the feeling of the country was so strong in favour of repeal, it would be impossible to pass any insolvent law. He said the majority of the members were pledged to their constituents to vote for repeal. At this late period of the session it would be impossible to pass a bill as required by the deputation. He promised, however, to use his efforts to obtain efficient legislation on the subject next session. The Government intended during recess to consider the matter.

It is to be hoped that they will not forget their promise, as soon as the session is over, but will take the proper steps by consulting with the various Boards of Trade throughout the country, to ascertain correctly the views of our leading mercantile men upon the subject.

What is wanted is a more expeditious law, by which the cost of insolvency will be so reduced as to leave a little of

the estate for distribution amongst the Creditors. If they are able to bring forward such a law next session, they will deserve the thanks of the entire mercantile community who are almost a unit in demanding an act of this kind.

## THE ABUSE OF THE CREDIT SYSTEM.

As a general rule the business of Canada is conducted on a credit basis. This of itself is not an alarming fact, because the effect of credit, if kept within proper and legitimate channels, is to extend the volume of trade without adding materially to the risk. It is the abuse, rather than the use of the credit system that we deplore, and we think a little wholesome advice to some of our traders in the country on this subject might not come amiss.

As we have pointed out before, on account of the immense amount of competition in this country, "credit is by far too cheap," and in the fact that even strangers or comparatively weak men can obtain goods on credit, lies one of its chief sources of weakness. In this country houses with unlimited capital are comparatively few, and for this reason the majority of our wholesale men and manufacturers, have to raise money for the purpose of carrying on their business, by discounting their customers' paper.

While this does not make the debtor pay any more than the amount of his indebtedness for his goods, nor cause it to be paid a single day sooner than it is due, it is a great convenience to the wholesale merchant, and would if the system were discontinued, very soon put a stop to very many of the industries carried on by its aid. So long as the givers of notes conscientiously carry out their engagements, the system cannot be considered dangerous, for good commercial paper is always in demand and has a recognized market value. But when a man's paper has gone to protest, it becomes of comparatively little value either to himself or any one else. Good notes are the next best thing to cash to the wholesale merchant or manufacturer, because he can at any time convert them into cash; notes given by his customers therefore constitute a part of his capital, so that when their notes are protested he not only loses the use of so much of his capital but must draw upon his re-

sources to make good the amount, which often is a very serious inconvenience.

No wholesale dealer cares to keep discounting the same paper over and over again, and it is only by promptness on the part of his customers that the credit system can be made of any practical use to him or them.

When a retail dealer gives a note for an account, he should make up his mind that he will pay it in full at maturity. If he has to renew any part of it, it should be an exceptional and not a common thing for him to ask from his creditor. He should remember that renewing a note does not pay it, and in very few cases does it make it payable at any more convenient season—it generally only puts off the evil day and leaves him worse off than before.

A dealer who invariably meets his notes promptly can go into any market and buy at close figures and best terms, for the simple reason that the seller knows that when the note matures it will cause him no trouble in protecting it. A dealer, who on the contrary is notorious for his want of punctuality, never can nor should expect to receive the same terms as a prompt paying man. In reference to this very subject we find in an American exchange the following very pertinent remarks, which we give for the benefit of our readers. It would appear from it that these evils are not wholly confined to this side of the line.

"Retailers come to New York to buy goods, get credit on them, and give notes at three or four months in payment. With many this apparently ends the transaction. Like Micawber, they seem to think that when they have given their note of hand they have performed their whole duty by their creditor. The note goes to protest, but the debtor is wholly indifferent, or, if he takes any notice of the matter, gets angry at his creditor for not "taking care" of the note. This is a matter of such frequent occurrence in the trade as to lead to the belief that many retailers are ignorant of the nature of a note, and, indeed, of the first business principles. When a creditor asks his debtor to give him his note for an amount due, he does not want it simply as evidence of indebtedness—on open account is almost as good as a note for this purpose—but he wants it to convert into cash for the maintenance of his own

credit. He deposits the note in bank and it is credited to his account, less the discount; he draws against it, and by this means a note becomes to him ready cash when he uses in his business. But if the note is not paid at maturity by the maker, the one who deposited it must make the amount good in bank forthwith. No delay is permissible; the sum must be paid at once or the depositor's credit is ruined. Yet the distant debtor views the matter with entire indifference, caring little for the trouble and embarrassment he has caused; when pressed in the matter, he coolly responds that it was inconvenient for him to take care of the note, and encloses a renewal note, which is quite as likely to go to protest as the first. Country retailers do not seem to appreciate the necessity city merchants are under to keep their credit unimpaired. A protested note with them means destruction of credit and ruin. Their dealings are through the banks, and a note that is not paid by 3 o'clock on the day it is due is at once protested and its maker's credit destroyed. In country places the banks are not quite so exacting, and some arrangement may be made with the bank for postponing the day of payment. Not so in the cities, where the rule is cash down or go to protest. Country dealers should bear in mind how exacting all business transactions in the city are, and strive to protect their paper. As the day of maturity approaches, and they find they are unable to meet their notes, they should so inform their creditors in ample time to enable them to provide for them; send on all the money they can scrape together to pay as much as possible, and a new note with interest for the balance. Give the creditor some chance for his life and his credit, and not embarrass him by your utter indifference.

### HOW I BECAME INSURED.

A SATIRE (A LONG WAY) AFTER DICKENS.

*Concluded from last month.*

Thanking him for his disinterested kindness, I informed him that I had almost completed arrangements to insure in the "Timbuctoo Company" whose limited capital did not exceed \$100,000,000 "A hundred millions of fiddlesticks," exclaimed the old gentleman, jumping from his seat, and almost choking with

indignation, "do you mean to tell me sir, that those miserable "Timbuctoo" rascals have been at you. Well! it is a fortunate thing that I arrived in time to save you from those depraved swindlers." "Why, sir! would you believe it, their company is on the verge of bankruptcy, and cannot by any possibility float more than a few months at the furthest, and any money they might have squeezed out of you would have been entirely lost." "It is really a shame, sir! that such a set of vampires should be allowed to exist, much less receive the protection that they do from the law. They are a disgrace to society, sir, a sort of moral pestilence as it were, and should be shunned by every honest man." Here he produced documents to prove that his statements regarding the "Timbuctoo Company, limited" were no mere assertions made for the purpose of securing business at another's expense, but facts, which ought to be blazoned forth by every fence in the city, in order to warn an innocent and too confiding public. Thanking my stars, and my benevolent friend that, I had narrowly escaped so great a danger as throwing away \$250.00, I asked the gentleman to leave me the pamphlet of his Company promising to look into it during the day and see him again on the morrow. As he rose to take his departure, he said "it matters not to me sir whether you insure in our Company or not, so long as you are insured in some first-class Company I am satisfied." This settled any doubt which might have lurked in my mind regarding this gentleman's perfect disinterestedness, no man having one grain of selfishness in his composition, could ever give such advice, no, never, and I settled in my own mind that the benevolent old gentleman should get my policy. How these Insurance cormorants get wind of people in my situation I cannot divine, unless, like the raven, they scent the carrion afar off—but for that day, and for the next three days I was besieged by a continued stream of Insurance Agents of every form, size, and description, and representing almost every Company under the sun. There was the "Orphan's Shield," the "Universal Mutual," the "Widows and Orphans Protective" the "Bunker Hill Independent" the "Trafalger True Blue"—in fact there were so many that time would fail me in even enumerating them. Every agent made out to a demonstration that their Company

was the only one fit to insure in, and that all the rest were a set of unmitigated humbugs. Every agent also proved from printed statistics (and of course facts cannot lie) that, their Company was the soundest in the world, that they did the largest business, did it on the most economical basis, and had the smallest expenditure and the largest revenue. All insured for the smallest premium, and all gave the largest dividend to insurers. All had some peculiarly beneficial feature which no other Company could possibly have, and finally all did business not for any profit to themselves, but solely for the public good. At first I endeavoured to keep track of these peculiarities, but after the third day I gave it up in despair, and resigned myself to my fate. I didn't know what to do—every agent was bound to have my policy, and I couldn't insure with any one without offending all the rest, and if I had divided it up among them the share of each would have been almost infinitesimal. Almost driven crazy, I asked the advice of an old and tried friend, who I knew was not interested in any Insurance Company. After hearing my case he took a list of Companies whose agents had called on me, and advised me at once to insure in the "Confederation Life," which, beside being a sound Canadian Company, was the only one which had not sent its agents bothering me. He further advised me to tack a card on my office "Gone to Dinner," "Back in an Hour" and then leave the city for a couple of days. I took his advice, sent in my application to the "Confederation Life" that day, and the same evening started out into the country. \* \* \* Two days afterwards I returned to find my policy awaiting me, and how my heart jumped as I tore open the envelope which contained the panacea for all my troubles. The heading of the policy contained a cheap woodcut of some one (I don't know who, probably the President of the Company) interposing a shield between something, I couldn't make out what, and a lady, apparently a widow, and a couple of children, probably orphans. Common as the cut was, to me it seemed as the finest steel engraving, and it symbolized to me protection from a harder fate than that of Widow or Orphan. You who have gone through a similar ordeal, may imagine with what fiendish pleasure I gloated over the thought of my revenge on those pestering Insurance Agents when they again visited me—how I smilingly received them one by one, and after hearing their oft repeated tale, gave them their conge by flaunting in their faces my Insurance Policy.

## Selected Matter.

## NO INSOLVENT LAW.

The beauties of being without an insolvent law are already commencing to shew themselves. At Ottawa, the other day, a couple of creditors of a trader frightened him into selling out his business and paying over the proceeds to them, leaving the other creditors out in the cold. Something of the same kind has been done in another case in Wroxeter. In Orangoville a trader has been sold out by the sheriff at the instance of a brother-in-law, while the other creditors look on without any redress. And now we hear of another firm in difficulties, who when asked to assign their effects to a trustee for the benefit of their creditors, insist first on paying their neighbors in full. Some of these cases would have been remedied to a certain extent by the Creditors Relief Act if in force, other cases it will entirely fail to reach. It is evident this is only the beginning of sorrows; and it will be strange if by the end of a twelve month, this country does not wake up to a realization of the mistakes that has been made by the total repeal of the Bankrupt law.

## COURTESY IN BUSINESS.

Travellers on the road complain that they are frequently treated with neglect by retail dealers that amounts to positive discourtesy. A traveller for a responsible house, well known to all the trade, should be treated with all the consideration that would be extended to a member of the firm. He is the trusted representative of the firm, and visits their customers as a matter of business, and of accommodation to the dealer. His time is of value to himself and his firm, and, when he calls on a dealer, this fact should be borne in mind. It is no discourtesy to tell him you do not desire any goods, but it is discourteous to keep him waiting two or three hours before telling him so. He has other customers to visit, and his time has to be economised to enable him to make his railroad and steamboat connections. He asks of the dealer but a few moments' consideration, and that should be given him promptly. We are aware that there are numerous drummers on the road for cheap houses, manufacturers of that class of goods

designated in the vernacular of the trade as "snide jewelry," these men are impudent, pertinacious, and, as a rule, decided bores. We do not wonder that retailers lose their temper with them occasionally. But there is a wide distinction between the ordinary "snide drummer" and the commercial traveller, who represents a house of good repute and of well earned standing in the trade. Retailers know the difference between these two classes, and should be careful how they confound the one with the other. To treat a respectable traveller discourteously may lead to your own discredit, for principals are sensitive, and quick to resent a slight upon the men whom they select to represent them upon the road. The "snub direct" may lead to a discontinuance of credit, and to lose credit with one house of high standing may jeopardise the retailers credit with other houses. But, independent of business considerations, the travelers for reputable houses are usually gentlemen possessed of more than ordinary intelligence, of recognized influence and position in the trade, who are entitled, for their own sakes, to every courtesy that can be extended to them. The dealer who treats him otherwise is false to his own interests both pecuniarily and socially.

## SURETY DISCHARGED BY CREDITORS NEGLIGENCE.

The case of the *Canadian Bank of Commerce vs. Green et al* recently decided by the Court of Queen's Bench for Ontario is a most instructive one. The defendants were sued by the Bank, as maker and endorser of a promissory note which had been discounted by the Bank's solicitor, the defendants having become parties to it for his accommodation, of which the Bank was aware. On the maturity of the note the plaintiff's handed it to their solicitor for protest, but he, instead of protesting it, sent it back to the defendants, saying that he had paid it. About three months after its maturity the solicitor absconded in insolvent circumstances, and after his absconding the defendants were for the first time notified that the note had not been paid. In answer to the action it was urged that the defendants should have been notified at once of the default having been made in payment, when they might have been able to recover the amount from the solicitor.

The Court sustained this view of the case, holding that the Bank had been guilty of negligence in not having the parties properly notified, and that in consequence the defendants were entirely relieved from liability. It certainly does appear strange that the Bank officials, knowing their solicitor himself to be the party who should pay the amount of the note, should have entrusted it to him at all, or having so entrusted should have been so remiss in seeing that he did his duty.

## Business Notes and Comments.

The decline in pig iron in the past three weeks from \$7 to \$10 a ton is attributed to the large stock on hand and lack of orders.

The St. Catherines Wheel Works are exempted from taxation by that city for five years. It is expected they will begin operations immediately and employ between forty and fifty hands.

At the meeting of the creditors of D. R. McElman, jeweller, of Moncton, N. B., recently held, a composition was offered at the rate of 30 per cent secured, payable in six, twelve and eighteen months.

The Dexter-Whitwam manufacturing Company, of St. Thomas, are still shipping tool handles to Birmingham, England, and, according to the *Times*, the shipments of oatmeal from that town the past season exceeded those of any previous year.

The factory of the Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing Company, at Waterbury, Conn., makers of the Waterbury watch was partially destroyed by fire on the 8th ult. The loss on the building and contents is estimated at \$75,000, insured for \$45,000, although much of the watch machinery was saved, the loss arising from the necessary detention to business will be very heavy.

Messrs. P. W. ELLIS & Co., finding their present place of business too small to accommodate their growing business, will shortly move into their new factory on the south side of King street, almost opposite the *Wells* office, which has been specially adapted to their purpose. Their offices, salesrooms and material department will be on the first flat, and will give them increased facilities for their growing business.

The largest mass of pure copper ever found in Lake Superior district was taken from the Minnesota mine, in Ontonagon county, the rough weight of which was 540 tons, and it produced 446 tons of pure copper. The thickest part of the mass was a little over seven feet. It required the labor of twenty men during the period of twenty-three months. The Cliff mine developed one mass weighing a little over two hundred and fifty tons.

THE FIRM OF WOLTZ BROS. jewellers, of Toronto came very near being the victims of a daring attempt at robbery a few days ago. The burglars evidently became alarmed by some noise before they had got fairly to work, else the Messrs. Woltz would have had to mourn the loss of many thousand dollar's worth of value.

ble stock. The burglars were evidently experts, and left behind them the best set of tools, the police say, that they ever saw in this city.

We regret to learn that Mr. J. W. Hastings, jeweller, of Barrie, Ont., was burned out during the past month. His building was insured for \$1,500, but his stock amounting to \$3,000 was not covered by insurance, and was almost a total loss. In these days of enlightenment it is strange that any business man will allow his stock to remain uninsured. People won't take a lesson from the losses of others in this way, and when they are burned out themselves the lesson becomes expensive.

A LADY, Miss Livingstone, placed \$1,000 in the hands of a New York stock broker, to enable him to speculate in stocks for her. One may cease to wonder at the magnitude of New York stock transactions, when he learns that the purchases and sales made with this \$1,000 footed up to \$3,500,000, and that the actual buying and selling prices amounted to \$2,211,428.84. The broker managed, in the end, to lose Miss Livingstone's money, and charged her \$4,000 in addition as commission, which commission, after three trials, the courts have finally disallowed.

MARK TWAIN'S latest publication, "A Tramp Abroad," a book replete with the characteristic humor of that author, ends with an extract he has made from a German comic journal. A commercial traveller is about to unroll his samples:—

*Merchant.*—(pettishly) No, don't, I don't want to buy anything.

*Drummer.*—If you please, I was going to show you—

*Merchant.*—But I don't wish to see them!

*Drummer.*—(after a pause, pleadingly) "But do you mind letting me look at them?—I haven't seen them for three weeks!"

THE contract for watches to be used by the officials on the Indian State Railways, says the *British Jeweler and Metalworker*, has again been secured by the American Watch Company. This is the third time that Messrs. Robbins & Appleton have received this distinction, which is not a barren one, for it must be evident to the most prejudiced individual that the timekeepers supplied on the previous occasions must have given satisfaction, and answered the tests required of them. This is a mortifying fact for Englishmen, especially for those who believe that were manufacturers here to show more enterprise they would be able to compete advantageously in the manufacture of all grades of watches. Our Coventry friends should bestir themselves, for such contracts as those to which we refer should not be lost to this country.

A. D. WILLIAMS, jeweller, of Aylmer, Ont., cleared out about the beginning of the month, and has probably gone south to Uncle Sam's dominions to swell the list of scoundrels who have left the country for their country's good. He appears to have swindled his creditors out of as much as he possibly could, considering the line of credit he had, as he settled for nearly all the goods he bought with "promises to pay," which it is needless to say were never redeemed. It is a great pity that such commercial pirates as this should be allowed to go at large, simply because they have crossed an imaginary line

The sooner our government makes an arrangement for the extradition of this class of criminals the better for honest business men on both sides of the line. It seems to us that if this matter were fairly brought before the United States government they would see it to their interest to negotiate.

THE *Monetary Times* says. In January of last year we gave some particulars of a suit, W. Parsons, of Orangeville, hardware dealer, burned out in 1877, vs. the Standard Insurance Co., for a fire loss, the grounds of the Company's defence being that the plaintiff had not disclosed prior insurances, as required by the conditions of the policy that the property insured had not been properly described, etc. The case was decided against the Company. Towards the close of last year, this matter was still in dispute, as well as another company's insurance having been carried to a higher court, (\$9,100 and \$4,000.) Failing to obtain payment of his claim amounting thus to \$13,100, Mr. Parsons fell behind in his payments, and as we learn from a circular issued by him on the 8th inst. some of his creditors "have come down on him." His liabilities reach \$36,000, and he claims to have a surplus of \$13,960, including these insurance claims.

QUITE an excitement has recently been caused in London by the discovery of large amounts of "forged" silver plate. This plate purports to be genuine silver ware of the time of Queen Anne and consists mainly of spoons and forks. Queen Anne silver and *bric-a-brac* is much sought for by collectors of antiques, and hence, it is stated, "tons" of bogus Queen Anne silver ware has been disposed of. Recently a banker sent 650 pieces to Goldsmith's Hall, every one of which was pronounced to be "forged." The goods have been impounded by the Association, which is seeking to recover £6,500 in fines from a well known silversmith. This gentleman, however, appears to have been innocent of the forgery, having simply sold the goods. Silver forks were not used in Queen Anne's time, but the forgers have used the handles of genuine spoons as a model to make their forks from. It is singular that such quantities of these forks should have been sold under the circumstances. The daily and weekly press is very severe on the silversmiths, and intimations are made that hitherto reputable dealers have been implicated in the matter.

DEALERS in diamonds are frequently asked by their customers if the process of making artificial diamonds has yet met with such success as to depreciate the genuine ones in value. The *London Photographic News* gives the following description of the process of manufacture, and clearly intimates that there is no danger of genuine diamonds depreciating in value at present. It says: "A hydrocarbon gas—such as marsh gas for instance, which is composed of hydrogen and carbon—is put into a stout iron tube of considerable thickness. A nitrogen compound—presumably cyanogen—is also introduced, with a view to the nitrogen combining with the hydrogen, and leaving the carbon free, for a diamond, as our readers are aware, consists of pure crystallized carbon. The gas in the iron tube is subjected to enormous pressure to liquefy it, the tube being heated to aid in this work. The liquefaction of oxygen by Pictet, of Geneva, was effected in this way. The

pure carbon passes under pressure from a gaseous into a liquid form, and finally crystallizes, in which condition it is found upon the iron tube being opened. The diamonds are, however, of the most minute character, and Mr. Hannay, of Glasgow, who has thus succeeded in making them, frankly owns that the game is not worth the candle.

THE store of James Venn, jeweler, Yonge-st., Toronto, was broken into by burglars during the night of Saturday, the 17th inst. The thieves first gained an entrance by forcing their way into the basement of Rattray's bakery, and from thence to Venn's cellar, and by forcing up a cellar door secured an entrance to the store. They rifled the outer shelves of the store, and carried away about \$150 worth of gold cuff buttons, rings, watches, chains, etc. Although they succeeded in opening Mr. Venn's safe, which contained several thousand dollars worth of valuable stock, they do not appear to have taken any of its contents so far as can be ascertained. Probably they were frightened away by the watchman, and could not summon up enough courage to come back again and finish their job, which certainly was a good thing for Mr. Venn, as they could have cleaned him out entirely and easily get away with their spoil. Mr. Venn's safe was one of those old fashioned ones which lock with a key, and the ease with which they appeared to have opened it should act as a warning to all jewellers who trust their goods in the keeping of such safes to discard them at once, and substitute in their stead the more modern kind that have combination locks. Mr. Venn has put in one of the newest and most approved kind, and now enjoys his usual rest without being troubled by any fear of burglars.

Three drummers went drumming out into the West.

Out into the West with "prices down;"  
Each blew of the sample that paid him best,  
And they blew from one end to the other of town.

For jaws must wag  
When prices are weak,  
And jaws must be supplemented by cheek,

Yet they at the "bar" stood groaning.

Three drummers stood swearing from hour to hour—

They'd made not a sale in the whole wide town;

They swore at their luck and they raved at the times;

Their names were Robinson, Jones and Brown.

For jaws must wag  
When prices are weak,  
And jaws must be supplemented by cheek,

Yet they at the "bar" stood groaning.

Three corpses hung limp from their sample-bag straps.

Their sample-bag straps, and their prices down;

Three bosses are wailing their trade's mishaps  
And the loss of Robinson, Jones and Brown.

For jaws can't wag,  
And useless is cheek  
When drummers in thousands  
Go through in a week

And stand at the rum-bar groaning.

THE DE LA TORRE FAILURE.—The case of Paul Gunsborough, wholesale fancy goods merchant, Toronto, trading under the style of De La Torre & Co., seems to be one of the most fraudulent cases of bankruptcy that has yet

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