

would naturally suppose that we could sell largely we would not do anything of the kind. We believe, like the cobbler in sticking to his last, that such interference would be altogether out of place.

Wherein does the wholesale man find his defence? Simply this. Whereas, in former years the Toronto retailers were satisfied to buy the bulk of their goods at home, they go wandering off (figuratively speaking), to the far-off pastures that look so green, and, in plain words, buy from New York and London houses where there is a possibility of doing anything like as well, thus running great risk of overstocking themselves, and sending off intermediate profits far away instead of keeping them at home. The wholesale houses complain particularly about not being able to carry stocks of books, as they are bought elsewhere.

This naturally leads to the question of what we candidly believe to be one of the great curses of the trade, large import orders by houses not financially strong. However, this subject is of a wider range, and somewhat foreign to our present topic.

We have endeavoured to state the case fairly, there are other points of differences, but those mentioned are the most serious, and we do trust we shall see a more amicable state of affairs within the trade in our Queen City.

There are too many men of marked business ability and sound common sense among our merchants to longer keep open the sore.

PROGRESS.

The deputation appointed by the Ontario Association to interview the Minister of Education waited on him at Parliament Buildings on the 9th inst.

The full deputation was present, Rothwell, of Brantford, Irving, Bryce, Hutchison and Dyas, of Toronto.

The Minister recognized the reasonableness of the request to have due notification of changes in school books published in BOOKS AND NOTIONS, and willingly consented to do so.

He authorizes us to state that no changes will be made at the opening of the schools in January.

Other matters of interest to the trade were mentioned. Time did not admit of a full discussion, but some valuable information was imparted to the deputation, and the probable action of the Minister in reducing the number of text books, his attention having been called to the multiplicity in some cases met with hearty approval.

One fact was brought out very strongly, namely, that had such an organization as the Association been in existence prior to the giving to the publishers the advantages they have on the readers, consultation

would have been had with that body as to the just interests of the trade.

The deputation was received cordially by the Minister.

Our side of the case was well presented by the member for Brantford*

THE NOVEMBER NUMBER.

We have received from a large number of friends expressions of pleasure at the appearance, as well as the contents, of the last number. It was the first attempt at an illustrated trade paper in Canada. Taking this into consideration we claim that it was creditable, though we frankly confess it was not all we expected to make it.

The difficulty of getting United States publishing houses to take any interest in the Canadian trade and the paucity of Canadian illustrated works, makes it very hard to produce a handsome book trade journal here.

We had promises from English houses to send us illustrations, but they were not fulfilled.

From many letters received, we cull the following:

"The trade can well afford to overlook any trifling delay in the publication of your November number, in consideration of its great beauty and generally excellent character. It is a credit to the fraternity of booksellers and stationers, and is deserving of their unstinted support.

"I must congratulate you on the last issue of BOOKS AND NOTIONS; it is certainly a credit to the publisher, and ought to be highly appreciated by the book trade of Canada. I am well pleased with the way you conduct and manage the journal. You should have a much larger support from the retail trade than you do. As an advertising medium for the wholesale trade I consider it far ahead of any other journal, for it comes directly under the notice of the book and stationery trade. I wish BOOKS AND NOTIONS every success, and should the price be doubled you would still have me as a subscriber, as I would not now be without it."

The number printed was 2,370, being slightly in excess of the number issued regularly.

It shows of what good quality the paper is on which we print our journal, being the same as ordinarily used, in the bringing out the finer lines of the better class of illustrations. It reflects credit, too, on the printers, Hunter, Rose & Co.

*Since the above was written we have read the reports of the interview published in the daily papers, which are in some respects inaccurate. The publisher of this journal was the only new-paper man present. Our report may be considered official, not only from the Association, but also from the Minister. It is strange that the important matter and the only one of real interest, as to how the information was to be given, namely through BOOKS AND NOTIONS was omitted in the *Telegram*. Was it an oversight?