

heavily on him, and shortened his life. Miss A. J. Appleton has had full charge of the compilation since Mr. Leyboldt's death, and it is to her persistent energy that we are indebted for the recent volumes.

TOO GREEDY.—Already the School Book Publishers are trying to make more money even than the arrangement with the Government allows. Some of the paper was under weight, and the Minister of Education, through his Inspector, stepped in and stopped the scheme.

It is noticeable that there is a great difference in the quality of the paper now used. The wood paper is not the proper kind to be used. The rag paper is of good quality.

It was prophesied by many that after a while the books would deteriorate in quality, but within the first six months, Oh, monopolists, this is too much! Could you not have waited a year at least!

THE CENTURY for June opens the new volume, and when we say that it is at least quite as interesting as usual, no greater praise can be given.

How it strides along in its gigantic numbers, deservedly the largest of large circulations. It shews that the people appreciate a good thing—pluck and brains achieve wonderful triumphs.

OBITUARY.

Robert Smith, electrotyper, died at his residence, Beverley St., Toronto, on the 15th May, in the 35th year of his age.

Mr. Smith was an Englishman by birth, but came to this country when quite young. He was for some time employed in Chicago, and was afterwards connected with the staff of the *Globe* printing Co., of Toronto, and later, with that of Hunter, Rose & Co.

Between 3 and 4 years ago he bought out the electrotype business of John Fleming, which he carried on for 2 years, after which his business was amalgamated with the National Electro & Stereotype Co., Limited, in which company he held the position of superintendent.

Mr. Smith was a general favourite with all who knew him, and an enthusiastic volunteer, holding, until shortly prior to his death, the position of Sergeant-Major in the Governor General's Body Guard.

Trade Reviews.

TORONTO.—Quiet, except that here and there a dealer feels happy over a smart day's business, and imagines it is going to last all the time. The News and Notions men in the centre of the city, are longing for the warm weather and the transit trade that is going to bring the dollars to their tills. As we go to press the warm weather has come and the tourists are beginning to show themselves. Happy, happy, Notions men.

ALL OVER.—Quiet; in most localities, very quiet—money scarce—time of little value—time to read their trade papers, and talk to the persistent commercial traveller.

THE PLACES WE DON'T HEAR FROM.—Don't think their town of sufficient importance to even mention it in **BOOKS AND NOTIONS**. This remark is not intended for you, good reader, so skip.

THE WHOLESALE TRADE.—Well it is not booming; never is at this time of the year. Looking over the Ledger to see what account is dubious and needs looking after; not overburdened with collections, but not grumbling very much, as they do not look for a great deal of money early in June.

UNITED STATES.

PAPER.—Nothing cheering or startling in the way of news is to be found in the paper market, and no changes are to be reported. All is quiet and trade moves along in an easy-going way, about as it has done.

STATIONERY.—While, as a whole, trade does not appear to be any better, there are a few houses which report an increase of orders, and there are also encouraging indications for the future. In fancy stationery, business is apparently improving, and dealers report that new goods are taking hold in good shape. Card men, both in fancy and staple goods, say they have no cause for complaint, and that business is about as full in volume as could be expected. As a general rule, dealers look forward to a good fall trade, and if present indications are not somewhat amiss, the calculations will not fail.—*American Stationer*.

ENGLAND.

WHATEVER our contemporaries may say to the contrary, there can be no doubt that trade generally is in a bad way, and that printing, stationery, and "fancy" have felt the pinch in a remarkably forcible manner. All over the West of England it is particularly dull, and elsewhere there is nothing like activity. The unsettled political conditions, and the immensity of the competition, have had the effect that ought to have been anticipated, namely, to keep the wealth in holder's hands, make the rich richer, and the poor poorer.—*Exchange*.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of **BOOKS AND NOTIONS**.

LONDON. Ont.

Books, stationery, and fancy goods are very quiet up here. The North-West troubles seem to have affected trade the wrong way. Travellers generally report small sales of Xmas cards, &c., for import.

By the way, why should the travellers call so early in the season asking for orders nine months before goods are required? I presume the reason is that they all want to be first. We will soon have them calling before we have put the old goods off the counter.