

THE RETAILERS' GRIEVANCE.

The retail booksellers and stationers of the city have a grievance which ought to be remedied. Their complaint is that large houses, not bookselling firms, but houses like T. Eaton & Co., are undermining their trade in school books, novels, and such small articles as scribbling books, ink and pencils. These large firms, it is said buy the above commodities in extremely large quantities, and consequently for cash get them at a remarkably low figure. Now these firms are able by so doing to undersell the retailers in these branches, and put those articles on the market at cost price. The aforesaid firms do not handle these articles for the profit therein, but use them simply as a leader for some of their own particular stock--of course greatly to the detriment of the retail trade. For, as a rule it is the poorer and middle classes who deal so extensively in these articles, and naturally enough they go to the cheapest, not the nearest place. Two methods have been suggested for the correction of this evil. One is that all wholesale men throughout the city and province, but more particularly in the city should combine or come to a mutual understanding that they would not sell these articles of the book trade to one who is openly known to be in the dry goods trade. The same phase of this difficulty recently cropped up in New York, and this plan being adopted worked to perfection.

The second plan which has been proposed by many of the retailers, certainly seems more feasible, but we fear it will be far less effective. This one is, let a number of the retailers club together and pursue the same tactics as these large firms. This no doubt could easily be done, but still for the retailers this plan would result in their covering themselves with glory, but at the same time there is no money in it; for it is absurd to suppose a retailer can handle these goods at cost price. There is a remedy, but this remedy should come from the jobbers.

MR. EDWARD HICKSON.

A very worthy citizen and most capable business man was Mr. Edward Hickson, the news of whose unexpected death in the early part of last month was received with unfeigned and widespread sorrow. Mr. Hickson was the senior partner in the firm of Hickson, Duncan & Co., Toronto, importers of and wholesale dealers in fancy goods, notions, etc. He had left this city with his family to winter in North Carolina and to escape the cold part of the year here, which on account of chronic bronchitis had become very trying to his constitution during the last three or four years. On his way south he had stopped at Lynchburg, Va., where two of his brothers reside. He went on from there to select a home, and on that trip

he took cold, and returned to Lynchburg very sick. He got better, but again took cold while looking after some business in Lynchburg. This prostrated him, developed into pneumonia on the right lung, and after four or five days' illness caused his death.

Mr. Hickson was a Canadian, and was 52 years old at the time of his death. For two years he was a member of the house of Hickson, Duncan & Co., and for some years previous to the establishment of that firm he was in the firm of their predecessors, W. H. Bleasdel & Co. His connection with both firms is the bond of continuance between the two, and gives the business an unbroken life of twelve years. He was the founder of the business and was senior partner in both the firms under which it was carried on. He was a man without ostentation, content to remain in the background, and often preferring to do so. This is illustrated in the suppression of his name in a firm of which he was the principal, and of whose business he was the founder. In the last firm of which he was a member he would have kept himself equally unknown, but that his partner, Mr. Duncan, was a man of as much modesty as himself. Mr. Hickson came from Seaforth twelve years ago, where he had been in the drug trade. He leaves a wife and seven children in good circumstances.

GONE TO HIS LONG REST.

The Toronto press, and journalism generally, has lost one of its most able members in the person of Mr. James H. Maclean, who died on Jan. 27th. His death was as sudden as it was unexpected. For only three days had he been confined to his house, and no serious consequences were expected. On Tuesday morning, he was found dead in bed by his mother, a victim of that fell enemy, heart disease. The deceased was in the prime of life, being only 34 years of age at the time of his death, but 20 years of his life had been spent in journalism. Always a pushing, enterprising and genial man, he had few equals as a news-gatherer, while as a parliamentary reporter, he was one of the few who enjoyed the respect of both parties, and had advantage of a personal acquaintance with all the great men on both sides of the house. Many were his successes, and all of them were honestly earned. Perhaps the latest, and one of the greatest, was his great foresight in the Benwell murder, the able articles on which appeared in The World, and which did a great deal towards the solution of the tragedy being from his pen. Among his friends, many were the expressions of heartfelt regret and sorrow heard, and of sympathy for his wife, to whom he had been married but two years. The deceased was a brother of Mr. W. F. Maclean, proprietor of The World, of which the late James H. had been city editor for the past ten years.

To Stationers--

If in want of staples, wait for our travellers or write for samples of our special lines; we would call your attention particularly to the following:—

WINDSOR MILL NOTE (white).

ROCKY FALLS NOTE (cream).

C. P. CO. FOOLSCAP (laid).

SPRINGVALE FOOLSCAP (wove).

THE ONTARIO SCRIBBLING BOOK.

THE ONTARIO EXERCISE BOOK.
ENVELOPES.

WINDOW BLIND PAPER.

PLAYING CARDS.

BLANK BOOKS.

We make our own Paper, Envelopes, etc., and can quote close prices. Our Window Blind Pulp (green, drab, and buff) is extra strong, and as it runs five yards to the lb., it affords a good profit. Our stock of Playing Cards includes Russell & Morgan and other American makes, and several special lines of Canadian make cards, including our well-known WINDSOR, 25 cent card.

To Printers--

We have always a full stock of the following lines on hand and will be glad at any time to mail samples and give quotations.

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