

Grade Reviews.

TORONTO, FEB. 12.—Stationery has been in fair demand, particularly the better qualities of note paper, during the past month. Printing not so much in demand but prices firm. In miscellaneous stock there has not been much doing, but perhaps as much as might have been expected so soon after the holidays.

In books, but very little outside of the necessary educational works, has been done. Booksellers are beginning to feel the effects of the free library, which has almost killed their business so far as Toronto is concerned. Staple works are unsaleable, except for the very expensive ones which are now only got on order.

Collections are behind, and there has been a lesser amount received in January at the Div. Courts than for many years during the same month.

Hamilton.

As regards news I am afraid there is not much to report, except the usual lull after the holiday rush, previous to the spring trade. As far as I can learn, the holiday trade has been very satisfactory to the Hamilton dealers, excepting the stupid cutting of prices on the best selling and the best and largest books for the money of the season, namely the annual volumes. These volumes are large, good, and extra good value at the regular prices, and to cut on them is *the most stupid thing yet experienced here*. I sincerely hope that before another year some more satisfactory understanding will be arrived at among the trade, by which prices may be maintained.

The Duncan Lithograph Co. have issued an unusually fine calendar for 1885. The workmanship and colouring is equal to anything done in this country, and reflects credit on the concern.

Montreal, January, 1885.

During the whole of this year there has been an unceasing cry of "hard times" and "coming depression;" indeed, the cry has grown into a fixed habit, a general complaint. But we look around and fail to see the signs of general distress. The country is wealthier this year than last; the population is considerably more than last year; all eat, drink, wear, and make merry just as before; if anything, more is spent in luxury this year, and this particular season of the year, than ever before. We would ask, Why this everlasting grumbling and gloom that sits like a nightmare on the commercial mind? No doubt, "the times" are hard on some, and depression, even disaster, stares many in the face; but it was always so, no matter what the season or the year; the percentage of failures is very constant.

If we could review the volume, quality, and the direction of business done by every line of trade during the year, we feel positive that the sum total would read satisfactorily. We speak for the paper trade in Canada, which we know most about. Taking a mental glance from one end of the country to another, and reviewing the paper mills and their work for the year, from the reports we pick up from time to time, we find their sum total is, "We have had all we could do, and prices, although low, have left us a margin of profit."

SPRING GOODS.

1885.

I have pleasure in informing the Trade that my Travellers are now on the road, and will shortly call on you with full lines of Samples.

On account of depression in the European markets, and also in U.S., I have secured many Special Prices which I am giving my customers the benefit of.

SPECIAL LINES.

AMERICAN CROQUET :

4, 6, 8 Balls, from \$8.50 per dozen sets up.

CRICKET GOODS :

Lawn Tennis Goods from the leading English makers.

BASE BALLS .

Unequalled in value.

BASE BALL BATS :

All sizes and qualities, from \$7 per gross up.

MARBLES, ALLEYS :

Full line bought direct from German makers

RUBBER BALLS :

Hollow, Grey and Colored Sponge, in all sizes. Send for Price List, also Lacrosse Balls.

TOY CARTS :

Splendid 25c. article for \$19 per gross.

VELOCIPEDES :

All sizes, commencing for boys 5 years old, at \$2.25 each.

CHILDREN'S CARRIAGES :

Slat Body, A1 in every way, Double S Springs, Patent Handle, &c., for \$11 each.

FISHING TACKLE :

Have secured the agency again for the 5c and 10c. Mounted Lines, ready for use; also many other fast selling articles in Hooks, Lines, &c.

LADIES' SATCHELS, PURSES, etc. :

Full line of New Patterns.

GREEN PULP PAPER

In Rolls, at the Lowest Price yet offered.

BLANK BOOKS :

Exercise Books, Envelopes and Paper, special lines.

AMERICAN EXPRESS WAGGONS :

Have again the same fast-selling goods as last year—the great \$1.50 vermilion painted Waggon, and the Iron Axle, same goods to sell at \$2. In addition to above, I am now making the best Dollar Waggon ever offered to the Trade—full size waggon box, bolted to axles, box painted vermilion, making it the showiest line and best value in the market, and no other goods will sell for a dollar where they are for sale.

Write for price of any Spring Goods before buying, and compare prices.

W. BRYCE,
LONDON, CANADA