

**ONTARIO'S SCHOOL READERS.**

**T**HERE is a big time ahead for the Ontario Minister of Education and for the publishers of the different readers for use in the public and high schools of Ontario.

The right of publishing the Public School Readers, now pooled by W. J. Gage, the Copp, Clark Co., and the Canada Paper Co., expires soon, and the players in this publishing drama are getting their cards in shape. The highest hand wins a big pot. G. W. Ross, the able minister of this department, is shrewd and plays carefully, but he has pitted against him a man who has made book publishing a life study, and this man has one or two pretty skillful assistants. There is fun ahead, and knives may be used before the game is over.

Then the W. J. Gage Co. has suddenly discovered that they hold some copyrights which have been infringed in the compilation of the High School Reader, and they have taken legal steps to stop the selling of this book. Dealers in the country must not be surprised if they wake up some morning and discover that they have no source of supply for either High School Readers or Public School Readers.

Some English publishers have discovered that they hold copyrights on selections in the Ontario readers, and one of them has entered suit for damages. Some wise heads say that a new set of readers may be necessary, but this is not likely. All this is part of a great game, and the progress and results will be very interesting.

**J. G. BOURINOT.**

**J.** G. BOURINOT'S new book, "Canada's Intellectual Strength and Weakness," has appeared. Whatever laudatory remarks may be applied to the literary part of the book, the binding and style of the book must be condemned. In appearance and size it looks exactly like Lovell's old Public School Geography, and shows no taste whatever. The publishers, Foster Brown & Co., of Montreal, have a good reputation as booksellers, but their fame as publishers will not be much enhanced by this book. It is called No. 1, of the Royal Society of Canada series, and this may account for its shape and cheap binding, but its appearance will kill its sale over the counters of the bookstores.

The author has produced a work which has been much needed in Canada, and one which will find a ready welcome among the literateurs of this country; it would be welcomed by the masses, too, if it was sent forth for them, but apparently it is not. Mr. Bourinot is a great student of books, and an indefatigable compiler of facts. No one has ever been bold enough to accuse him of being original, but in this book he makes the greatest attempt to attain originality.

Without a more thorough reading of the work it would be unfair to pass a final opinion.

He explains that there are three well-defined eras of development in Canada: The French Regime up to 1760; the era from 1760 to 1840, and from 1840 to the present time. Each one is treated separately, and thoroughly and carefully analyzed. The author gives due credit to every indication of strength and lays bare every proof of the present weaknesses.

**MONTREAL NEWS.**

**T**HE holiday trade this year was large in quantity, all the fancy-goods dealers admit, but the quality and price of the goods asked for was not up to the same standard as in the few previous years. Nevertheless it is worthy of note that many of the houses report a business of fully 15 per cent. over that of last year, so that no doubt the one fact will offset the other.

Notman & Co. are having a remarkably good sale of their group photo. of the Montreal Board of Trade.

German toy workers are renowned the world over in all lines. Porter, Teskey & Co. report that their boys' violins had an unusually good demand.

There was a good demand from city confectioners for Christmas packages for their goods. J. C. Wilson & Co. say that the demand on this account with them was fully equal to that of last season.

The doll counter in Messrs. H. A. Nelson & Co.'s establishment was the great centre of attraction for lady visitors to their warehouse. Their line of fine dressed dolls turned out a good speculation.

The actual Christmas and holiday trade was much better with W. Foster Brown this year than last, but the month's business as a whole showed a falling off, and it is the same with the others in the trade.

Hy. Birks, the well-known jeweller, has published a really artistic trade catalogue this year of the goods which he is offering the public. In addition to a description of these is given a sketchy and pleasant resume of Montreal.

Colin McArthur & Co. are very busy at present on their new designs of wall paper for next season. BOOKS AND NOTIONS is assured that they will offer to the trade this year one of the finest lines of wall paper ever submitted for its approval.

The stationery trade had something to talk about the other day, when a private demand of assignment was made on Mr. Geo. Bishop personally, of the well-known firm of Geo. Bishop & Sons, St. James street. The exact circumstances of the case cannot be learned as yet.

The idea with most buyers this season for holiday presents were moderate-priced goods. Messrs. R. Hy. Holland & Co. had

some good selling lines of goods in this connection, which went well. A line of dolls that they offered were especially good sellers.

The Sabiston Lithographic Company have added a new branch to their business. They have commenced the manufacture of fine playing cards, and some of the samples shown the writer were first-class specimens of fine workmanship. They will offer an extensive assortment of these goods to the trade of the Dominion.

Wm. Drysdale & Co. will shortly bring out an attractive Easter booklet from the pen of Dr. J. M. Harper, of the Educational Department, Quebec. The work consists of a poem on Sacrament Sunday, being a well-told story of the habits and customs of the Sacramental season in the old land in the good old times.

Mr. Hy. Brophy, the manager of the Montreal News Co., was laid up with a very severe attack of "grippe" during the month. Mr. Brophy is able to be about again, but he tells his friends that he had a very hard pull of it. He has a large circle of these, and they are all glad to see him on his feet again.

Mr. Foster, the managing partner of Messrs. J. C. Watson & Co., wall paper, reports that they are still compelled to work overtime if they are to get their orders out on time. They have been compelled to do so ever since the first of October, and they profess to be thoroughly well satisfied with their season's business.

Messrs. J. B. Rolland & Sons have issued their usual almanacs for 1894, which contain a vast amount of interesting matter to the agriculturist and others. The works comprise "The Agricultural Almanac," "The Commercial and Historical Almanac," "The Family Almanac," and the Ecclesiastical calendar of the province. All the works are published in French.

H. A. Nelson & Co.'s establishment on St. Peter street presents a changed appearance to that of last month. Then the shelves were crowded with a bewildering array of toys and other holiday novelties. These have gone to fill the stockings of our young folk on Christmas morning. Electrical and mechanical toys was the principal run with the Messrs. Nelson this year.

Mr. William McLennan, the well-known writer, is about to publish simultaneously in the United States and Canada a history of old Montreal under the French regime. The work will contain reproductions of a number of rare old views which have never been given in any other work of the kind, while the matter contained in it will comprise a lot of interesting sketches with regard to the early settlement of the city by the French, and of the course of events up to the time of the conquest.