



The duty on lead pencils, placed in the budget at 35 per cent., has been reduced to 30 per cent.

BOOKS AND NOTIONS had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Hope, of Ottawa, on a recent visit to the city.

Messrs. Hickson, Duncan & Co., are doing, along with a steady staple trade, a brisk business in sporting goods.

Geo. B. Smith, of T. H. Smith, & Co., stationers, Galt, and Wm. Bremner of Bremner and Mills, stationers, Wallaceburg, and Ed. J. Lovelace, editor of Petrolia Topic, were in the city this week, and stopped at the Elliott house.

R. W. Douglas & Co., carrying on a book trade in part of the stand formerly occupied by Piddington's book store, has assigned to G. M. Gardner, Toronto. Gage & Co., are the chief creditors. The liabilities are \$25,000, the assets \$20,000.

"Stanley and his Heroic Relief of Emin", is the latest issue of the press of Wm. Bryce. It is a book that will sell. The outside of it is itself a strong selling feature. It has one of the best covers we have seen on any similar Canadian publication.

In the notice of the new music book, "Merry Melodies," published in our last issue, we neglected to state that J. K. Cranston, Galt, was the Canadian publisher. Mr. Cranston's name was mentioned, but his address was inadvertently omitted.

In the debate on the tariff the duty on beads has been discussed to very good purpose, as they are now rated at 20 per cent., instead of 35 per cent., as the budget proposed. The other fancy goods, as work-boxes, dolls, toys, etc., on which the duty was advanced from 30 to 35 per cent., will hereafter have to pay the advance.

Mr. W. B. Cook, long and widely known as the proprietor of the bookstore on the west side of Yonge, between Richmond and Queen streets, Toronto, died very suddenly in the early part of the month. He was hale looking and active up almost to the hour of his death, which was caused by paralysis. Mr. Cook took an earnest interest in the formation of the lately organized Toronto Booksellers' Association, and took a prominent part in the proceedings of all its meetings.

We refer our readers to the very detailed Announcement of Messrs. L. Prang & Co., which appears in another column of this issue. The immense wealth of genius in art and letters which that great house is infusing into this year's holiday cards, booklets, and books, places it ahead of its own brilliant record. The names of the artists and writers enlisted are a guarantee of very rare excel-

lence in the matter which will be the issue of their work, and the high reputation of the publishers is a voucher for the finished form in which that matter will appear as a commodity of trade. We ask the careful attention of the trade to the Announcement.

The representations made by the Ontario Booksellers' Association to the Postmaster General, with a view to having reduced the postage upon paper books, has been followed by an able presentation of the same case by Mr. William Bryce, who in an interview with the Hon. Mr. Haggart, and in a subsequent statement written out at the latter's request, had a recent opportunity to show the injustice of the present rates. The reply of the Department, however, which he received a few days ago, was to the effect that the Postmaster-General could not see his way to making the alteration recommended. It is probable that another deputa- tion will be sent.

We seldom see a comical window among the stationery trade at this season of the year. Sometimes at Xmas they loom up to attract the young folks, but, Frothingham & Popham, of Ottawa, show such this past month. In the back ground we see all kinds of sporting goods, such as base ball and bats, lacrosse sticks, foils, etc. The floor of the window being covered with green baize, representing a green field or a lawn. Then with these small white wire skeletons, Mr. Popham, (who by the way is one of Ottawa's leading lacrosse players) has arranged them on the field in the act of starting the game of lacrosse. The men, each have a lacrosse in hand, the referee being on hand in summer suiting to start the boys. This is really one of the best we have seen of its kind, and Ottawa sports are all talking of it.

The stock of the Toronto News Co., is as usual full of of seasonable specialties. One that the trade would have little difficulty in introducing with profit to themselves is the postal stamp box, a little steel receptacle, rather more than the thickness of a penny, square in shape, and of the interior dimensions that make an easy fit for a few dozen stamps, lying upon each other. The John Hancock fountain pen, which is retailed at 50c., is also a very saleable article. It is just what is wanted by the traveller, who needs portable writing requisites. The supply of ink carried by the pen is liberal and easily renewed. The Company's new Christmas cards are to be exhibited in a few days. The samples of their toy-books and booklets are also on the way and will soon be submitted to the trade. A marvel of cheapness which is now available to the trade through the News Company's stock is the Knight of Labor led-pencil, suitable for school use. These pencils are sold to the trade at 50c. a gross. The casing is cedar and the plumbago is very good. The News Company open a big clearing sale, which will continue throughout May, to run off their present stock of paper and envelopes. This is to make way for some fine new lines.

THE RED LETTER SERIES

—OF—

Select Fiction.

LATEST ISSUES.

- No. 94 A BORN COQUETTE. By The Duchess..... 30c.
 N. 93 THE PIVAL PRINCESS. By Justin McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell Praed..... 30c.
 No. 92 DINNA FORGET. By John Strangh Winter..... 30c.
 No. 91 A SOCIETY SCANDAL. By Rita..... 30c.
 No. 90 A LITTLE CHATELAINE. By Earl of Desart..... 30c.
 No. 89 WITHOUT LOVE OR LICENSE. By Capt. Hawley Smart..... 30c.
 No. 88 A ROGUE'S LIFE. By Wilkie Collins..... 30c.
 No. 87 LOVE'S A TYRANT. By Annie Thomas..... 30c.
 No. 86 A LAST LOVE. By Georges Ohnet, author of Dr. Rameau and the Ironmaster... 30c.
 No. 85 MISS MEPHISTOPHELES. By Fergus Hume, author of Mystery of a Hansom Cab, etc..... 30c.
 No. 84 AN OCEAN TRAGEDY. By W. Clark Russell..... 30c.
 No. 83 BLIND LOVE. By Wilkie Collins, (his last and greatest Work)..... 30c.
 No. 82 THE DEAD HEART. By Charles Gibbon..... 30c.
 No. 81 MISS SHAFTO. By W. E. Norris..... 30c.
 No. 80 MRS. BOB. By John Strangh Winter..... 30c.
 No. 79 ARMINELL. By Rev. S. Baring Gould..... 30c.
 No. 78 A LIFE'S REMORSE. By The Duchess..... 30c.
 No. 77 PRINCE SERGE PANINE. By Georges Ohnet, author of Dr. Rameau, etc..... 30c.
 No. 76 A BLOOD WHITE ROSE. By B. L. Fargoon..... 30c.

THE TORONTO NEWS CO'Y,

TORONTO.

THE MONTREAL NEWS CO'Y,

MONTREAL.

Publishers' Agents.