

PROSPECTUS.

Believing that the time has arrived for the publication of a journal in the interests of the Book, Stationery, Fancy Goods and kindred Trades, conducted on sound business principles, written in a bright, breezy style, and replete with Trade items and information, we have undertaken the publication of such a journal under the title of **THE CANADIAN BOOKSELLER**.

It will be fearless and outspoken, when necessary, in condemning abuses; thoroughly impartial, currying favor with no man or party; and will invite the freest expression of opinions from members of the trade on subjects of interest to the trade.

We believe that the growing importance of the Book, Stationery and Fancy Goods Trades renders the publication of such a journal as **THE CANADIAN BOOKSELLER** will be, an absolute necessity.

The School Books Again.

"Your committee, after deliberate consideration of all phases of the question, and the positive public good to accrue therefrom, are satisfied that the Province of Ontario should possess and control its own Printing Bureau, so as not only to do the ordinary Parliamentary and Departmental printing, but the printing of the authorized school books as well, so that they could be sold to the general public at a minimum of cost. Your committee recommend that it be instructed to take such steps as may be deemed most advisable in bringing this subject before the Ontario labor organizations and the general public, with the view of memorializing the Government to establish, as soon as practicable, a Printing Bureau for the purposes referred to."

The above is an extract from the report of the Legislative Committee submitted at a recent meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, and it contains a few points which will bear discussion. The experience of the Department in the past with the Book Depository, was not such as to warrant the belief that the Government will ever be a success as a Bookseller. In fact it was the unanimous expression of the trade, supported by a very pronounced feeling in their favor from the general public, that the Government was going beyond its functions in attempting to supply the books to the schools, and thus taking the business out of the hands of the legitimate bookseller. And in compliance with this feeling that an injustice was being done, the Book Depository was abolished.

We believe that there will be just as strong a feeling against the idea of the Government making the text books for the public schools, so that they could be sold to the public at a mini-

mum of cost. The Government have really no more right to make the text books and sell them cheap, than they have to go into the business of making shoes or hats, and to sell them to the scholars at a minimum of cost.

To show that we were quite within the mark when we said that there was a very strong feeling that the Government was going beyond its functions in carrying on the Book Depository, we reproduce a portion of an article which appeared in *The Canada Bookseller* for March, 1870, and which was written by a gentleman who, at that time, was one of the leaders in the trade: "We want to have as little as possible to say about this institution (the Ontario Book Depository.) Its existence, however, is such a glaring injustice to the Book Trade of Canada, that we cannot but allude to it here; though, in doing so, we feel heartily ashamed that the existence of such a thing as a *Book-shop conducted by the Government of the country* shall be more widely known through the columns of our serial. The fact is, the playing at shop, at this time of day, in one of the departments of the Government of the Province, is a disgrace, and a discredit to it; and the appendage of such an institution to the educational machinery of the country is an *implied libel on the intelligence of the people*. * * * But possess us, why haven't we a Government Rag-shop—a Departmental Boot and Shoe Store—or a Bureau for the sale of Cotton and Calicoes? With equal reason, why haven't we these? Let the country be consistent!—and give us more of these depositories—depots for Maps and Mops—for Books and Brooms!"

This was the kind of argument, backed up as it was by the unanimous voice of the trade, that finally induced the Government to do away with the Book Depository; and while we can cordially sympathise with the Trades and Labor Council in every legitimate effort to advance the true interests of the working man, we are most emphatically of the opinion that the Government will best conserve its own interest and the interests of the public by leaving the book-publishing and book-selling business severely alone.

General Lew Wallace is said to have received \$37,000 in royalties on the sale of nearly 200,000 copies of "Ben Hur."