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Booksellers' and Stationers' Association of Ontario. Report of First Annual Meeting.

While the attendance at the first annual meeting of the Booksellers' and Stationers' Association of Ontario, held in Toronto on August 29, was not as large as it might have been, still those present represented the best element in the trade, and their presence and support was a decided encouragement to the officers. The organization of the association is now complete, and all that is needed is an increased membership to ensure ultimate success. Some valuable business was transacted at the two business sessions, a full report of which follows.

President Tyrrell called the meeting to order in the comfortable council chamber of the Board of Trade at eleven o'clock, and, after the secretary had called the roll and read the minutes of the last meeting, delivered his presidential address, as follows:

President's Address.

When our association was formed, on the 15th of last January, I was honored by being unanimously elected to the position of president, an honor, which I assure you, gentlemen, I do not undervalue.

I candidly admit, however, that I would have preferred to remain a less conspicuous member of our association, but having accepted the position in the hope that my services would be of value to you, I have endeavored to give of my best, and in such measure as time and occasion demanded.

In this work of the association I have been greatly assisted by our able and persevering secretary, whose devotion to your interests has been most remarkable in the face of such discouragement and indifference as would have daunted many.

It is well known to most of those present that our association was formed, as it were, on the spur of the moment, by a number of representative booksellers, who met in Toronto for the purpose of pressing their claims for consideration upon the Government of this province.

The danger which then drew these prominent and influential business men together was a real danger, and I may add that I believe this danger still remains as real as it did upon that eventful day which saw the beginning of the Booksellers' and Stationers' Association of Ontario.

It is only natural that the advantages of combination should be more apparent in times of stress than in times of peace, but if we would look at things as they really are, it would become clear beyond doubt that the time to organize is past when the time for action arrives. If

we are not prepared beforehand, it will be impossible to adequately rally our forces after the fight is on.

I need not, however, occupy your time by further comment on facts so obvious, but will pass on to other considerations, which, though somewhat less on the surface, are almost as vital to our interests as was the unifying idea of danger, which drew and bound us together at the beginning.

The benefits of organization may, I am inclined to think, be quite as valuable, or even more so, to us in the ordinary course of business than in times when special dangers threaten, and it is to these latter advantages that I would now call your attention.

As men, you and I may not think alike; as business men, we have different ways of estimating and deciding those things which come before us, but of this I am sure, that we all unite in a desire to improve the conditions which surround the business in which we are embarked.

As separate individuals, we can accomplish little, but united in an association, our scattered efforts would be focused, and the weight of our united strength would open many doors that now remain shut.

Let me illustrate, by way of practical suggestion, some of the ideas which it seems to me are not so visionary, nor so difficult, as to be beyond our hope of accomplishment, if undertaken in a spirit of fairness, and supported by a thoroughly representative body of the booksellers of this province.

And at this point let me say that it might be well for us to consider the question of enlarging our constitution so as to include all booksellers in Canada. Matters are sure to arise from time to time which will equally affect all parts of the Dominion, and our action, as an association, would, I believe, carry more weight if our organization were national, rather than provincial, in character.

Now, as to the policy of our association, I believe that the foundation of our usefulness rests upon a close and friendly relationship with publishers and jobbers. It surely needs no argument to prove that our business interests are best served by an intimate alliance between publishers and booksellers, and I am confident that the former will welcome any policy that tends to a closer relationship and a better understanding between them and their customers.

This leads to the first suggestion that our association might very wisely appoint a committee, whose duty