

## Grade Reviews.

TRADE through Ontario for the past three weeks has been far from satisfactory. January and early February were, in comparison with other years, good, but the falling off of business since then has been great. Collections are hard to make.

THE Wholesale Book & Stationery Trade say their travellers' sales are not up to the standard of former years, though not any great falling off. Stocks are low, and a good demand should soon spring up. The Fancy Goods men report very dull times, but they don't grumble. The head of one leading house in particular commends the caution displayed by his customers in buying sparingly.

Collections are of course materially affected by the stagnation of the retail trade. The house named, however, reports the amounts coming due on the 4th as turning out better than they expected. All except about 20 per cent. being satisfactorily settled.

A demand is springing up for the better class of books, and the sale of papered-covered literature is lessening.

LONDON—Books, Stationery and Fancy Goods are very quiet up this way. Business in general is dull, principally on account of the very cold weather, we are in hopes it will improve when spring comes. Your remarks in last issue of BOOKS AND NOTIONS on the school-book question were very good, but I suppose nothing more can be done in the matter. At the County school meeting held this week, there were several complaints made in regard to the binding of the new Readers; the covers came off very soon on account of imperfect glueing.

I see that the Minister of Education has more rods in pickle for us, in the shape of changes in Geography, History, &c. I hope the arrangements will not be so one-sided as in the Reader case. I do not know how the public will receive the changes; we poor booksellers have to catch it anyhow.

The Ontario Booksellers' Association might do some good by united action, if they would take up the question of the heavy duties we have to pay on everything. The duties on books is especially hard, as we publish next to nothing here, and on account of the closeness of the United States, we sell at publishers' prices.

The Finance Minister did throw us a bone in the shape of placing books published over seven years on the Free List; but the benefit is very small, as people want the latest editions, and will not have old ones, only in the case of very expensive works of reference, &c.

NEW YORK, MARCH 7.—In the Stationery trade, business is picking up considerably with many houses. Larger and more numerous orders are being received than for some time past, and a feeling now prevails that a good spring trade will be had. Travellers in general are sending in encouraging reports. They say that orders are more easily taken, and that dealers are everywhere inclined to talk business. Of course there is yet a conservative feeling to be met with here and there, but not to the extent it was a month ago. The demand for Novelties in Easter

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