

**WINNIPEG'S WHOLESALE
TRADE.**

From a Special Correspondent.

Winnipeg, January 25, 1899.

THE wholesale stationery and book business has experienced a good many changes and new combinations during the past 12 years, and is now chiefly in the hands of two firms or companies, The Winnipeg Consolidated Stationery Co. and Love, McAllister & Co.

The Winnipeg Consolidated Stationery Co., is the result of an amalgamation, some years ago, of The Parsons & Bell Co. and O'Loughlin Bros., both of which had varied and interesting histories behind them, had one time to follow them up. The present company occupy spacious and well-lighted premises on Princess street, just off Notre Dame, and carry a large and well-assorted stock of everything that belongs to the book and stationery trade. The stock is so complete that a retail book and stationery business might easily be fitted from this house without making a single purchase elsewhere.

When your correspondent called, Mr. Bell very kindly did the honors of the establishment. Three floors and a basement comprise the space occupied, the building being about 40 feet wide by 120 feet deep, with a good electric elevator service. The machinery for the printing and blank book-making is also run by electricity. In books, everything is carried, from the last new society novel to grave encyclopædias and standard dictionaries; schoolbooks are a special feature. Fancy goods of all kinds, photo. frames, albums, fancy china, toys, dolls, woodenware of all kinds, and a large assortment of popular games are carried in stock. For the latter, there is always an immense sale in Manitoba, the long Winter evenings making a new game (particularly in the country) very acceptable. Pipes and smokers' goods are also a specialty with this house, and lovers of the weed must derive great pleasure from a glance at their show-cases. Full lines of plain and fancy stationery, printing and wrapping papers, paper bags and the like are all carried. The firm make a great feature of their printers' supplies, and carry full and heavy lines of these goods. The lines carried are so many and varied that it is a marvel how it is possible to ever know what is in stock and what is not.

Speaking of trade, Mr. Bell stated that more and more retail merchants throughout the Province were learning to depend on Winnipeg wholesale houses, rather than importing for themselves. Trade had been affected by the wet Fall, but Christmas

trade had been very satisfactory, there being a notably increased demand for a better class of goods.

Love, McAllister & Co. occupy a three-storey building, with basement, on Post Office street, a few doors east of Main. This street is quite historic, as, in the old days of the later sixties and early seventies, this somewhat narrow thoroughfare saw the beginnings of some of Winnipeg's most important commercial and newspaper enterprises. Mr. McAllister showed your correspondent over the premises. On the third floor are the toys, photo. frames, fancy goods of all kinds, especially baskets. Speaking of toys, Mr. McAllister said they found an increasing demand for those which could be actually put to some useful purpose. Sets of tools for fretwork in wood, and boxes of good useful tools had found special favor during the Christmas trade.

The second floor is devoted to books, annuals, fancy stationery, combs, purses, blank books and school supplies. Purses are a special line with this house, and the stock carried is very handsome. On the first floor are the printers' papers, wrapping papers, paper bags, wall papers, twine, and woodenware, and inks, both printing and writing.

Houses situated nearer the manufactories have no conception of the extent of the stocks carried in such houses as these, where the long rail haul makes it necessary to get in all heavy goods required before navigation closes. It requires a wide grasp of the situation to be able to buy a stock ample enough to cover all trade which may be reasonably anticipated, and yet not so heavy as to prove a burden, should some untoward event frustrate such reasonable anticipations. Mr. McAllister stated they had not suffered materially from the depression consequent on the wet Fall, and the Christmas trade quite surpassed anything they had yet done. They were satisfied with the business done, though, of course, they would not have objected to doing a little more.

In another paper I must try and tell you something about our retail book and stationery houses.

E.C.H.

AN INTERESTING CATALOGUE.

An interesting catalogue, privately printed in Edinburgh, has been presented to the librarian of the Toronto Library. It is a "Catalogue of Some of the Rarer Books and Manuscripts in the Collection of C.E.S. Chambers." Mr. Chambers is a grandson of Robert Chambers and the present editor of Chambers's Journal. The catalogue contains all Robert Chambers' own books, his complete writings and manuscripts, and additional matter, with a number of facsimiles.

FRENCH NOVELTIES.

As this is the season for presents, says the Paris correspondent of The Stationery Trades Journal, the shops are all showing articles which are pretty and cheap. The stationers' shops are full of "office articles," as the French call them, which are certainly reasonable enough in price. I saw the other day a stand with perpetual calendar, thermometer, white slate, pencil-case, and penholder, the whole surmounted by a clock, and to be sold for something less than five shillings. Many others of these articles de Paris are very pretty, though I have not seen anything very new or original—most of them are designs which came out a year or so ago at a very much enhanced price—which goes to prove that there is a very good profit on this class of article. The little metal animals, with a brush inserted in the back to serve as a pen-rest, are still very popular, and many of them are well designed, for report says that rather distinguished sculptors are not ashamed to make money—and, indeed, there is nothing to be ashamed of—by modeling these little figures of animals and men.

A very expensive present, and one that would be rather a white elephant to a clumsy man, was a stationery rack made of crystal glass, damascened with gold. Anyone who occasionally knocks the rack off the table—I do it myself sometimes—would appreciate that gift.

In notepaper there is nothing novel. The tiny monogram in gold on a small circular medallion is still fashionable, and the rough linen surface paper still holds its own.

NEW EDITION OF A SCARCE BOOK.

Carswell & Co., Toronto, announce for publication a reprint of the very scarce "Travels of Alexander Henry," who narrowly escaped the massacre of Fort Michilimackinac during the Pontiac war, and who was afterwards engaged in the fur trade of the Nor'west Company till about 1820. The book has become very scarce, selling for \$10 or \$15, and the new edition will be edited, with prefatory remarks and full notes, by James Bain, Jr. The price will be about \$2.50.

CANADIAN RECORDS BEFORE 1800.

The second annual report of the historical manuscripts commission of the American Historical Commission has just appeared. It contains a list of the journals of the Legislatures of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, prior to 1800, whether printed or in manuscript, and where they are to be found.