

## CANADA MAY SUPPLY BRITAIN WITH PAPER.

FEATURES OF THE TORONTO BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS' MEETING WHEN MR. W. J. GAGE ENTERTAINED THE MEMBERS AND THE YEAR'S BUSINESS WAS DISPOSED OF.

A MOST enjoyable combination of business and pleasure was the annual meeting of the Booksellers and Stationers' section of the Toronto Board of Trade, which met at the National Club on the evening of January 24 by invitation of the chairman, Mr. W. J. Gage. The proceedings were informal, owing to the recent death of the Sovereign, the members refraining from any toasts or other evidences of festivity. The occasion, however, was of such an agreeable nature, and the friendly feelings promoted by the meeting were so generally appreciated that the worthy chairman of the section was cordially thanked by all those present. They included: Richard Brown, Rev. William Briggs, A. S. Irving, J. F. Ellis, A. W. Thomas, William Copp, S. R. Hart, George Warwick, D. A. Rose, W. P. Gundy, Fred. J. Campbell, George Spence, W. J. Davis, F. H. Gage, T. A. Brown, J. T. Hornibrook, Edgar J. Wills, and the editor of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.

After an excellent dinner had been partaken of Mr. Gage opened the business proceedings by referring to the deep sorrow of those present, as well as those of the people of the British Empire, at the death of Queen Victoria, an event which precluded anything in the nature of formal toasts. The chairman read letters of regret from Mr. H. L. Thompson, president of The Copp, Clark Co.; Mr. Graham, of Buntin, Gillies & Co., Hamilton; Mr. A. F. Rutter, of Warwick Bros. & Rutter, and other members who were out of town, regretting their inability to be present.

### THE STANDING OF THE TRADE.

The chairman went on to point out that, in meeting together as they were doing, the trade would cultivate the esprit du corps, which was always of value in an organization of this kind, since any trade would be judged by the estimate which its own members placed upon their business. Booker Washington, the famous colored orator, has said that the use of the toothbrush was the best index of an advance in civilization. Another supposed indication of higher civilization was the use of soap, as cleanliness was next to godliness (laughter), but the booksellers and stationers considered that the best index of national progress was the use of paper and books. A statistician, in illustrating the progress of our late

Queen's glorious reign, had shown that, whereas in 1837 the average sum spent by an Englishman for books was 2s., at the close of her reign it was 12s. This was a significant evidence of national advancement. Mr. Gage continuing, said, that the past year had not been an active one for the section, over which he was glad to preside, and he found it a difficult thing to make a report. He was proud to recognize that the position held by him had, in the past, been associated with eminent members of the trade, like Messrs. Reid, Richard Brown, Copp, Clark, Warwick, Rose and others, all representing the highest character in business life. He considered the present meeting a good influence as it must conduce to harmony of action and purpose in the trade. He then presented the report as follows:

### ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year there has been a steady development of the publishing, book and stationery business in Canada. The present satisfactory condition of the publishing trade as compared with a few years ago is the result largely of the recent Copyright Act of the United States and the advent of better times. Through the operation of the Copyright Act the book-sellers are no longer deluged with the cheap reprints that were formerly issued, and are in a position to protect the public by giving value for their expenditure on books. Good times have provided a large constituency to cater to.

It is also a pleasure to note the improved mechanical appearance of Canadian publications, which now compare favorably with those of any other country.

Canadian copyright is still in an unsatisfactory condition. During the year two members of the Board of Trade, Mr. Morang and Mr. Thomas, representing the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, attended the 11th annual meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, held in London, and succeeded in securing the adoption of a resolution favoring the right of colonies to make their own copyright laws.

The Dominion Parliament under two successive governments have passed legislation dealing with this question in the interests of the Canadian publisher which, unfortunately, is still inoperative, lacking Imperial assent. It is to be hoped that vigorous and determined action will be taken by the Board of Trade, assisted by the cooperation of the paper-making, printing and other allied trades to obtain Imperial sanction.

In the list of subjects assigned by the British North America Act to the Dominion Parliament, patents and copyrights are specified together, and it seems reasonable that the right of the Dominion Parliament to legislate for the one should be just as extensive as it is to legislate for the other.

In order to secure a patent right for a machine in Canada it is necessary to manufacture here within a reasonable time, thus giving employment to Canadian workmen.

The American publisher can obtain copyright by simply sending sample copies and registering his book in London, and in this way prevents the Canadian publisher from making it here, thus compelling the Canadian book-buyer to take his book printed on American paper and made by American printers and bookbinders.

The important principle involved of Canadians making their own laws, the great impetus that would be given to a large industry, demands the serious attention of our legislative bodies.

A distinguished scientist stated a few years ago that the price of rugs was a good index to the advance of civilization, they being made into paper, and the use of paper being an indication of the infusion of knowledge.

At the beginning of the reign of Her late Majesty, 1½ lb. of paper were consumed, on the average, by each resident of Great Britain; now it requires about 15 lb. In the United States it requires about 12 lb. for each citizen, Germany 10 lb., France 8 lb., Italy 5 lb. Canada must be up to or above the average of Great Britain.

During the past year the paper business in Canada has been exceptionally prosperous. Paper mills have been six months behind in filling their orders. To meet the demand the old mills are increasing their capacity; new mills are being erected. Stationers who make the paper up into different forms for practical use have shared in the general prosperity, and found it necessary to increase their facilities for meeting the demand. The paper trade in Canada will, no doubt, shortly be one of our greatest industries. We have an unlimited water-power, an inexhaustible supply of raw material in our pulp-wood forests. Capitalists from the United States, Great Britain and Europe are investing millions of dollars in this industry in Canada, and some of the largest pulp and paper mills in the world are being established here.

Twenty-five years ago, when the writer started in business in Toronto, the great bulk of our paper came from Great Britain, and English travellers regularly visited the Canadian trade to supply our demands. To-day Canadian paper mills can meet all our requirements, and some of them have their London offices.

Before the close of the next 25 years it is not too much to expect that the great London dailies will be printed on Canadian-made paper, and that travellers from the Toronto paper-makers and stationers will regularly sell to the trade of Great Britain in the interest of their respective houses.

EDGAR A. WILLS Secretary-Treasurer. W. J. GAGE, Chairman.

### COPYRIGHT MATTERS.

The report was unanimously adopted. Mr. Ellis then moved that the thanks of the section be conveyed to Messrs. George H. Morang and A. W. Thomas, for their labors in connection with Canadian copyright in England last year, and suggested that Mr. Thomas, who was present, should give some account of the matter.

Mr. Thomas accordingly briefly but clearly outlined the mission of Mr. Morang and himself, and its results. He alluded to Mr. Morang's labors in connection with copyright in getting the Chambers of Commerce Conference to pass the resolution which had been adopted. As for the Canadian Copyright Act of 1900, he considered that the council of the Toronto Board of Trade should be asked to press upon the Canadian Government the wisdom of securing from the Imperial authorities the legislation required to put it in force beyond a doubt, and his motion to this effect, seconded by Rev. Dr. Briggs, was unanimously adopted.

The treasurer's report, which was satisfactory, was also adopted.

### MR. BROWN ON THE PAST.

Mr. Richard Brown, being called upon, spoke in a highly humorous and reminiscent