

**THE MONTREAL BOOK AND
STATIONERY TRADE.**

Past and Present.

II.

Another business that was in existence almost 60 years ago is that of C. O. Beauchemin & Fils, which was established by C. O. Beauchemin in 1842, on St. Vincent Street. In 1850, Mr. Payette was admitted as partner, and the name became Beauchemin & Payette. Again, the style was changed in 1863 to Beauchemin & Valois. In 1886, Mr. Valois retired, and the name became C. O. Beauchemin & Fils. In 1887, occurred the death of the founder of the establishment. His son took up the management, and admitted into partnership in February, 1893, two old and trusted employes—Messrs Emilien Daoust and Etienne Roby. The business is now carried on at 236 St. Paul street, whither it was moved in 1878. The binding, printing and blank-book factory is situated at 22-26 St. Gabriel street, and has been in operation 30 years. About 150 skilled hands are employed. Besides doing an immense wholesale and retail business in stationery and office requirements, this firm publish more French books than any firm outside of France. Unlike most Canadian firms, they have an important trade connection in the New England States, where there are more French-Canadians than there are in Quebec.

Of all Montreal book and stationery firms, perhaps the best known to the Canadian public is John Lovell & Sons. Mr. John Lovell was a practical printer, who established a printing office on St. Nicholas street in 1835. One of the most interesting episodes of his early career was his joining the Queen's forces in 1837, and leaving a foreman in charge of his establishment with permission to publish a paper. When he came home, a few days after volunteering, he found his premises seized as a place of publication of seditious literature, and he in the loyalist forces. In 1842 he printed the first Montreal directory. The most important publications that came from his office were Lovell's school books. In the forties he issued a series of the National Institute school books, then in general use, but later, in the fifties and sixties, his own series of school books displaced these. From about 1888-1890 John Lovell & Son published Lovell's Canadian Copyright Series of novels, to retail at 30c. These came out about once a month, simultaneously with an American issue, and, although they were all by prominent writers, they were not a success, and after about 60 issues they were dropped. The international copyright had also much to do with the cessation of their

publication. From 1847 to 1858 the style of the firm was Lovell & Gibson. Mr. John Lovell died July 1, 1893, and his business is now being carried on by his son, Mr. Robert Lovell. Besides doing job work, the firm publish the Montreal Directory and other commercial works. From the office of John Lovell The Literary Garland and Snowdrop once came forth regularly.

It cannot be doubted that The Rolland Paper Co. sell the highest grades of stationery paper made, for they have lately obtained the Grand Prix at the Paris Exposition, and at the World's Fair in Chicago a similar honor was won. The founder of the business was J. B. Rolland, who, by his steady industry, worked himself up from being a practical printer to be a Senator and one of the leading business men of the Dominion. In his youthful days he sat at a type box close to J. D. Beckett and John Lovell. In 1842, he established a business on the corner opposite the firm's present establishment on St. Vincent street, and among other work printed The Morning Courier. His love of books led him later into the book publishing business. He issued a large number of French school books, as well as works of literature and theology. In 1854 he commenced the importation of French books, but 10 years ago the firm decided to quit this line and sold out their stock. Book publishings till continues, however, on a large scale. In 1859, his son, J. D. Rolland, was admitted as partner, and the title became J. B. Rolland & Fils. Hon. Senator J. B. Rolland died on March 22, 1887, and Hon. J. D. Rolland has continued in the management. During his long business career he has dealt with three houses in France whose management has been in the hands of three generations—and he is young and active yet. Two other brothers, S. J. B. Rolland, mayor of St. Jerome, and Octavian Rolland, are members of the firm. The name Rolland has a reputation in connection with high-class papers. In 1883 a paper mill was started in St. Jerome by The Rolland Paper Co. At first only cheap writing paper was made at the mill, although it was built to make the better grades. Soon the making of cheaper grades was discontinued and now they make only bond and ledger papers that have won the Grand Prix at Paris, and stand unrivalled in their class in the world. Needless to say the trade done by this firm is enormous.

Mr. Robert Miller is another name that was displayed on a bookstore sign in 1843. He did business on Place D'Armes Square. In 1849 we find the firm name changed to R. & A. Miller, Adam Miller having become partner. They now had two places

of business, one at 8 St. Francois Xavier street and the other at 19 Great St. James. This firm did one of the largest businesses of their day, and were known throughout Canada. They published a series of National school books and kept a large stock of literature. A good trade was done in plain and fancy stationery. They manufactured blank books and did printing, engraving and lithographing. Adam Miller afterwards went to Toronto and started a business of his own, while Robert Miller continued the business here. He moved to Victoria Square, was burned out, and then went to Notre Dame street. After his death, in 1895, the business was reorganized under the firm name of Robert Miller, Son & Co. Later it became The Robert Miller Co., Limited.

The name Dawson has long been familiar with the patrons of Montreal bookstores. Benjamin Dawson, the founder of the Dawson prestige, commenced business in 1847, succeeding R. W. S. Mackay, publisher of the Montreal Directory. Originally he was on Notre Dame street, then, in 1849, we find him at 2 Place D'Armes; later, he moved to 157 St. James street, and again to 233 St. James. In the fifties the firm's title was B. Dawson & Son, but about 1861 Mr. B. Dawson retired and left the business in charge of his sons, under the title Dawson Bros. For a long time Mr. Dawson had had the Canadian agency for Alex. Cowan & Sons, paper manufacturers, of Edinburgh, an agency that was continued with Dawson Bros. This afforded the establishment of a wholesale stationery, and when, about 10 years ago, Mr. S. E. Dawson became Queen's Printer at Ottawa, Mr. W. V. Dawson decided to sever connection with the retail business and confine himself to the wholesale trade. This he now continues at 16 DeBresoles street, and here he does one of the largest stationery businesses in the city. Mr. C. F. Dawson, son of Mr. S. E. Dawson, is still in a retail stationery business at 226 St. James street. Mr. A. V. Dawson is president of the Manufacturing Stationery Co. at 479 St. Paul street, where he has his manufacturing done.

D. & J. Sadlier & Co., 1669 Notre Dame street, were established in 1842 as a branch of a New York house. Their first place of business was at 179 Notre Dame street. At one time the importation of cheap American reprints of English books was carried on, and there were quite a number of Canadian agencies here. But the American War put a stop to this trade, stimulated publishing here, and encouraged importation from England, where colonial editions were now brought out. J. A. Sadlier managed the place for a long time, but he died seven years ago, and Mr. H. E. Wall is now manager. The firm publish school books and theological works. Their stationery business is also large.

ERNEST H. COOPER.

(To be continued.)