

## History of Toronto's Wholesale Stationers.

WITH the total destruction of the properties of the wholesale stationers of Toronto, some of the oldest and most honored business houses in the city have suffered irreparable loss. The longest established of these is the firm of Brown Brothers, Limited, founded in 1816 by the father of the present Mr. Richard Brown. Prior to his arrival in Canada Mr. Brown, Sr., had been a member of the Stationers' Guild in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, to which honorable body he had been admitted in 1813. His three sons—Thomas, Richard and John—succeeded to the Toronto business in 1856, and formed the firm of Brown Brothers. Thomas Brown died in 1867 and John Brown passed away in 1882, leaving Richard Brown as head of the company, a position which he still holds. In 1893 the business was turned into a joint stock company, and in 1900 a removal was effected from the old premises on King street east to the splendid building on Wellington west, the destruction of which has been one of the saddest losses in the fire.

The present firm of Warwick Bros. & Rutter was established in Toronto in 1869 by the late William Warwick, who moved to the city from Woodstock and set up a plant on Wellington street east. In 1879 he secured the contract for binding all the Ontario Government papers, a contract which the firm has ever since held and to which it added the Government printing in 1886. In 1880 William Warwick died and until 1893 the business was conducted by his sons, George and Charles. In that year Mr. A. F. Rutter was taken into partnership and the firm became known as Warwick Bros. & Rutter. The large building just destroyed was erected in 1887.

The Copp, Clark Co. were originally engaged in the retail trade, their business having been founded by Mr. Chewett. In 1873 the firm entered the wholesale trade with W. Copp, H. J. Clark and a Mr. Fuller as partners. It was one of the first firms in Toronto to instal printing presses, ruling machines and binding machines in one building. All the old members of the firm have passed away, Mr. Clark in 1892 and Mr. Fuller and Mr. Copp in 1894. The chief officers of the company are now H. L. Thompson, A. W. Thomas and W. Copp. The company's offices and warerooms, which were destroyed, were contained in one of the handsomest buildings in Toronto only just erected a few years ago.

The firm of Buntin, Reid & Co., was early established in Toronto by the late James Buntin, who died in 1861. After his death the business was managed by his brother, Alexander Buntin, and John Y. Reid and George Boyd, and the firm name was Buntin Bros. & Co. Later the name of Mr. Reid was added. Mr. Buntin died in 1893 and Mr. Reid in 1899, leaving the management in the hands of Alexander Buntin, Jr.

The W. J. Gage Company, whose premises were also totally destroyed, succeeded to the business which was run by Adam Miller, in 1874, and have been highly successful ever since. The firm became a joint-stock company in 1894, with Mr. W. J. Gage as president and Mr. W. P. Gundy vice-president. Mr. Gundy is now general manager of the firm, which up to the time of the fire was one of the largest manufacturers of envelopes and stationery in Canada.

Davis & Henderson started business in 1877, succeeding Mr. Dredge who moved to New York. By degrees a large manufacturing stationery and printing business was worked up and at the time of the fire enlargements were in contemplation.

Though the firm of Rolph, Smith & Co. is better known as an engraving and printing concern, it is still to a certain extent engaged in the stationery business. The business was founded in 1812. To-day the partners are J. T. Rolph, David Smith, Frank Rolph and Frank A. Rolph.

The Canada Paper Company, whose premises were totally destroyed, formerly carried a large stationery stock. Their Toronto office was opened in 1879 with Mr. William McFarlane, now president of the company, as manager. In 1881 Mr. F. J. Campbell, now general manager, succeeded him and to-day Mr. H. B. Donovan is local manager. The company built their own warehouse on Front street in 1886.

### RIIS ON ROOSEVELT.

THIS book is a biographical and autobiographical appreciation, the tribute of admiration and affection of one sanguine, zealous, active man for another whom the author describes with all the frank devotion of the hero worshipper for qualities that are common to both men, with almost identical ideals, with like conceptions of public responsibility and duty, and with similar convictions about the importance of promptly "doing things" that ought, in their judgment, to be done.

The author was drawn to Mr. Roosevelt because he appreciated and helped on the work of humanity in which Mr. Riis is engaged. Mr. Roosevelt's heritage of wealth did not tempt him to paths of indolent ease, and in college he took his punishment in fisticuff bouts with composure if he was worsted in fair play. And he has always "played fair," says the author, whether at Albany, when he first ventured to denounce his own party for lacking courage and strict rectitude; in practical politics, where he put himself "in the way of things happening," in the "Fair Play Department," as Mr. Riis calls the Civil Service Commission; in Mulberry street, as police commissioner, trying to realize his ideals concerning the policing of the city; at Washington and as Assistant Secretary of the Navy preparing the service for war as if war was at hand; as the head of the Rough Riders in that war which he had helped to prepare for and which demanded his participation with an irresistible call; at Albany, again, as Governor, beset by political opponents who cared not for his exhortations to live by the Ten Commandments and who were glad to thrust him into the vice presidency which he did not want, and, at length, in the presidency, where he may be the despair of politicians, but where the devotion to right and justice that converted police headquarters during his service there, into a temple of refuge for the distressed and uninfluential, sustain and amply justify him in his effort to live up to the responsibilities he assumed upon the death of McKinley.—Toronto: Molang & Co., Limited.

### DOUBLING THEIR OUTPUT.

IN order to meet the heavy demands which are falling on them, owing to the destruction of the stationery business in Toronto, Buntin, Gillies & Co., of Hamilton and Montreal, have rented a large three-storey building immediately to the rear of their Hamilton offices, and have engaged an extra staff of clerks and operatives. With a good stock in Montreal to draw from, and the extra effort in Hamilton, this firm should be able to keep the retail trade supplied with necessities until the Toronto houses are in operation once more.