

CITY TRAVELERS' ASSOCIATION.

The regular monthly meeting of the City Travelers' Association of Toronto, was held on April 24th. There was a large attendance. President Maxwell occupied the chair, Gus. Piper acting as secretary in the absence of Secretary Owen. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Mr. C. D. Chulley, G. C. Crean, W. D. Fox and D. Bennett, were admitted to full membership, and placed upon the roll. Mr. H. D. Murray was proposed by Secretary Owen, seconded by Mr. Piper. C. A. Caldwell was proposed by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Symon, and Joseph French proposed by F. Gallow, seconded by A. Graham, and a committee appointed in each case to make the necessary enquiries and report at next meeting. Mr. Hustwitt reported on behalf of the By-law Committee, that 500 copies of the constitution and by laws had been received. He asked that a bill for same should be paid and the committee be discharged.

R. J. Wood moved, seconded by T. Nicholson that the By-law Committee be discharged, and that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Hustwitt and the members of the committee for the handsome way in which they had carried out the various work of preparing and completing the by-laws.—Carried.

R. J. Wood reported on behalf of the Seal Committee that the official seal had been completed. The secretary was authorised to pay for it.

In answer to a question, Mr. Gallow stated that the Excursion Committee had made a contract with the Niagara Navigation Co. for the use of their boats on Wednesday, the 22nd of July, for an excursion to Niagara Falls, via Lewiston. The secretary read it. It was accepted as read and sub-committees formed as follows to take charge of further arrangements.

Steamboat—F. Gallow, M. C. Lynde, A. H. Lawson, F. McDonald, J. Owen, and J. Mortimer.

Printing—S. Hustwitt, R. J. Wood, A. M. Piper, C. G. Graham, B. McCann.

Musical—C. S. Fairbairn, C. G. Graham, M. C. Lynde, A. H. Lawson, F. T. Blackburn.

Mr. Wood informed the members that they could expect to get their pins at next meeting.

The President reported that he was pleased to be able to report the recovery of Mr. Crofton, who was now nearly well again.

F. Gallow moved, seconded by Nicholson, that the president and vice-president be appointed a committee to draft a letter of condolence to be sent to Secretary Owen and family, expressing the sincere sympathy of every member of the association in the sad bereavement that had overtaken them in the

death of Mr. F. Oxenham by drowning at Hamilton. The President suggested that the members should, as many as could, attend the funeral in a body, and it was decided to do so.

There being no further business before the meeting the members gathered round the piano, and the rest of the evening was spent in song, conversation and social intercourse.

Mr. Hustwitt opened the programme with a reading, followed by a comic song from Mr. J. Park, which was well received; after which Mr. Spencer favored the "boys" with a piano solo. When the applause had subsided, Mr. A. M. Corrie gave a reading, and upon an encore sang in excellent voice the "Peek-a-boo" song.

To please the Scotchmen present R. W. Beattie sang a Scotch song or two which brought down the house.

After a chorus or two, a vote of thanks to the members who had contributed, and the singing of the national anthem, the meeting adjourned.

FANCY GOODS.

This year so far has been a somewhat troublesome one in the fancy goods trade both for wholesalers and retailers. There is no doubt but that the first to suffer in slack times are those who are dealing in luxuries—the "unnecessaries" of life. Those whose trade is confined to the "necessaries" clothing, provisions, etc., no doubt feel a stringency in money, but only to a limited extent in proportion to their friends in such trades as fancy goods, jewelry, etc. The first step in economy is to stop giving presents, and in presentation lies the stronghold of the fancy goods and notions trade. The first three months of the year were very quiet ones in the trade. April was a little more active, and made up somewhat for the ground lost in the previous months, but it will take a good harvest and an exceedingly good summer and fall trade to place a good many of the dealers on their feet again. From the present crop reports received from one end of the Dominion to the other, those in the trade anticipate a big boom in the business before the present year goes out. The chief cause of the recent dull spell was undoubtedly the Dominion elections, accompanied as they were with intense excitement throughout the country, from ocean to ocean, and by no means lessened by the fact that had the present Government been defeated the trade policy of the country was in great danger of being subverted, which made a depreciation in value of many thousands of stock upon which duty had been paid. It is impossible to calculate the loss sustained by a country during such disturbances, and if the figures could be shown with any degree of accuracy it would probably be better for trade generally if the life of each parliament was extended.

NOTES.

Purses have met with a better sale than most leather goods this spring, American, Canadian, and European lines selling well.

Good leather traveling cases have also met with a demand not usual in Canada. Canadians seem to be imitating their friends of the Republic in a desire to see the world.

Horn goods are fast becoming staple. Their chief fault in the past has been poor workmanship, and we would advise retailers to look after this particular when buying.

P. Treblecork, Bowmanville, dealer in fine stationery, books, fancy goods and notions, says trade is up to the average with him, and thinks prospects favorable for the coming year.

Mrs. Sarah Hixson, Carleton Place, is doing a successful business in fancy goods. A large well-assorted stock is kept, and her patronage includes the best people in that vicinity.

In Chinese lanterns, of which a number of new designs are offered, and for flags of all kinds for holiday decorations, the trade is beginning to show some life, and as the season for outdoor parties and picnics approaches a large business is expected by dealers.

Albums have not sold so well this season as formerly. Dealers seem to have bought too heavy in 1890, and require time to run off their stock. It is well for the wholesalers that they imported only samples to sell from, for an old stock of albums is not the most desirable to be held on the shelves.

There is quite a feeling of revulsion against some of the cheap and showy lines of German goods which look very well for a while, but fall to pieces after a few days dusting and handling. Canadians are beginning to see that the best is the cheapest, and the dealer who appreciates this fact in time will secure a trade that his trash-selling friend will look for in vain.

Nerlich & Co. are now showing samples of a number of new things in smokers' goods, in the way of match safes, cigar cases, pipes, etc. They report an increasing trade in asbestos pipes. Among their newest goods are some handsome French cherry pipes in all sizes and shapes, which are a great improvement on anything of the same line heretofore offered.

Plush goods seem to be more in favor than ever this year. The old cry that they come to an end has died a natural death, and we find that the manufacturers are elevating the standard of the goods, both in quality of material and fittings, which we most heartily commend. They will, no doubt, have a better opportunity to do so, now that the two Hamilton firms, The Ontario Leather Goods Co. and Atkinson Bros. have retired from the business.

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