

## TRADE CHAT.

Last year 3,000 books were bound to the people of London from free libraries.

Among the callers on BOOKS AND NOTIONS recently were J. K. Crumpton, of Galt, and A. T. Cooper, of Clinton. Both were in the city looking up bargains.

The creditors of Solomon Weaver, late of Kingston and London, will get 18 1/2 cents on the dollar. Their claim amounts to \$33,510.10. Londoners get \$160.85, out of \$887.25.

The safe in C. W. Papst's bookstore, Scarborough, Ont., was burglarized on July 26th, and the thieves were rewarded with the small sum of \$10, made up of postage stamps, coppers and small silver.

Mr. John W. Taylor, a partner in the firm of Baker, Taylor & Haskett, importers of buttons and fancy goods, of Montreal, was drowned in the St. Lawrence while bathing off Cherry Island, near Gananoque. The body was recovered within half an hour of the accident, but although every effort was made to resuscitate it, life was extinct.

On July 19th M. W. Wulff, one of Victoria's old and well known business men, died of smallpox at his home in Quadra street, above Pandora. He owned two large book and music stores in Government street, and was the possessor of considerable valuable real estate.

Mr. Harry Davies, of the firm of H. P. Davies & Co., Canadian agents of the "Hodge" bicycle and sporting goods importers, left for the Old Country by the *Majestic* on Wednesday, to investigate the developments in bicycle manufacture, and also select the stock for the firm's various sporting departments.

Hunter, Grant & Co., booksellers and stationers, Hamilton, Ont., have assigned again to F. M. Wilson, accountant. The firm was in difficulties last year, but succeeded in effecting an arrangement with its creditors which permitted a resumption of business. Difficulties of trade is given as the cause for the present trouble. There is a hope that it will be possible for the firm to go on again. At present the stock is advertised for sale.

Mr. Caudwell, of Brown Bros., has just about completed his most successful trip in the Northwest. Mr. Anderson, of the Book Room, has returned, and reports business good in that western region. Mr. Bryant will go through to the coast at once in the interests of Watwick & Sons, while Mr. Sinclair will take Mr. Bryant's ground in north-western Ontario. Mr. Emil Nerlich has taken a trip east with a full line of fancy goods samples. Many of the stationery, book and fancy goods travelers are in the houses at present, others are away on their holidays.

A Chicago despatch says. In a very short time the newsboy will be out of a job. Papers have been filed with the Secretary of State for the incorporation of a company that will undertake to distribute newspapers automatically. The general principle of the automatic machine to distribute newspapers is similar to the meter in the slot machines. A penny or two cents, as the case may be, is dropped in a convenient slot and a handle pulled forth with the purchaser is confronted with the paper he desires. The newspaper distributors do not stop at merely

handing out to the customer his favorite sheet; they will make change when required, and it is claimed will never make a mistake. If a customer drops ten cents into a certain slot or a quarter in another, a two-cent paper machine will immediately produce 8 or 23 cents in change, as may be necessary. Other developments are also being studied out.

A short time ago Mr. Herbert Gardner was unfortunate enough to have his stock of books and stationery at Sault Ste. Marie destroyed by fire, and fortunate enough to receive \$1,000 insurance. He owed several hundred dollars to C. M. Taylor & Co., and they received a promise that he would pay part of the indebtedness and buy a new stock. It appears that the young man had deposited the money to the credit of his fiancée, and the suspicion of the wholesale firm was aroused. After considerable delay he came to Toronto, declined to come to any definite arrangements, and to expedite matters he was placed under arrest. Even then it was difficult to obtain a settlement. It is to be regretted that such a course was necessary, when there was no direct evidence against him, but business is business, and the young man has himself alone to blame, as Messrs. Taylor & Co. were quite lenient with him.

The Charles Stark Co., dealers in watch cases, firearms, ammunition, fancy hardware, bicycles, and sporting goods, has gone into liquidation. The firm has been in business for years, and no longer than a year ago was credited with a surplus of \$80,000, but keen competition and the company's slushing of rates has driven it to the wall. The company is a joint stock concern, headed by Charles Stark, and has done a large trade, but the last few months its bills have been heavy. The company embarked on the troubled sea of journalism and published a paper called *The Forest and Stream*. The order for liquidation was made by Judge McDonough, on motion of Charles Elliott, of Hoffman & Co. The action was taken rather suddenly, and even took Mr. Stark by surprise, the petition being prepared and presented within a few hours after he assented. He figures as the petitioner himself. Pressure from the Bank of Hamilton and Union Bank was what precipitated the commencement of these proceedings. The former is creditor for \$19,200, while the claim of the Union is \$15,000. At present it is not apprehended that the shareholders will be called on for double liability. The assets are estimated at \$147,000 and the liabilities are placed at \$143,000. The creditors are in Montreal, Britain, Belgium and the States, but the two banks named are the largest. The principal shareholders of the company are, Charles Stark, Mrs. Stark, Leopold Stern of Belgium, A. B. Lee, Buntin, Reid & Co., and Alfred E. Dickson. Charles Stark was the president and manager. Charles T. Stark, son of John Stark, has been appointed provisional liquidator.

## PAPER AND STATIONERY.

A firm of German paper and cellulose manufacturers have just introduced into the market, under the names of the uncolored and two-colored watertight cellulose papers, a material that can be applied to the most varied purposes. The paper can be used for book backs, table cloths, and as a temporary cover for roofs, as well as for pack-

ing goods. It can be laid on damp walls, and as a coating for maps; in short, its applicability is extraordinarily manifold. This cellulose paper is far cheaper than parchment. It does not become sticky through heat, nor does it crack from the cold, as is the case with oiled cloth. The disagreeable asphaltic odour is not perceptible.—The Stationer, Printer and Fancy Goods Register.

Some of the best known manufacturers of note papers in this country and Europe, says the *N. Y. Bulletin*, are just possessed with a fancy to produce and put upon the market tinted note paper. It has become something of a fad, since the mourning season in England called for grey tinted paper in court circles. This is certainly an improvement on the ghastly broad black edged paper which has been used from time to time in this country, but Queen Victoria has always used, since her royal husband's death, a note paper with a small edge of black. To revert to the tinted papers, many of them are attractive and some of them very neat and desirable. These papers come in the lightest and most delicate tints, but can never just take the place of whites and creams. The latter are always standard, and always most popular among dealers and consumers.

The output of American paper and pulp mills last year was valued at \$125,000,000. In 1840 it was valued at \$5,000,000; and the selling price of the product is now only one-third of what it was then. This enormous development has, of course, been almost wholly due to the giant strides made in journalism during the last half century, and more especially within the last ten years.

## MOVABLE INDEX FOR LETTER COPY BOOKS.

A lately patented movable index for letter copy books, by means of which the index can be consulted separately from the book or conjointly therewith, as desired, without its being necessary to turn back and forth, is constructed, as usual, with the well-known marginal lettering or alphabet. The index is secured at one corner by a pivot or joint to the inner side of one corner of a cover, preferably the rear cover, so that the index can be swung in a plane, parallel with the cover into the book.

To prevent the index from swinging too easily on the pivot, a pad or spring may be interposed between the index and cover so as to exert friction.

By swinging or moving the index the book can be closed and the index will still be left exposed to examination as a practically independent book or pamphlet without disturbing the main book, or, if desired, the index when resting alongside the book can be consulted, and as the desired entries in the index are found the corresponding pages of the leaves can be turned to without its being necessary to continually turn to the back of the book to reach the index and then forward again to reach the desired page.

By this invention not only time is saved and annoyance avoided, but by doing away with the continual turning back to reach the index the musing and crumpling of the leaves, which is especially apt to occur in the case of thin tissue leaves, such as generally employed in letter press copying books, is avoided.—American Stationer.