

THE TORONTO STATIONERY TRADE.

THE changes that have taken place in the Toronto stationery trade during the past 25 years are well set forth in an article by John A. Cooper, in *The New York Stationer*. Turning up an old city directory for 1874, he found the following names of firms.

Wholesale—A. C. Brayley & Co., 45 Yonge street; Brown Bros., 66 King street east; Buntin Bros. & Co., 61 Yonge street; A. Dredge & Co., 53 Yonge street; McPhail & Davison, 11 Wellington street west; Adam Miller, 11 Wellington street west; Wm. Warwick, 36 Wellington street east.

Retail—P. C. Allan, 35 King street west; Francis Bailey, 42 Queen street west; Blish Bros., 219 King street east; John Edwards, 136 Yonge street; A. S. Irving, 35 King street west; Macgillivray, Molle & Co., 72 Yonge street; McCrae & Douglas, 6 Toronto street; Robert Marshall, 47 King street west; C. P. Parkinson, 259 Yonge street; Willing & Williamson, 12 King street east.

In the city directory of to-day, there are recorded 20 wholesale firms and 94 retailers. Of the firms mentioned in the 1874 directory, continues Mr. Cooper, only four names remain in the trade—Brown, Buntin, Warwick and Irving. Among the firms not mentioned, "but who were doing business then, were Copp, Clark & Co., Hart & Rawlinson and James Bain. With the exception of Rawlinson, these names are still on signboards and letterheads.

From 1850 to 1874 one of the leading firms of stationers and binders in the city was Brown Bros. There were three of them—Thomas, Richard and John. Their father had been admitted to the Stationers' Guild in Newcastle-on Tyne in 1811, and had come to Canada and started business in Toronto about 1846. It was to this trade that the three sons succeeded in 1850. In 1874 the business was much larger than it had ever been, and a splendid trade was being done. Thomas had died in 1867, the year of the Canadian Confederation, and the management of the business was in the hands of Richard, and in his hands it still remains, for, though 65 years of age, he is still active and earnest, and manages to-day what is perhaps the largest general stationery business in Canada. In 1874 John Brown was also a well-known figure about town, but he died about eight years later. He was an enthusiastic militiaman, and held a commis-

sion in the Queen's Own Rifles. In March, 1893, the business was turned into a joint stock company, of which every officer, with the exception of John T. Hornibrook, the secretary-treasurer, is a Brown. Mr. Richard Brown is president. The firm is now about to move from the premises occupied by them for over 40 years to a new and larger warehouse on Wellington street west, which has been specially erected for their purpose.

Wm. Warwick was one of the leading wholesale stationers in Toronto in 1874, having moved here from Woodstock, Ont., some five years previous. His business was growing rapidly, and soon after this we find him in larger premises on the same street—Wellington east. Here he began the making of blank books in a first class bindery. In 1879 he secured the Ontario Government binding contract. In 1880 he was suddenly killed by his horse running away, and the business was continued by his sons as William Warwick & Son. In 1886 the firm secured the whole of the Ontario Government printing and binding work, and this led to the building of the present premises at 68 and 70 Front street west, where the Government printing is still done. In 1885 the firm name was changed to Warwick & Sons, and in 1893 to Warwick Bros. & Rutter. The new member of the firm, Mr. A. F. Rutter, entered Mr. Warwick's employ in 1873, and is an expert manager of the bindery and printing department. Messrs. George and Charles Warwick look after the wholesale department, in which is carried a large stock of all kinds of staple and fancy supplies.

No mention is made in the 1874 directory of Copp, Clark & Co. as stationers. A year before they had sold out their retail business on King street, and had decided to confine themselves to the wholesale trade. Mr. Chewett, the founder of the firm, had retired in 1865, and in 1873 the three partners were W. Copp, H. J. Clark, and Mr. Fuller. The days when Toronto had only one ruling machine (Mr. Brewer's) and only one book-binder (Mr. Cuthbert) were passing away, and Copp, Clark & Co. was one of the firms which was installing a number of printing presses and ruling machines, as well as a bindery. Ultimately a lithographing plant was added, but that was later. Now they handle a full line of stationery, fancy goods, and books, and do a tremendous trade. Everyone of the old members has passed

away. Mr. Clark, who was the general manager of the business, died in 1892; Mr. Fuller, the superintendent of the mechanical department, and Mr. Copp, the financier of the firm, died in 1894, within a few months of each other. H. L. Thompson, A. W. Thomas, and W. Copp are now the chief officers of the company.

Another of the leading wholesale firms of 1875 was Buntin Bros. & Co. James Buntin had died in 1861, leaving Alexander Buntin, John Y. Reid, and George Boyd in control. These were the three men of the firm in '74. Mr. Buntin was the head of the firm, and had a strong assistant in Mr. Reid. Both men were well known all over the country, and much respected, while both were patient and persevering, and rapidly accumulating wealth. At this time Mr. Buntin lived in Montreal and looked after the Valleyfield mills and the Eastern branch of the business, while Mr. Reid managed the Toronto house. Mr. Buntin was an expert papermaker, and Mr. Reid had learned the stationery business in England. The former died in 1893, the latter in 1899. The business is now managed by Alexander Buntin, a son of the former head of the firm. In the old days the firm did a general stationery business, now they confine themselves to the heavy side of the paper business, although still selling pencils, pens, papeteries, and such staple sundries. They have three travelers on the road all the time.

A familiar figure in Toronto for many years was John Hunter, American agent for Alex. Pirie & Sons.

Another gentleman well-known to the trade here in 1875 was James Macdonald, who traveled for John Walker & Co., of London, England. He was very popular, and his death in August, 1891, as the result of a railway accident, was much regretted. Personally he was a great friend of S. R. Hart, of Toronto, and of Mr. Glen, of Marcus, Ward & Co., New York.

The store of James Bain, sr., was a well-known establishment on King street. Mr. Bain founded it about 1850, and always did a fairly successful trade in both books and stationery. He retired from its control about seven years ago, but is still living. One of his sons is in the stationery business here yet, the firm being Donald Bain & Co., and another is at the head of our public library.

The oldest and largest law stationery firm in the city is Newsome & Co., of Adelaide street. The firms of R. J. Lovell & Co., O. B. Stanton, and Grand & Toy, do both a wholesale and retail trade. The two former do considerable manufacturing, and both have been very successful.

Since 1879 The Canada Paper Company,