

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

The Booksellers' and Stationers' Association of Ontario held their semi-annual meeting on the 9th inst., in the Queen's Hotel, H. Fred. Sharp, St. Marys, in the chair. There were present, besides the President, Isaac Huber, Bracebridge; W. C. Niblett, Dundas; T. J. Day and J. A. Nelles, Guelph; J. G. Cloke, Hamilton; G. A. Stafford, Whitby; Henry Hutchinson, S. R. Hart, A. S. Irving, A. R. Lorimer, E. Potts, H. L. Thompson, G. R. Warwick, S. Wallace, and the Secretary, Toronto.

The Chairman welcomed the members, and outlined the business which was to be brought before them.

Excuses were received from several for non-attendance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary's report was read by J. J. Dias. It made reference to the steady growth of the Association since last semi-annual meeting. A branch called the Brant and Norfolk District Association was formed in January last at Brantford. The Executive Committee were strongly recommended to take measures to further the organization of more district associations. The question of reduced postage on periodicals had to be postponed until the new Parliament met. The influence of the Toronto Board of Trade had been asked in the same direction. Regarding prices of daily papers to the trade, no definite arrangement had been arrived at. The question of the interference of bazaars with the Christmas trade had been brought up during the past half year, and the attention of Archbishop Lynch, the Ministerial Association, and the Clerical Association, were called to the matter. The report deprecated the sale of immoral periodicals, and expressed the hope that the Dominion Government would continue the firm attitude it had taken upon the question. It referred to the promise of the Minister of Education to give, through the paper recognized as the organ of the trade—*BOOKS AND NOTIONS*, notices as to when new school books were to be issued.

On motion of A. S. Irving, seconded by J. G. Cloke, the report was adopted.

It was agreed that the committee appointed at the last meeting to approach the Dominion Government on the question of postage, should be asked to wait on them after the meeting of Parliament.

CHURCH BAZAARS.

A deputation from the Clerical Association of Toronto, consisting of Rev. John Langtry and Rev. R. Harrison, waited on the Association to hear the views of members on the subject of church bazaars.

The Chairman, in introducing the deputation, stated that they, as dealers, suffered from bazaars, and that many who depended on the sale of articles usually sold at such places, were subjected to injury by them.

J. A. Nelles moved, and E. Potts seconded:—"That as many members of this Association are of opinion that the practice of holding bazaars and sales of fancy articles of needlework is an injury, not only to the bookselling and fancy goods trade, but also to a number of ladies, young and old, who depend upon the sale of their needlework for their livelihood, the subject be now discussed in the hope that the views of the Association may have some effect in inducing the clergy of all denominations to discountenance the

practice referred to." Both mover and seconder spoke on the subject.

Henry Hutchinson could understand readily how bazaars affected the means of livelihood of many ladies and others who were engaged in fancy work, by depriving them of sales.

Isaac Huber said that in the country the majority of booksellers carried on fancy goods business, and their Christmas sales were very much interfered with by these church bazaars.

Rev. John Langtry said so far as he could speak for the clergy of the Church of England, they were not in the least in love with bazaars. The pastoral of the Bishop of Huron, in which bazaars were condemned strongly, he thought, met with very general approval among the clergy. One redeeming feature might be zeal among the people in the cause of God. Many who were skilled in art gave their contributions as much as an offering as they would give money.

Rev. Richard Harrison held the same sentiments as Mr. Langtry, and he thought the majority of clergymen did the same. He was connected with a poor congregation, and knew that poor people—some, perhaps, of those whom the Association sought to protect, poor people who could do fancy work—wished to contribute in kind where they could not in money.

The deputation was then thanked for their attendance, and after their withdrawal the motion was unanimously carried.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Isaac Huber, seconded by G. A. Stafford, moved that a committee, consisting of Hutchinson, Irving and Dias, be appointed to wait upon the Board of the Upper Canada Bible Society with a view to a better arrangement of prices.

The subject caused much discussion and the motion was agreed to.

A discussion was raised on the supplying of books to Sunday school libraries by wholesale houses, and the opinion strongly expressed that the wholesale houses should sell to retail dealers only, and that the latter should supply public libraries of all kinds.

So far as reported in the *Mail* (with minor corrections), the *World*, and the *News*, both had good reports.

After the reporters retired the question was brought up of the practice of enticing new men to enter business where already a sufficient, or more than sufficient, number are already dealing in stationery, etc. It was felt that there was no remedy except the wholesale houses come to some arrangement among themselves as to the matter.

J. K. Cranston, Galt, not being able to be present, sent in a number of questions, some of which we give:

Does it pay to deliver newspapers to customers, or have fewer subscribers and have them call at the store for their papers? One man thought that as long as opposition dealers did it he could not stop delivery. The general opinion is that papers should not be delivered.

What is the best check on cash? Will it pay to have a cash desk with a clerk to look after it only?

A competent judge's opinion is that a \$25 a day business will justify the employment of a girl to look after the cash. A check should be made out for every sale. She may, in addition, mark books to fill in spare time.

Will a circulation library pay—the Secretary had