

A PUBLISHER FAILS.

STATIONERS and publishers in Montreal were not surprised last week when they were notified that G. C. Huttemeyer & Co., St. Paul street, had called a meeting of their creditors. It was well known that the firm was dipped pretty heavily in the British Empire Exposition of Projector Styles, and when the Citizens' Committee sat on that project recently the general expectation was that the firm would have trouble in meeting their obligations. These expectations were verified, for at a meeting held on the 13th they submitted an approximate statement of their affairs. This showed liabilities of \$18,000 and assets of \$32,000. Of the latter, however, fully \$20,000 consists of debts contracted with the firm by the defunct exposition for printing work, so that it is considered by the creditors as so much lost money. The realizable assets therefore are placed at from \$10,000 to \$12,000. The creditors at this writing have not decided what course they will pursue, but have decided to have an investigation of the estate. The general impression seems to be that if it is wound up it will not pay a dividend, but that with time something can be worked out of it. After the report of the accountants is submitted the creditors will decide what course to pursue.

MR. REVELL IN CANADA

Mr. Revell, of the Fleming H. Revell Co., Chicago, Toronto and New York, was in Canada this week, and in a brief interview with THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER spoke favorably of the trade outlook. The company has had a good year, and the Canadian branch has been an entire success. "Our trade in religious books," said Mr. Revell, "is a profitable one, because it suffers less from cutting than other branches of the book business. Besides, the profit in religious books is one that augments, because some of them take a year or two to show what is really in them as ventures, and then sales steadily grow and they become better and better as a property. Now with fiction, on the

other hand, it often happens that in a few months the rush is over, and plates and remainders are of little value. We are well pleased with our Canadian branch, which has shown excellent results. If there was any impression at the outset that our company, in taking over this business, would do a slashing trade or perhaps cut into the trade in imported English books, that idea is dispelled now. Our business has been and is done on a profitable basis, and that policy will be maintained." In Chicago, Mr. Revell reports, the department store evil continues



Illustration from "Walter Gibbs, the Young Hero," by E. W. Thomson. William Briggs (September).

to be felt. His company were the last to sell to them, but as others all did, it became impossible to hold out. Mr. Revell, who is evidently a shrewd book man with pleasant manners, seldom visits the Canadian branch, having reason to be well satisfied with Mr. Robertson's management.

Jas. Bain & Son (Donald Bain alone) have assigned. The business will be conducted by the Bain Book & Stationery Co., with A. E. Huestis as manager.

GAGE'S VERTICAL SYSTEM IN QUEBEC.

Editor CANADA BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.

SIR,—We were surprised to notice in your issue for February that our statement published in your January number was questioned, viz., that Gage's Practical System of Vertical Writing was not authorized in the province of Quebec, as the action of the Protestant Committee last November was then rather old news. The facts, however, remain unchanged. We were fully aware the unanimous report of the Text Book Committee con-

demning the series was not concurred in at the September meeting. Here is this report: "That the Text Book Committee have carefully examined Gage's Practical System of Vertical Writing, but cannot recommend its authorization because in their opinion 'it is decidedly inferior' in essential points as a series of copy books to the upright series already authorized." No book is authorized until the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council has signed the recommendation of the Protestant or Catholic Committee, as the case may be. This was not done between the September and November meetings of the Protestant Committee and at the latter meeting they saw fit to alter their decision arrived at in September, and unanimously concurred in the report of the Text Book Committee.

Gratton's Vertical Penmanship is the only authorized Canadian series in the province. We append hereto a letter from the secretary of the Department of Public Instruction which will settle the question.

Yours very truly,

F. E. GRATTON & SONS.

Montreal, March 3, 1896.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Quebec, January 13, 1896.

MEMRS. F. E. GRATTON & SONS, Montreal, Que.

SIRS.—In reply to your enquiry as to the position of Gage's Series of Vertical Writing I have the honor to append hereto an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Protestant Committee held on the 29th day of November, 1895.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. W. FARMER, Secretary.

"Resolved: That as the earlier numbers of Gage's System of Vertical Penmanship are defective in grading, the secretary be instructed to inform the Educational Book Company that their earlier numbers must be revised and properly graded before they be submitted to the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council for authorization."