

# Books and Notions,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE

Book, Stationery and Fancy Goods Trades

OF CANADA.

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Subscribers will oblige by informing us at once of any irregularities in delivery.

**J. J. DYAS, Publisher.**

*If you want to buy or sell a Book, Stationery or Drug business, or if you want a competent Assistant advertise in BOOKS AND NOTIONS.*

*If you want a situation in any of the above lines, remember that BOOKS AND NOTIONS is the only paper that will be likely to aid you. A specially low rate, write for it.*

The close of the second year of publication of BOOKS AND NOTIONS gives us the opportunity of placing on record the fact, that financially it has been more of a success than was anticipated. Our subscribers have a right to know this in that they have taken and are taking a warm interest in our success. Many a kind word has been said that we highly appreciate. The second year has been more profitable than the first, and the indications for the next year are decidedly favourable.

We are compelled this month to encroach on the space allotted for reading matter; owing to the large amount of advertising—we have had to leave out half a page till next month. Eight and a half pages out of sixteen is rather too much, but as at Christmas time, your friends will bear with a little less attention than usual on account of the rush of trade, so we trust our friends will, in our holiday times (July and August are our best months), put up with the limited amount of information.

## THE WORLD'S HIGHWAY.

The man who ten years ago would have prophesied that in 1900 a railway would be completed and trains running from Eastern Canada to the Pacific, would have been put down at least as of a very sanguine temperament. Yet now we have the gratifying fact that a through train of the Canadian Pacific Railway has arrived at the western terminus, sharp, on time in six days from Montreal.

The completion and operation of this road will work marvels in, not only the relative importance of Canada, but also on her material welfare.

It is so vast a stride towards a nation's greatness, (not used in the sense of an independent people, but as part of inseparable Britain) that we can hardly yet realize its importance. Reducing by several days, when the connections are fully made, the distance between Europe and Asia, it will become the great carrying highway. Already vessels laden with tea have sailed from China to tranship on our road that most susceptible of plants to the tediousness of a long sea journey. The fetters of the iron link that binds the continent can be borne with quiet contentment.

Now it is announced that the Canadian Pacific Railway is taking steps to have a telegraphic communication with China, by means of a cable across the Pacific. The world does not simply move, it flies.

## THE FIRST HALF-YEAR.

From all points of the Dominion we have accurate reports of the progress of trade up to the end of the half-year; the single exception is New Brunswick.

Taking Toronto as a wholesale centre, its ramifications and that of Montreal are all over our country, business on the whole has been quite equal to last year during the same period.

Staple goods have sold well, and prices have been fairly well maintained. Books for import orders have fallen off to some extent, there being great reluctance to buy until it should be known what the fall trade was likely to be. Christmas cards, when the lines are particularly good and decided novelties, have had good sale, but ordinary lines are considerably behind, dealers, as in books, waiting to purchase in the fall. Fancy goods have been bought more largely. Until June money came in fairly, payments being well met, but in that month, as a wholesale man expressed it, "the bottom dropped out" and renewals became the order of the day. The failures have not been many, nor the losses to any individual house very much.

For Montreal and Halifax reports we refer to our