

DEAR SIR,—I wish to draw the attention of the trade, through your widely-circulated journal, to the unnecessary and annoying changes in school-books, so that the matter may be brought before the Ontario Booksellers' Association, and by them to the notice of the Minister of Education.

I will give you a case in point. As you are aware, the drawing-books now in use are the "Canadian Drawing Course," issued in five numbers. When first issued Nos. 1 and 2 were smaller in size than Nos. 3, 4 and 5, and charged to the trade at 80 cents and 90 cents per dozen respectively. I might state here that these books should be supplied to the trade at 75 cents per dozen, which would leave the publishers a very handsome margin.

In order to get a little closer price, I ordered a quantity of the different numbers. What was my surprise to find, before I had sold out, a change in one of the numbers, the result of which was unsaleable books in stock. I ordered a second quantity, with the same result—a change in another number and unsaleable books again on hand. And, again, a few months ago, Nos. 1 and 2 were enlarged to the same size as the other numbers, without any notice being given. The result was that the dealers who had a stock on hand had difficulty in disposing of them, and in some cases were unable to do so, because as soon as the teachers were aware of the change, they instructed the pupils to buy only the larger ones.

Now, the result of all these changes is annoyance and loss to the retail dealer. When the publishers were spoken to on the matter, they stated that they were instructed by the Minister of Education to make the change; so that they were not responsible for it.

Now, the question is, Are all these changes necessary? If they are, why is there not notice given to the trade in advance, so that they can govern themselves accordingly? As far as the last change is concerned, the books cost enough, in all conscience, to admit of their being enlarged without adding to the price; but there were not even any new plates made in making the change, so that the actual change was only to leave a little more margin on the book, and charge the retailers 10 cents per dozen more. If the higher numbers had been reduced to 80 cents per dozen, it would have been more reasonable.

Now, Mr. Editor, I hope the Association will take up this matter of changes in school-books, and bring it before the Minister of Education; and let me say here that I think it is by taking up practical subjects like that that the Association will benefit the trade.

Toronto.

A SUFFERING DEALER.

[We are satisfied that the simple mention of this matter to the Minister of Education will prevent, in the future, such injustice. Even the cases cited, we cannot believe, came under his notice.—Ed.]

A correspondent of *Truth* offers the following as his idea of an international copyright: Every British and American author should be allowed to obtain a copyright in both countries by selling his work before publication, with due registry, to a publisher in each country. The plan is simple, and obviates all dissension respecting protection of paper manufacturers and publishers, the object, and the sole object, being to secure to the authors of both countries payment for the work of their brains.

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