

copyright laws? Is Canada under the regulations imposed on British publishers in respect to other countries, as determined by the Berne Convention, or is she independent of these regulations? This is the question in a nutshell, and this is the problem which will have to be solved before the trouble can be settled.

So far as French works in Quebec are concerned, the question at issue is whether Canadian publishers are prohibited from printing and selling in Canada, French works, which are protected by international copyright in France, or whether, if they comply with Canadian copyright regulations, they are at liberty to do so, in spite of the decrees of the Berne Convention.

The opening up of this question has naturally created some curiosity about French-Canadian publishing and bookselling. In response to the desire for information on these subjects Bookseller and Stationer has arranged for an interesting series of articles, the first of which appears in the current issue.

*"Leading Canadian Stores" will be a feature this year in Bookseller and Stationer. Watch the series.*

### THE VALENTINE REVIVAL.

IT cannot be said that the vogue of the valentine this year was unexpected. Manufacturers and jobbers reckoned on a good sale and made preparations accordingly. But it is doubtful whether any of them realized the extent to which the valentine would gain a hold on the public. We would have to go back many a year before we would find a time when dealers did so well with their valentines.

This year can be counted on to see a strong interest in valentines, Easter cards, picture postcards and Christmas cards, and the greatest of these will be the picture postcards. No stock of valentines or Easter or Christmas cards is complete to-day without the interspersing of appropriate picture postcards. In fact, it is a question whether the call for picture postcards has not given rise to the call for the other varieties. Be that as it may, the demand is there and dealers should make the best possible use of it.

*Bookseller and Stationer carried 60 pages more advertising in 1904 than in 1903, and 86 pages more reading matter.*

### CANADIAN LITERATURE.

SKINS are not wanting that there promises to be a quickening of the literary spirit in Canada. There has always been a literary spirit in this country, of course, and, according to population, it has been a strong spirit. But it has always tended towards the conservative. It has never launched out, or if it has, it has done so at rare intervals and in isolated instances. To-day we find new magazines on the market, new periodicals in preparation, new histories and biographies being written, and an increasing demand for, and appreciation of, the work of Canadian authors. It is unnecessary to detail the various new ventures and changes. They are visible on every side. Every book store shows its Canadian

novels prominently. Every newstand has its Canadian editions of English and American periodicals and its pile of promising Canadian publications. Every metropolitan newspaper, at least, has its page of literary gossip and criticism. One and all evince a quickening of that literary spirit to which we have referred.

*Bookseller and Stationer aims to give its subscribers practical information and its advertisers wide publicity.*

### CUT PRICES AGAIN.

TWO opinions on the question of price cutting in the book trade appear in this number, called forth by our editorial last month on "Cut Prices of Books." In the main they are directed towards answering the charge that salesmen in the book departments of departmental stores never possess the knowledge of books they should. The ground taken is that, as these salesmen sell nothing but books, they naturally know a good deal about them.

The discussion has opened up the old question, What is to become of the bookstore? This can be answered in one of two ways, it seems to us. Either the book store is going to concede the field in popular and cheap books to the department store and specialize on standard works, fine editions and the better class of literature, or it is going to branch out and, by the addition of other departments, endeavor to hold the entire field of literature. Specialization admits of great expansion. There are methods of handling and retailing books, as yet undreamed of by the average bookseller, which, if put in practice, would save the situation. And on the other hand the benefits of expansion have never yet been adequately realized. A retreat in either direction is open to the harassed bookseller.

*Bookseller and Stationer gives fair service to all.*

### THE PATRIOTIC CRY.

AS far as possible Canadians should give a preference to the works of Canadian authors. At the same time Canadian authors should never count on the support of Canadian readers, simply because they are Canadians. Many a novel, many a volume of poetry, many a work of history and biography and many a periodical, miserably mediocre in character, has been foisted on the Canadian public and its sale urged on the ground that it represented struggling Canadian literature. Better have no Canadian literature at all than that it should have to be judged by such a standard. Fortunately for our national reputation, we have some authors who can hold their own in the international arena and to whom we can point with pride as exponents of Canadian ideals and standards. We are to-day producing histories and biographies of real merit. Our novelists are winning world-wide fame. It is to be regretted that certain writers should be advancing unworthy claims for recognition. The patriotic cry has its limit.

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