

# Books and Notions

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BOOKS AND NOTIONS, TORONTO.

THE Booksellers of Ontario are to be congratuated upon their annual meeting which occurred on the 31st ult. A hearty, harmonious meeting, a clear understanding as to what they met for, and a prompt business-like way of doing it, and finally, the election of an able staff of officers. BOOKS AND NOTIONS heartily welcomes them, new and old, and will work with them for the benefit of the whole trade.

COPYRIGHT legislation is at present attracting the attention of the whole civilized world, and an attempt is being made to establish a universal system. The Berne Convention, of which we have already spoken, is being adopted with and without variations in many countries, Great Britain has adopted it in its entirety, and the government of this country would have adopted it at last session of Parliament but for the prompt action of a few of the publishers and printers of this city, who perceiving that under existing circumstances such a course would ruin the publishing trade here, and would materially injure the printing, stereotyping, paper, and kindred trades, they organized a Copyright Association, and by vigorous action delayed the passing of the Act for that session.

Since that time the Association has had numerous meetings and consultations with authorities; they have drafted a new Copyright Bill which we print in another column and to which we direct your special attention. The gist of the proposed bill is:—

1st. That foreign publishers and authors are to have their rights protected in Canada under the following conditions: (a) That at the time of their first publication they register in Ottawa their intention to publish here. (b) That they publish here within two months first issue.

2nd. That reprints of such books, etc., as are thus registered and in process of manufacture, shall not be admitted into Canada during those two months.

3rd. That foreign publishers or authors neglecting to register or to publish as above stated, forfeit their rights, and after the expiration of the two months any person or persons may publish reprints.

Mr. J. Ross Robertson, the President of the Copyright Association, and Mr. G. H. Suckling, a member of that Association, appeared before the Copyright Committee of the Booksellers' Association and explained the situation of affairs and the features of the proposed bill, and that Committee referred the matter to the Annual Meeting with the result that our Association has taken hold of the matter heartily and will aid the sister association in securing desirable legislation.

We would be pleased to have our subscribers discuss the features of the proposed bill in BOOKS AND NOTIONS.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Booksellers and Stationers' Association of Ontario was held on Wednesday Oct. 31st, at the Queen's Hotel. Mr. H. Fred Sharpe, St. Marys, was in the chair. Among those present were Messrs. B. H. Rothwell, Brantford; N. T. Wilson, London; W. Middleton, Kingston; George Tait, St. Catharines; W. H. Murch, St. Thomas; J. G. Cloke, Hamilton; R. A. Cormack, Whitby; Donald Bain, Wm. Bryce, J. J. Dyas, J. T. Hornibrook, Henry Hutchison, A. S. Irving, S. R. Hart, R. T. Lancefield, J. B. McLean, D. A. Rose, A. F. Rutter, H. L. Thompson, G. R. Warwick, A. G. Watson, and S. Wallace, Toronto.

Letters regretting their inability to be present were read from Miss Karch, Peterboro, and Joseph Fletcher, Toronto. Miss Karch's name was received with applause, Mr. Dyas remarking that she was the only lady member of the Association.

The minutes of the last semi-annual meeting were read and adopted. Mr. J. J. Dyas read the secretary and treasurer's reports, which were adopted. The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand at last annual meeting of \$9.90. Receipts for the year were \$123.90 and disbursements were \$110.80, leaving a balance on hand of \$13.40.

The following is the secretary's report:

Since the last semi-annual meeting the question of copyright has been prominently brought under our notice, and on the suggestion of the city members of the Executive Committee, the President appointed a special committee to consider the subject. The report of that committee will be presented at this meeting. Postage on periodicals has also been a subject of con-