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Editorial.

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Canada is making giant strides in many directions. Business generally is good. Even the publishing business is better than it used to be; but it is not what it ought to be and what it would be if the Canadian Government would enact a fair Canadian Copyright Act. The United States Congress is certainly to be admired for the manner in which it has fostered the publishing interests of the United States of America. How much longer are the publishing interests of Canada to be sacrificed to a sentimental regard for the interests of British publishers? As we have said, Canada is making great strides in many directions; but the Copyright Department at Ottawa is not having an increased prosperity to any appreciable extent. This is demonstrated by a comparison of the statistics of the Department for the last two years. In 1897 the Department granted 748 copyrights. In 1898 the Department granted only 688 copyrights. This of course is supremely ridiculous. Instead of a decrease there should be an increase, but under the present absurd and unjust law, no material increase can be ex-

pected. Let us have a just Canadian Copyright Act, and the number of Canadian copyrights granted would be quickly increased. An examination of the copyrights granted in 1898 may be interesting. Roughly speaking, they may be divided as follows:—

BOOKS.

Religious	27
Educational	37
Legal	27
Business	31
Mining and agriculture	14
Historical	21
Biography and travels	11
Directories and annuals	20
Fiction	39
Poetry and drama	10
Miscellaneous	40
Music books	4

281

OTHER THAN BOOKS.

Sheet music	130
Photographs	48
Games	8
Photogravures and paintings	17
Advertising catalogues, etc.	58
Maps and charts	42
Blank forms and cards	39
Periodicals	57
Temporary copyrights	8

407

Total 688

Justin McCarthy's "Modern England Before the Reform Bill," in the "Story of the Nations Series," is published by T. Fisher Unwin, London, at 5s., and by G. Putnam's Sons, New York, at \$1.50.

Rider Haggard's new novel, "Doctor Therne," which treats of the vaccination discussion, is published in "Longman's Colonial Library," in both cloth and paper. It is also published by Longman's, of New York, at \$1 in cloth.

At a recent meeting of the Trustees of the Astor and Lennox Libraries, New York, it was decided, in response to demands from the public, to keep the libraries open on all legal holidays, except Christmas, New Year's, and the Fourth of July.

"The Life of Henry Drummond," author of "The Greatest Thing in the World," and "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," is published by Hodder & Stoughton, London, at 7s. 6d., and by Doubleday & McClure Co., New York, at \$3. This is the authorized biography by George Adam Smith.

To see and handle absolutely the first book ever printed, what a pleasure for bibliophiles! Mr. Percy Fitzgerald saw and handled this book. One would naturally expect it to be, as Mr. Fitzgerald says, "a rude, unformed, ill-fashioned thing." Instead it is really a masterpiece of the printing art. It was a first attempt, and yet modern printers agree that is impossible to match it. It is interesting to know that the book was sold at Sotheby's for £3,000.

Hall Caine and Anthony Hope are most successful in having their novels put on the stage. Hope will soon have four plays running in America; "Rupert of Hentzau," "Lady Ursula," and "When a Man's in Love" have already met with great success in America, and a new adaptation of "Phroso" is just being produced now. A successful play means an enormous sale for the novel on which it is founded. Booksellers in towns where dramatized novels are played should note this fact.

A suit for libel against a newspaper is a common occurrence, but it is unusual that a novelist should be called to account in the same way. An action of this sort, however, is at present causing the noted French writer, Gyp, a great deal of trouble, and she is in extremely hot water because of a certain passage in one of her latest books, "Le Journal d'un Grinchu." This passage is only a dozen words in length, and it states: "M. Trarieux became a Protestant for the sake of making an advantageous marriage." That might not seem at first sight a very dangerous statement, but the fact that M. Trarieux is a senator alters the case. For each copy of the book sold Trarieux demands five hundred francs, the suppression of the passage in future editions, and fifty thousand francs damages.

General Kitchener, after his victorious campaign in Egypt, was asked to write a book, more than one publisher offering him