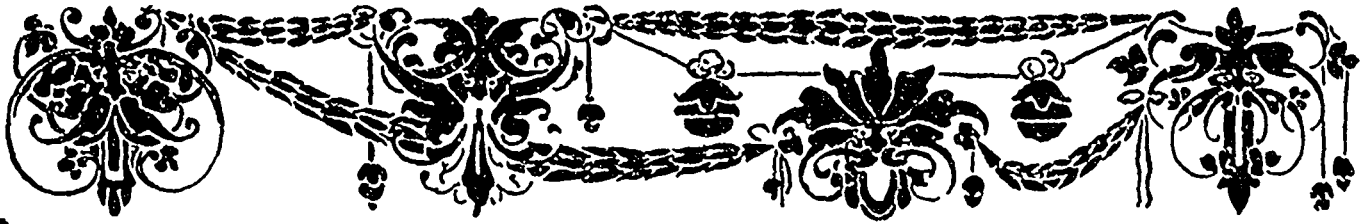


The Bookseller and Stationer



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No. 12.

CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS OF TRADE INTEREST.

The School Book Controversy. We have received some additional letters from our readers with reference to the proposal to give notice to the trade before changes in authorized text books are made. It will be seen that Mr. Copeland, of Windsor, makes an excellent suggestion in connection with notifications to the trade by headmasters, which appears to be easily carried out. Mr. McKean, of Mount Forest, agrees with his colleagues in the bookselling trade as to the necessity of notice. His letter reads as follows:

"I have read with much interest the letters in BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER with reference to the school book question, and am much gratified to see the agitation for improvement, for, so long as booksellers do not express their dissatisfaction with the present conditions, they cannot expect to have their grievances remedied.

"Mr. Wilson, of Seaforth, and Mr. Nelles, of Guelph, offer practical solutions

which are worthy of consideration. If it is thought to be in the best interests of the community that the general public should not know how long books are to be authorized, there is certainly no reason why the fact should not be communicated to the trade a reasonable time before there is any change in text books. The Government, in my opinion, should control a space in BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, in which contemplated changes in text books could be announced in due course. No person could raise any objection to such a system, unless it be the publishers, who might wish to work off their stocks on the retailers just before the book is withdrawn. Even they would have no just reason for complaint, for, under the system proposed, they could regulate their stock to suit the time.

"The scheme suggested by Mr. Nelles, of announcing the time for which books are authorized, could also be done through the Government space in BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, and thus simplify matters for both retailers and publishers.

"Yours truly,

"A. MCKEAN"

"Mount Forest, November 27."

Mr. Copeland writes as follows:

"It is not very easy to suggest a plan to overcome the difficulty you complain of that would be satisfactory. Something should be done though. It would perhaps interfere somewhat with the sale of books if new editions were announced some time ahead, but I think that would be the only way to do. If possible I would like to see such an arrangement made, and make the advance notice a year.

"There is another thing I would like to mention with a view to getting the opinion of your readers. I would be glad to see some arrangement made whereby the principals

of all schools, both high and public, would furnish the booksellers in their localities with a list of text books on all the different subjects intended to be taught during the term, such lists to be furnished at least two weeks or a month before the opening of the term. If this could be done it would put the dealer in a position to put in stock some of all text books to be used and obviate the necessity of getting so many by express during the two school opening days.

"Yours truly,

"G. E. COPELAND."

"Windsor, Ont., November 17."

Copyright on Pictures.

Judge Rose has given his decision in the action of Henry Graves & Son, of London, Eng., against several Canadian dealers who have been handling Canadian reprints of Maud Earl's famous picture, "What We Have We'll Hold." The court holds that English copyright on pictures, unlike that of books, is not Imperial, thus applying to Canada, but is confined to the United Kingdom. On this ground the suits against the Canadian defendants fail. This decision is important, since it relieves the trade for the present of any legal interference with sales of cheap reprints of well-known pictures copyrighted in England.

Copyright in Books.

We see no reason to change our opinion that the new Canadian copyright law is an effective measure. This not being a legal opinion may be questioned, but it is given on the ground that one is wiser to avoid litigation than to get into it, seeing that the profits of the average retail bookseller are not sufficiently large to warrant his indulging in law suits.

A case between two important members of the trade, however, will be watched with