

rate, that the cost of mailing English magazines from Toronto is just six times as much as the cost of mailing the same English papers from Buffalo. That surely, is a matter worthy of consideration. What the Postmaster General has said does not answer that at all, does not show any good reason for it. He does not deny that that anomaly exists, and he has not given any good reason, that I have heard, why it should continue to exist.

Mr. Haggart.—I do not understand the hon. gentleman. Does he mean to say that a cent, or whatever it may be for three or four ounces, is too much for periodicals that are re-sent through the post office? I am only following out the law.

Mr. Edgar. Perhaps he is following out the law, but I venture the suggestion that the law is an improper one that gives the people an opportunity of sending from Buffalo for half-a-cent what costs twelve cents to send from Toronto. It is discriminating heavily against our own newsdealers in this country, and discriminating grossly in favor of newsdealers on the other side of the line; and surely that is not the National Policy.

Mr. Haggart. No; you do not understand. The newsdealer who gets a periodical from the old country to Buffalo or New York, pays the mail across from London to New York, and, besides that, he pays this postage. If they be mailed from the old country to Toronto or Montreal, he pays no postage in this country; therefore it is cheaper in this country than in the other.

Mr. Edgar.—The Buffalo man did not pay the mail any more than our man.

Mr. Waldie.—The Postmaster General is mistaken as to the course of the dealers. The dealers in Buffalo, get their periodicals from the old country by express, in just the same way as our dealers in this country. I am compelled to say, that our postage rates are a great deal too high, and discriminate against the dealers of this country.

Since the above discussion took place in the House the Toronto Post Office has issued the following circular to the trade:—

"Only such British papers and periodicals as reach Canada by mail are allowed to be re-posted free to Canadian subscribers. Dealers re-posting such publications free are requested to state either verbally or on the covers of the packets whether they have been received from Great Britain by mail."

The executive committee is hard at work, and hope eventually to induce the Postmaster General to accede to our request.

TORONTO BOOKSELLERS.

At the second monthly meeting of the Toronto Booksellers' Association held on the 1st inst., in the office of BOOKS AND NOTIONS, the report of the committee that had interviewed the Ontario Ministry with reference to free school books was presented and received; the city was divided into sections to which canvassers for new members were detailed; the fees of members were received. The number present was fifteen.

THE NEW YORK PUBLISHERS' COMBINATION.

Combination among the New York publishers has been finally consummated, and the era of cheap books is over. Thus the trade here should be thankful for. In the

old chaos books could be bought in New York at ruinously low prices, and dealers were forced to sell here at little or no profit. But while the prices go up in New York it is a question if the advance will not be wholly at the expense of the retailer. The price conventionally established for a book is very tenacious and conservative in its downwardness. Prices are easily reducible, but long-standing ones are with difficulty put up on books. The retailer will have to pay more, but will the retailer get more? That is for the trade to settle, and as the trade has been remiss in doing what it could to settle the former unsatisfactory condition of the business in American books, it is not a matter of sanguine expectation that the trade will assert itself in this emergency. Prices of all "libraries" have gone up. Why should retailers not put them up on their customers? The large "universal" stores are in the way of a unanimous advance, and that is the chief obstacle. The Munro, Seaside, Lovell, Hurst, "libraries" are in the combination, and all will be issued henceforth under the general name of "Seaside." Ogilvie is the only publisher not in it, and he cannot withstand it.

One good result of the advance will be that newspapers can no longer afford to give away so much literature and thereby hinder trade. Another is that our own publishers will have more to do, as a consequence of the check to importation. The rise in prices will at the same time raise the quality of the books. The duty and the advance will help the Canadian publishers to pay their royalty. English publishers will get better orders for cloth bound books, the Americans having gone up so high. Heretofore the English Christmas books had a very poor market here, which will now be improved.

The advance on "libraries" is large, running in some cases to nearly 50 per cent. That advance will be felt at once. The advance on standard fiction is quite 50 per cent. but that is not likely to be felt here before the fall. The better paper, binding and printing of the latter will be the value received for this advance. If there is no advance among retailers upon "libraries" they will be able to redeem some of the trade now in the hands of the large general stores. In a larger trade they may make up for stationery prices.

The plates of the competing editions of standard sets (12 mos.), and poets, that have already been obtained or contracted for, are from Hurst & Co., Worthington Company, W. L. Allison, Alden Book Co., Pollard & Moss, F. F. Lovell & Co., G. W. Dillingham, of New York; Aldine Book Co., Estes & Lauriat, De Wolfe, Fiske & Co., of Boston; J. B. Lyon, of Albany; Donohue, Henneberry & Co., Belford, Clarke & Co., of Chicago; J. B. Lippincott Co., of Philadelphia, and the plates and stock of the paper-covered series of George Munro, Norman L. Munro, National Publishing Co. of New York.

MUSIC NOTES.

"Haute Volee;" Rye, by Chas. Bohner. "On Time;" Jersey, by Chas. Bohner. "Memory;" Song, by Toujee. The above are the new pieces of music with which Messrs. Whaley, Royce & Co. are on hand for this month's trade. They have received an encouraging demand for their latest music, and are prepared to fill large orders.

The twelfth thousand of the University of Toronto Song Book has just been issued by Messrs. T. Suckling & Sons. The collection of academic favorites is most acceptably presented in this issue and should command a wide sale. The book is already well established in the favor of Canadians, and is growing in popularity every year.

The Anglo-Canadian Music Publishing Association are ready to supply the trade with the following select issues, for which there is already a strong demand:—

"The Gondoliers" (1) Lancers; (2) Polka; (3) Quadrille; (4) Waltz, from Gilbert & Sullivan's Opera. Price 60 cents.

"Sunshine and Shade." Valse, by Thos. Bonheur. Price, 60 cents.

"Rosina." Military Schottische, by Marcato. Price, 35 cents.

"Geraldine." Waltz, by J. B. Hutchins. Price, 50 cents.

"When the Lights are Low." Valse, by Thos. Bonheur. Price, 60 cents.

The latest music which Messrs. I. Suckling & Sons have got out is bright, attractive and sure to sell. Three of the leading pieces are:—

"Fantasie." Valse, by Chas. Carte. Price, 60 cents.

"Toujours a Toi." Valse, by E. Frazer Blackstock. Price, 50 cents.

"Winter Pleasures." Polka, by Chas. Bonheur. Price, 35 cents.

The Government has decided to admit books for Toronto University library free of customs duty.

In placing their new goods on the market this year, the Reinhardt Manufacturing Co., of Montreal, have reduced their prices even lower than last year, notwithstanding the duty has been raised on imported goods. Their Izzano in oxidized silver are being greatly admired and selling well.

The plumbago industry, which is mainly represented by a mine situated near Buckingham, is not pleased at what the Minister of Finance, has done for it. The material enters into stove polish, lead pencils, and other articles, and the protection afforded, they claim, is not sufficient to keep out foreign producers. The duty has been raised from 25 to 35 per cent. however, on lead pencils, without any obvious grounds for it.