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CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS
OF INTEREST TO THE TRADE.

The Copyright Bill

At last, after several years' delay, an effort is being made to put Canadian copyright laws on a better footing. The measure which we publish in another column will be read by all booksellers with interest. It has not yet passed the House of Commons as we go to press. Those who know, say that it will go through. If the English authorities do not intervene, as they did before, the measure will soon be the law of the land, and some Canadian editions will thus have the market to themselves. We have discussed the subject so often that there is little to add now. We have always thought that a good copyright law was better than the present condition of affairs, where the dealer is not sure exactly where he stands as to his rights in selling books. But, supposing, some dealers may say, prices of these Canadian editions are put up, how will that be to our advantage? The chances are that whether the copyright law passes or not prices on copyright paper editions will go up. At least, that is the tendency. There is not enough money for the Canadian publisher in the present paper edition even at 75c. This is well known. If they were put up to \$1, and the 50c. books to 75c., the dealer would have the same margin of profit that he has on them

at their present prices. Not so many might be sold of course, but we doubt that. There is a distinct demand for new copyright books. In nearly every case they fetch 6s. in England and \$1.50 in the United States. The issue, therefore, in Canada of paper editions of them at 50 and 75c. is an exceptional thing, and could not be expected to last long. We have no doubt that Canadian publishers, once they get the market to themselves on certain books, will push them far more vigorously than it was worth while to do in the past. If any dealer desires to suggest an amendment to the Bill he ought to communicate promptly with the Minister of Agriculture.

The Library Association.

The American Library Association, whose membership includes the librarians of Canada, began its 24th annual meeting in Montreal on Wednesday evening, June 6, and the meeting is in progress as we go to press. The valuable and practical paper, which we print elsewhere in this issue, and which was read to the association by Mr. James Bain, jr., of the Toronto Public Library, will show the extent and resources of our Canadian libraries, in a way not previously shown. In all the larger centres the bookselling trade are accustomed to say

that they regard the presence of a library not in the light of a competitor, but as an incitement to reading, and, therefore, a help to them. The libraries, therefore, are not rivals of the trade. But, even if they were, their existence and increase must perforce be recognized, and, as they buy a good many books, they are, from that standpoint, of considerable interest to the regular trade. The Montreal meeting has been especially successful in the exhibits of books and appliances which have been got together. Some Canadian publishers have given specimens of Canadian book-making, which has now reached such a high level of excellence.

Summer Reading.

The trade must now be ready for the Summer trade in books. The local dealer should not let any of his well-known customers depart from town for the holidays without reminding them that he has a line of books for Summer reading, that they may take with them. There are a number of books to retail at 10c. or 15c. in the market and the dealer cannot afford to be without these. A contemporary quotes the head of one of the big New York department stores to show how these stores make a success of the book business during the Summer months. He says: "Books have their season. With Spring bonnets comes the invasion of the paper novel, so close to the heart of the damsel who lolls in the hammock and basks in the sunshine on