

# The Bookseller and Stationer

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## Topics of the Day.

BY the death of Dr. Douglas Brymner, F.R.S.C., the Dominion Archivist, on June 19, an office of great importance has been left vacant, the filling of which will be no easy task. Dr. Brymner was exactly qualified for the duties demanded from the holder of such a position. He had the love for research, and the ability to arrange and care for the valuable documents placed in his care, which are the necessary qualifications of one who would build up the historic annals of the nation. It was in 1872 that he became the first Archivist of Canada, having previously been associate editor of The Montreal Herald and a thoroughly trained newspaperman.

To the ranks of the newspapermen one must look for his successor. Three names of some weight have been suggested. The first, Dr. James Hannay, for many years editor of The St. John Telegraph, possesses considerable historical knowledge and has had experience in research work. The second is Mr. H. F. Gardner, M.A., editor of The Hamilton Times, likewise a man of some repute in the historical field. The third is Mr. Edouard Richard, who has just published two volumes on the expulsion of the Acadians, which have received much attention.

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AS far as the Canadian market is concerned, the loss on the special illustrated publications does not appear to have been heavy on account of the postponement of the Coronation proceedings. The Coronation numbers have been pretty well cleaned up on this market, a good many

having been purchased to bind up in sets even before the cable announced the regrettable illness of His Majesty. The fact that the Coronation was postponed naturally deprived the special numbers of illustrated papers of some interest, but the publications were such exceedingly fine works of art that this fact alone would insure a large sale of them. Of course, the publishers of the illustrated papers depicting the coronation procession would naturally lose money on account of the postponement of the ceremonies.

Emerson tells us there is compensation in everything, and it is to be hoped that when the Coronation does take place all who have lost money on account of the postponement in the present instance will be fully compensated for their loss.

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ONE or two of the towns and cities in Canada which have been in receipt of donations from Andrew Carnegie for the purpose of establishing local libraries have found that the sum received has not been sufficient, and have accordingly held out their hands for more. Such a practice, we are glad to say, is not common; even a mendicant is pretty far gone before he can summon up courage to ask a man who has just given him a dollar for another.

There may be a difference of opinion in Canada as to the advisability of accepting donations from Mr. Carnegie for library purposes, but there can scarcely be any difference of opinion in regard to asking him to supplement what he has already given.

A city, particularly one the size of Montreal, ought to be able to raise at least

sufficient money to create a first-class library without humiliating itself, as it certainly is, in asking Mr. Carnegie to further increase the handsome sum which he has already given to that city.

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ONE class of books, the sale of which has been for the present, at any rate, greatly curtailed on account of the King's illness, is the Anglican prayer book containing the special ritual for the Coronation ceremony. A sample of one of these prayer books which arrived in Toronto the other day is an exceedingly fine work of art. The Coronation ritual was printed in the beginning of the book, while following came the common prayer and the ordinary ritual. No doubt, a few months hence, when the Coronation actually takes place, these prayer books will be in large demand.

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BY watching the advance sheets of the different magazines which are published on this continent and in Great Britain, and acquainting their customers who are magazine readers with the features of subjects that are to be the special features, Canadian booksellers might be able to increase their sales, and, of course, their profits, in the magazine branch of their trade. BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, will, as far as possible every month, give a resume of the principal features of the ensuing month's publications, and it is to be hoped that the trade will find this department of some assistance to them.

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MR. JAS. BAIN, librarian of the city of Toronto, was admitted to the distinguished degree of D.C.L. on the recent occasion of Trinity University's Jubilee. This recognition of the valuable services of this foremost educationalist was a graceful tribute of academic appreciation. The efficiency of the public libraries is due to the strenuous efforts of a comprehensive intelligence. None merited the degree better than Toronto's librarian, and Trinity is to be congratulated upon the receipt of this worthy alumnus, no less than Mr. Bain upon the conferring of the degree.