

THE Bookseller and Stationer

Vol. XIX.

MONTREAL AND TORONTO, CANADA, MARCH, 1903.

No. 3.

CURRENT TOPICS

WHILE it is true that Canada is to-day importing practically as much foreign wall paper as she did 12 years ago, it must not be forgotten that her exportation of a creditable home-made product, has been growing of late years by leaps and bounds. Canada is the home of several clean, active wall paper manufactories, and the quality of the product turned out by them is deserving of the highest commendation. Customs returns show that Canada exported only 409 rolls of Canadian-made wall paper in 1890. In 1895 the exportation had increased to 9,760 rolls, of which over 6,000 rolls were consigned to Great Britain. In 1902, Canada's export of wall paper had reached the important total of 246,075 rolls. All the larger British colonies were customers, Newfoundland, to the extent of 96,341 rolls, New Zealand, 87,403 rolls, and Australia, 31,084 rolls. On the side of importation, Canada purchased in the neighborhood of 2,766,000 rolls in 1890, of which nearly all came from the United States. In 1902 these figures had only been reduced to 2,402,201 rolls.

In commenting on the judgment handed out by Mr. Justice Street, in the case of Black v. The Imperial Book Company, which we published in our last number, *The Publisher's Circular*, of London, the organ of the English publishing world, says, "We congratulate A. & C. Black on having defeated the pirates, who have been selling

the reprint of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* in Canada. As will be seen from the report we publish of the judgment (and we would advise publishers to file it for reference), the defendants, after damaging Messrs. Black to the extent of many thousands of pounds, had the impertinence in their defence to claim that Messrs. Black were not the owners of the copyright in *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*. This is a very satisfactory vindication of the law of copyright, and the rights of British owners of copyright in Canada, and must be very gratifying to Mr. George N. Morang, Mr. Daldy and others, who have worked so hard to show that English copyright still holds good in Canada."

The necessity for reserving accommodation in the numerous libraries that are being erected all over Canada, for art galleries, cannot be emphasized too strongly.

If art be the expressions of the best human emotions and aspirations, surely art is to be encouraged and not coldly tolerated. For a young nation, Canada possesses a laudable regard for art. She has in her midst painters and sculptors of merit, and whenever an opportunity is afforded the public to inspect their work, the opportunity is readily and eagerly taken

advantage of. The Brantford Expositor makes a sensible remark in this connection. If, says The Expositor, there be such opposition to the acceptance of the Carnegie gifts, on the ground that they make our cities appear helpless and indigent, then much of the unpleasant feeling might be removed, were the various corporations to exert themselves in beautifying the library buildings at their own expense. This might well be done by providing art galleries, to which the citizens might point with righteous pride as the fruit of their own exertions.

From down beside the sea come complaints about school book monopolies. The St. John Daily Sun of February 26, voices these murmurings in a lengthy editorial. Its chief objection to the present state of affairs in New Brunswick seems to be, that the purchaser of school books there has to deal with two monopolies every time he buys a book. There is first the original publisher of the book, wherever he may be, and then the New Brunswick firm which publishes the book under Government sanction. None of the school books are printed in the Province, and to this The Sun takes serious exception. It claims that work can be done as well in New Brunswick as elsewhere, and it has carried on an investigation to prove it. It is evident that the same spirit which likes to see home industries encouraged is at work down in St. John.

It is a pleasure to find certain of our newspapers devoting editorial space to a consideration of literary subjects. The idea that the editorial columns of a paper should be devoted exclusively to political discussion, is becoming exploded, and a good work will be done if an occasional reference to healthy literary subjects is made. Booksellers will benefit both directly and indirectly by such articles. The creation of a desire for the reading of the best literature cannot fail but produce an increased demand for standard books.

As a result of years of agitation on the part of publishers and patriots, assisted in great measure by the press, the postage on Canadian newspapers and periodicals, mailed to England has been reduced to the domestic rate. Half the battle has been won, and there are hopes that the reduction will presently be reciprocal. Meanwhile, Canada is bound to benefit by the concession she has secured. England will be more accessible to those who are anxious to disseminate information concerning Canada, and this country will consequently become better known to the inhabitants of the Motherland. To those who have pushed this matter to its present happy conclusion, all credit is due. The new regulation became effective on March 7.