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CURRENT TOPICS.

ONCE more the Autumn season in the book trade has returned and long lists of announcements are to be seen on every hand. The Fall of 1903 will witness an increase in the number of publications. Publishers in the Old Land are preparing to inundate the market there, and never since the period before the war will English readers be as well provided with books. The same activity is to be noted among United States publishers, and a reflex of the wave has struck Canada as well. Publishers' lists in this country are representative of the best fiction that is being brought out both in London and New York. Outside of fiction Canadian publishers are not venturing far, though a notable exception is being made this Fall in the cases of Morley's "Life of Gladstone" and Sir Gilbert Parker's "Quebec."

FOR the past month the retail book trade has been of fair proportions. Readers have been buying a great variety of books, and have not centred their interest on any three or four particular favorites. As a result, the leading book in the Canadian market only scores some 82 points out of a possible 160. "The Grey Cloak" remains at the head of the list of best sellers, followed by "Gordon Keith," "The Mettle of the Pasture," "The Sacrifice of the Shannon," "Lady Rose's Daughter," "Letters of a Self-Made Merchant," "The Virginian," "The Four Feathers," "The Prince of Sinners" and "Bubbles We Buy." Some 30 other novels figure on our list of best selling books for September. A noticeable feature in this connection is the manner in which the favorites of last season still maintain their sales. "The Virginian," in particular, has appeared among the best six for many months back.

THE Canadian Manufacturers' Association, at its recent convention in Toronto, set its seal of approval on the copyright agitation of Canadian publishers and passed a resolution urging the Imperial Parliament to allow Canada free play in making its own copyright laws. In principle, of course, it seems clear that the Canadian Parliament should be accorded this privilege—a privilege which it enjoys in

almost all departments of legislation. In practice, on the other hand, it is a matter of doubt whether the great mass of Canadians—the so-called public—would derive much benefit, or any benefit at all, from the removal of Canada from under the Imperial copyright laws. The whole question is so complicated in its details that the greatest care must be exercised in handling it. It is to be hoped that no rash action on the part of either interest will precipitate unpleasant complications.

Canadian Copyright.

THE editor of The Picture Post Card and Collector's Chronicle, an English publication, prophesies a big boom in Christmas post cards in that country. That they will in large measure take the place of the old-fashioned Christmas cards he is firmly convinced. How much easier, he reasons, to purchase and despatch a dozen post cards than to send out Christmas cards in envelopes. While his remarks scarcely apply to our Canadian trade, where the post card has not yet reached its own, dealers might do well to ponder on his remarks and bestir themselves in this direction. That picture post cards can and will be sold here in large numbers is certain. They have novelty to encourage their sales, and novelty goes a long way to-day. Dealers should supplement their stock of ordinary Christmas cards with a variety of appropriate post cards.

Pictorial Post Cards.

NO doubt a number of our readers are at times seeking reliable information on some specific matter appertaining to one or another of the branches of their business. BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER will at all times endeavor to furnish subscribers with information they may be desirous of obtaining on any special subject connected with the book, stationery and kindred trades. It may be you are thinking of adding or developing some particular line of business, or wanting to find the best market in which to obtain a special article or range of goods. If this is so, do not fail to make use of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER. If the information is not at hand, it will be no trouble to us to look it up for you.

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