

BEST SELLING BOOKS OF THE PAST MONTH.

As Reported by Leading Canadian Retail Dealers.

BRANTFORD.

1. "With Roberts to Pretoria," by G. A. Henty. Copp.
2. "Mark Everard," by Knox Magee. McLeod.
3. "The Crisis," by W. Churchill. Copp.
4. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Morang.
5. "Tarry Thou Till I Come," by G. Croly. Briggs.

GUELPH.

1. "Kim," by R. Kipling. Morang.
2. "The Man from Glengarry," by R. Connor. Briggs.
3. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Morang.
4. "Mark Everard," by K. Magee. McLeod.
5. "Lazarre," by M. H. Catherwood. McLeod.
6. "Right of Way," by G. Parker. Copp.

HAMILTON.

1. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Morang.
2. "The Crisis," by W. Churchill. Copp.
3. "Right of Way," by G. Parker. Copp.
4. "Good Red Earth," by E. Phillips. Briggs.
5. "Kim," by R. Kipling. Morang.
6. "Tristram of Blent," by A. Hope. Morang.

KINGSTON.

1. "The Man from Glengarry," by R. Connor. Briggs.
2. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Morang.

3. "Dri and I," by I. Bacheller. Briggs.
4. "Lives of the Hunted," by E. Seton-Thompson. Morang.
5. "The Benefactress," Copp.
6. "Kim," by R. Kipling. Morang.

LONDON.

1. "Graustark," by G. B. McCutcheon. McLeod.
2. "Right of Way," by G. Parker. Copp.
3. "The Crisis," by W. Churchill. Copp.
4. "Eben Holden," by I. Bacheller. Briggs.
5. "Tarry Thou Till I Come," by G. Croly. Briggs.
6. "Alice of Old Vincennes," by M. Thompson. Briggs.

OTTAWA.

1. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Morang.
2. "Kim," by R. Kipling. Morang.
3. "Tristram of Blent," by A. Hope. Morang.
4. "Mark Everard," by K. Magee. McLeod.
5. "Johnnie Courteau," by W. H. Drummond. Putnam.
6. "Right of Way," by G. Parker. Copp.
7. "Circumstances," by S. W. Mitchell. Copp.
8. "The Man from Glengarry," by R. Connor. Briggs.

STRATFORD.

1. "Doom Castle," by N. Munro. Copp.
2. "Right of Way," by G. Parker. Copp.

3. "Dri and I," by I. Bacheller. Briggs.
4. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Morang.
5. "Lives of the Hunted," by E. Seton-Thompson. Morang.
6. "The Crisis," by W. Churchill. Copp.

CANADIAN SUMMARY.

	Points.
1. "The Eternal City"	53
2. "Right of Way"	31
3. "Kim"	27
4. "The Crisis"	26
5. "Mark Everard"	20
6. "The Man from Glengarry"	20

ENGLAND.

1. "Kim," by R. Kipling. Macmillan, 6s.
2. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Heinemann, 6s.
3. "The Benefactress," Macmillan, 6s.
4. "Right of Way," by G. Parker. Heinemann, 6s.
5. "New Canterbury Tales," by Hewlett. Constable, 6s.
6. "The Purple Cloud," by Shiels. Chatto, 6s.

UNITED STATES.

1. "Right of Way," by G. Parker. Harper, \$1.50.
2. "The Crisis," by W. Churchill. Macmillan, \$1.50.
3. "The Eternal City," by H. Caine. Appleton, \$1.50.
4. "Dri and I," by I. Bacheller. Lothrop, \$1.50.
5. "Kim," by R. Kipling. Doubleday, Page Co., \$1.50.
6. "Lazarre," by Catherwood. Bowen-Merrill Co., \$1.50.

PARIS STATIONERY TRADE.

SAYS the Paris correspondent of *The London Stationery Trades Journal*—Every year there is a fair on the boulevards, extending over the last week of the Old Year and the first week of the New Year, and each time this annual fair came round, I have had the melancholy duty of stating that I had travelled from the Madeleine to the Bastille, and found no new thing under the Wintry sun. Two-thirds of the stalls were devoted to the sale of mechanical toys, and these clock-work toys never changed. They had driven away the hundred-and-one little industries which used to make the fair entertaining, and almost instructive and the consequence was that the public no longer cared to stroll along the boulevards and make purchases, and the stall-keepers did so little business, that there was every probability that the fair would soon cease to exist.

But help has come from a very unexpected quarter. The prefect of police had noticed the evil and had devised a remedy for it. Parisians are not easily surprised, but they were rather astonished a few days ago, on reading a large poster issued by the prefect of police, announcing that a show of models and designs for new toys would be opened towards the end of the present month. All designs sent in are to be original, and the prizes are to vary from a half penny to half a crown. Money prizes and

medals will be given to the most original toys. The prizes are to be awarded by a jury, but the prefect of police has wisely decided to keep the names of the jurymen dark until the last moment, to prevent them from being pestered by inventors, or "got at" in any way. The competition seems to be an excellent idea, and has met with the approval of press and public. There are 260 entries already, and will probably be fully 300 before the list closes. The exhibition will be open to the public for a week or so towards the end of the present month, and in my next letter I hope to be able to give an account of the novelties shown. No doubt, a good deal of ingenuity will be displayed, for it must be remembered, that the inventor of the toy that gains the first prize will win a good deal more than the gold medal and the few francs which the prefect of police offers, but a month or so later, will reap a golden harvest, which, at a very moderate estimate, may be reckoned at a couple of thousand pounds, and may very likely be considerably more.

As the post office is the stationer's best friend, two or three stories which are going the round of the press just now will not be out of place. One of them is a good example of that "red-tapeism" which is so prevalent in every Government office in France. In England, the post office is brought so much in contact with the public that red tape has been virtually knocked out of it, but the French post office is not a whit behind the other branches of the public service

in displaying the beauties of "Ad-min-istration"—as the French wits call it, which the following example will show. Business communications addressed to a Minister or important official, do not require to be stamped. It chanced, a few days ago, someone had occasion to write to M. Millerand—who, as Minister of Commerce is also head of the Post Office and, being unaware of the regulation, or forgetting it, put a three-halfpenny stamp on the letter. But the letter weighed more than half-an-ounce, and the postman who had to deliver it, promptly marked it "Insufficiently stamped," and demanded threepence of the concierge at the Ministry of Commerce. The official naturally replied that the demand was absurd, and refused to take the letter, whereupon it was returned to the sender, who not only had to pay 4d., but had the additional mortification of having his petition, or whatever it was, returned unopened, whereas if he had not put on any stamp at all the letter would have been delivered.

The programmes used by the Duke and Duchess of York at the State concert in Massey Hall, Toronto, were preserved by their Highnesses, not as souvenirs, but as remarkable works of art. They were printed on rich white satin, blue lettering, with a monogram "G.M." at the top. The covers, which were of padded white satin, were edged with gold cord, while the Royal arms were lithographed in many handsome colors on the front and St. George and the Dragon on the back. The programmes were the work of The Copp, Clark Co., who are entitled to much praise.