

this clause will be. If the clause is enforced, all importations (to make the law effective) will have to be sent to a few central points to be examined and stamped. To-day a bookseller or newsdealer anywhere in Canada can order these cheap reprints from the United States, and get them passed at any Custom House. So soon as Lord Herschell's new Bill shall become law, the bookseller will be worried and harassed through the delay requisite to have his importation examined at a central point and stamped "Foreign Reprint." At present our Government does not collect royalty duty on foreign reprints. But if our Government agrees to this new Herschell Bill without protest, the royalty duty will have to be collected as a matter of honor. If we protest, we need not collect the royalty. THE CANADIAN BOOKSELLER feels it is justified in entering a formal protest, on behalf of the booksellers and newsdealers of Canada, against the reimposition of the royalty duty. Let every bookseller and newsdealer take the trouble to write to the member of Parliament for his constituency, and also direct to Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, Premier, Ottawa, urging that the Government take immediate steps to protest against any Bill that would likely lead to the reimposition of the royalty duty in Canada. We trust that the suggestion here made will be acted upon promptly by the trade. This is a most important question for every bookseller in Canada. Don't delay, but act upon our suggestion *at once*.

POSTAGE ON PAPERS.

The Hon. Mr. Mulock, Postmaster-General, is able to discern the signs of the times. He saw that the owners of the small weeklies were bitterly opposed to the reimposition of postage on newspapers. He has, therefore, very wisely decided to deal as lightly as possible with the weeklies in his new postal scheme. He now proposes to impose a half-cent a pound rate on daily papers and on weeklies circulating outside the ten-mile zone. It would have been much simpler to have imposed the half-cent rate on the dailies and the same rate on all weekly papers except country local weeklies published in towns of 5,000 and under. These latter to be carried free as at present. This would be some encouragement to the country local weeklies. It is certain that, in the interest of the country, these country local weeklies should be encouraged. The ten-mile zone limit will give trouble. It will

certainly disorganize the geographical knowledge of the average country editor. Many points twelve to fifteen miles distant from the office will be found to be only ten miles distant from the zone point. The local postmaster will have to waste a lot of time that could be more usefully employed, if he is going to scan the list each week for papers going outside the zone circuit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The Journal of Proceedings of the fortieth annual meeting of the Canadian Press Association, held at Ottawa, March 10-11th, has been issued. It makes a neat octavo pamphlet of 120 pages. The Association in the past has been open to criticism on account of admitting to active membership many who were not considered as eligible. This controversial point has been disposed of by a rule confining the active membership to those actually engaged in the business, either as proprietor, editor, reporter or manager, and giving honorary membership to those who might be considered as specially interested in the objects of the Association, such as type-founders, etc. This is certainly a step in the right direction. It should do much to secure the active interest in the Association of those who were before disposed to be lukewarm in their support. The proceedings at the late annual meeting were of more than ordinary interest. Many of the papers were especially valuable. Mr. Frank A. Munsey, of New York, read a paper, "Random Thoughts on Journalism," which was, perhaps, most remarkable as illustrative of the "grit" and "blow" of the average Yankee. Mr. Munsey related his experience with the American News Company, of New York. Hundreds of dealers throughout the country have a crow to pick with that corporation as well as Mr. Munsey; but few of them, alas! even if they have the courage, have the resources of a Munsey. It would, however, have been interesting if Mr. Munsey had given the other side of the story. At the best it is an open question whether these five and ten cent monthlies are the great blessing to the trade that some people would have us believe. It is certain that they are perfect gold mines to the lucky and plucky publishers; but the trade, in Canada at least, have to sell a powerful number of them to make much out of them. And the principal cause for this is that the publishers keep piling up the number of advertising pages, while the trade has to pay for the cost of transportation of same. Take, for instance, Munsey and McClure magazines for May. Munsey has 160 pages of reading matter, and 96 pages of advertising. McClure has 96 pages of reading matter, and 112 pages of advertising. These maga-

zines are supplied to the trade at seven cents a copy, net, in New York, on sale. But the return postage on Munsey is about three cents a copy. It will thus be seen that the bookseller has to keep his order cut pretty close to the probable demand, or the postage on his returns will swallow up the profits on a large number that he might have sold. Mr. Munsey will have to devise some new plan to help the Canadian trade if he wishes to make a better impression than the much-abused News Company.

Book Reviews.

"The Girl at Cobhurst," by Frank R. Stockton (Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto, cloth, \$1.25). It is thoroughly refreshing to have the privilege of perusing this delightful work. No one seems to be gifted with the faculty of describing home life as Mr. Stockton does. As one walks over the farm at Cobhurst, in the company of its charming Mistress, "The Girl at Cobhurst," the air seems to be redolent with the delicious perfume of new-mown hay. It treats of a sweetly pretty love tale, replete with surprises, and will doubtless meet with an enthusiastic reception from the reading public.

"In the Toils of the Charmer," by Mrs. Edward Kennard, (Rand, McNally, & Co., Chicago and New York, .5c.) one would naturally expect another of those bright, breezy, hunting romances, which have so often delighted us. But in her latest effort she has entirely departed from her beaten path, "In the Toils of the Charmer," being an exceptionally fascinating novel, having for its villain an extremely handsome woman. There are two strongly drawn characters, and the vagaries of love and passion are depicted in Mrs. Kennard's truly charming style, and the interest is well maintained to the end.

"Under the Ban," by Teresa Hammond Strickland. Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago and New York. Price \$1.00, cloth bound. The lapse of thirty-two years since the Confederate Banners were folded up for ever at Appomattox has brought the thoughtful student and grave historian to fields of inquiry, once limited to the politician, and given over to the dreadful arbitrament of the sword. South Carolina, proud, aristocratic, reckless, gallant, hospitable, first to advance, last to retreat, furnishes to the novelist many intensely dramatic and thrilling episodes characteristic of the haughty planter life at the outbreak of the war. "Under the Ban" accurately depicts the social state brought about by the long continuance of hurtful conditions. True to facts, rich in local color, sincere and searching, this brilliant novel proves the inexorable fulfilment of the awful decree, "The sins of the father shall be visited on the children."