

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

### NEW CANADIAN BOOKS.

**A** WORK on Canada's military contribution to the British Army in South Africa is being prepared by Mr. Sanford Evans, of Toronto, who is known as a man of literary training with a cultivated style. Mr. Evans' book will be called "The Canadian Contingent," and it will deal fully with the history of the movement to send troops to Africa as also with the achievements of the Canadian corps themselves.

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A timely work which is to come out this season is a new edition of Mr. Barlow Cumberland's book on the Flag. Mr. Cumberland is making considerable additions to the book which, with its full and accurate historical data, and its colored plates, is a capital contribution to present selling books.

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Mr. R. L. Richardson, M.P., of Winnipeg, has, it is understood, written a series of articles on "Government Ownership of Railways," a subject to which he has devoted considerable attention, both through his newspaper, *The Tribune*, and in his Parliamentary speeches. The first article will appear in the September number of *The Canadian Magazine*.

THE COPP, CLARK CO.'S NEW BOOKS. "Unleavened Bread," one of the latest novels brought out by The Copp, Clark Co., is at once proving its merits in this market, as it has already done in the United States, where it is one of the half dozen best sellers of the month. Its author, Judge Grant, is known as a keen student of social conditions in the United States, especially with reference to wealth and fashionable society. In this novel he deals with much candor with the career of an ambitious woman who gradually works her way up the social scale and incidentally marries three husbands. Her last venture is her best socially, and, as the book says at the close, "Her husband was a United States Senator and the future stretched before her big with promise." It has been called a problem novel and these always find readers.

"From London to Ladysmith via Pretoria" has made its way at once to the

hearts of readers by reason of the vigor and vividness of the narrative. It may be called the first book of the war to find a place in the lists of Canadian publishers, because Mr. Steevens' book, fine piece of work as it was, was more or less fragmentary. Mr. Winston Churchill, however, tells us the whole story from the time of starting from England until Ladysmith is relieved. There is in addition, the narrative of Mr. Winston Churchill's capture by the Boers and his imprisonment at Pretoria. In this episode we get the best descriptions yet given by any of the writers of the state of feeling in the Transvaal during the early months of the war. This portion of the book alone is worth a British reader's close attention, because it reveals to us, by a writer who is strongly sympathetic on the British side, the beliefs and hopes that animated the Boers. The escape is a thrilling episode, and from the time he jumps the wall of the enclosure under the very eyes of the guards until he reaches the Coast, hidden among the bags of a freight car, Mr. Churchill's story never flags. The latter portion of the book deals with the several attempts of General Buller's forces to cross the Tugela river. The author is candid, but very respectful towards the generals, but he draws such a terrible picture of war that the cause of peace will not suffer from the narrative.

"The Reign of Law," by James Lane Allen, has been received by all the critics in terms of the warmest praise, especially for the literary workmanship displayed. In fact, Mr. Allen's books are nearly always works of art from the literary point of view. In the middle of June, the sales of the book had reached 75,000, and they were still going on. One reader has drawn attention to an amusing slip, as he calls it, in which Mr. Allen makes his hero read a book by Darwin at least two years before the book was published. But another critic comes to the author's rescue and points out that "The Reign of Law" is fiction, and that when it was necessary for the hero to read that particular book the author could not have been pedantic enough to consider the exact date of its publication. It shows how closely the book has been read, when criticism like this forms the theme of discussion.

"Ordered South" is Mrs. C. N. Williamson's new novel, and those who have read "The Barnstormers" and "The Newspaper Girl," by the same author, will

readily understand how easily she lends herself to a cheerful and enlivening love story, in which one girl is malicious enough to try to wreck the happiness of another, and the hero goes off to the war. There is not a dull page in the book.

Sydney Grier is an author who has made a name for himself in several novels dealing with revolutions in minor European states and the fortunes of an Englishman who is Prime Minister in one of them. In his new novel, "The Kings of the East," this Englishman, Cyril Mortimer, appears once more, and is engaged in congenial plottings and state intrigues. He has attached himself to the cause of the Jews, and the design of a committee of them to regain possession of Palestine. The beautiful Queen of Thracia, Ernestine, whom Cyril has somewhat cruelly left two years before, because her policy of state had disappointed him, appears on the scene. Cyril and she became engaged. We wade very deep in statecraft. The most exciting situations occur, and even the Powers of Europe are said to be trying to destroy this remarkable Englishman with the king-making propensities. The final scenes are of peace and domestic happiness in the desert. It is a strong book.

In "Hearts Importunate," Miss Evelyn Dickinson has produced an Australian love story, in which two strong, unyielding temperaments are the central figures. Avis Fletcher has been badly treated by a man, and, as far as a limited circle in bush life gives her opportunity, starts out to break as many hearts as she can. But she loses her own to Ralph Hazell, and, thinking that her "past" forbids marriage, refuses him. But they come together in the end. It is a strong tale for those who like sentiment.

A certain melancholy interest attaches to the posthumous book of Mr. Grant Allen. Although the critics disputed this view or that in Mr. Allen's novels, there was no doubt of their success from the standpoint of the public, and it is doubtful if a single novel which he ever wrote is what might be called a failure. In "Hilda Wade," we have the last work of fiction which will ever come from this gifted man's pen. He died before the last chapter was fully written out, but he had left notes which enabled his friend, Dr. Conan Doyle, to complete it. The novel is based on the story of a handsome, clever girl, who becomes a nurse in a hospital and whose life mission is to clear her father's memory of a charge of murder. She has a struggle with the chief surgeon of the hospital, a remarkable man with remarkably bad principles, because he tries to poison Hilda when he finds that she suspects him. The scene is then changed to Asia, with the determined