

Smith, Elder & Co., of London, sold the Canadian market for "With Edged Tools" to Messrs. Harper, of New York, and declined, as they had a perfect right to do, to give us an edition of our own. We could cite other instances, but this will do for illustration. Under our new law prohibiting importation of reprints where do Messrs. Harper stand? It seems as if they resemble the individual who tumbled out of the balloon—they are not in it. They must now arrange for a Canadian edition or we must fall back on the English edition.

#### FEELING IN THE STATES.

The United States publishers who bought this market and now find reprints excluded by the tariff are evidently displeased, judging by a paragraph in *The Publishers' Weekly* of May 8. It says, referring to the Customs order preventing importation of reprints:

The move is a little short of rebellion and may lead to serious complications. Though the question is one that properly falls under international copyright legislation, it undoubtedly also has direct bearing on the law of contracts, and it is, therefore, not likely that American publishers who have made contracts with English subjects to sell their books in a certain territory under the Government of the British crown will quietly submit to any abrogation of rights which the law of Great Britain is bound to respect.

The fallacy in this argument is that the "territory under the British crown" is self-governing and not controlled from London. The American publisher can look to the English firm for redress; that is all. No doubt it is a surprise in New York to learn that Canada has control of her tariff, and can exclude these books if she pleases. As to its being "rebellion," that is absurd.

#### COPYRIGHT.

A meeting of those interested in copyright was held in Toronto on Saturday, May 8th, and the outlook was discussed. The new tariff and its effects upon both the publishing and book trades were also considered. The Government, in reply to Mr. John Ross Robertson, M.P., has already intimated that nothing will be done this session. It is felt, however, that under the new conditions imposed by the tariff some step in advance regarding copyright should be taken speedily. It is believed that Mr. Robertson, M.P., will again bring the matter up in the House of Commons, probably in the next few days, and explain the present position of affairs and the need for action.

#### A OURIOUS THING.

AT the present moment a phase of the law which enables authors to secure copyright for their books in both Great Britain and the United States is interesting. Under international copyright the author must, by the English law, issue his book in England first; to get the United States copyright, according to United States law, he must issue his book simultaneously with the English edition. How does he fulfil both these conditions, apparently destroying the result desired? It is worked in this way: A day is selected for publication. The book, as American interests demand, is set up, printed and bound in the States beforehand. Copies are shipped to England, and at ten o'clock on the morning of publication it is issued in London. That is held to be prior publication by the British authorities and fulfils legal requirements. On the same day, at three o'clock p.m., the book is issued in New York, Boston, Chicago, or wherever the publishing centre is. The States law holds that to be simultaneous publication within the meaning of the Act, as it is the same date. So both sides are satisfied and international copyright is secured to the satisfaction of publisher, author and reader—the victim being the British publishing interests, who lose the issuing of the works.

The view taken now in Canada—both by the trade and by the Government—is that American books copyrighted in London by this means are "reprints" of British books and must not be imported into Canada. It will be seen, therefore, how many books the new Customs rule excludes. But probably the last word has not been heard on this phase of the matter.

#### A UNION OF FORCES.

The drug, book and stationery firms of Regina are uniting their forces, and the proposal, as a business enterprise and an economic experiment, is interesting and instructive. Messrs. Robert Martin, Peter Lamont, W. G. Pettingell and C. H. Black, are all leading and successful business men in Regina. Mr. Martin graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1876, bought out the drug business of Dawson, Bole & Co., in 1888, and has been Mayor of Regina. Mr. Lamont is a Prince Edward Islander who has built up a fine stationery business in Regina with characteristic industry and pluck. Mr. Pettingell is a native of Prince Edward County, Ont., and after a good high school education and the learning of his profession with C. B. Allison & Co., Picton, established his business in

Regina in 1883. He is an ardent sportsman, and was one of the originators of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Northwest. Mr. Black was born in Ontario, the son of a Presbyterian clergyman, and passed his youth in Nova Scotia. He is town treasurer of Regina, and was the first secretary of the Board of Trade. The united concern will be a strong one, and deserves to succeed, as its individual members already have done.

#### THE MAY MAGAZINES.

THE WESTMINSTER has special articles on church music; Ralph Connor supplies No. 5 of the "Tales from the Selkirks"; the home, literary, Sunday reading, etc., departments constitute it a capital magazine for the Canadian home.

The *Hesperian* (quarterly, 15c. each) contains "A Peep at Havana"; there is a trenchant article on Wa'. Whitman, and some other excellent literary criticism.

The *Canadian Magazine* for this month is the first of the new volume. Finer paper is used for the illustrations, and a slight change in size greatly improves the magazine. There are several notable articles: *Attorney-General Longley* on "Nova Scotia Premiers since 1867"; *Dr. Webster* on "The English Birthplace of General Wolfe." The June issue will contain many articles and illustrations in connection with the *Queen's Jubilee*. *James Hannay*, the historian, will deal with *New Brunswick Premiers since Confederation*.

*Massey's* contains a finely illustrated paper on Trinity University, interesting to all Anglicans in Canada; a phase of newspaper life is illustrated by A. J. Magurn's article on "The Ottawa Correspondent."

The *Shakespearean* for April 15 (Dawburn & Ward, Ltd., 6 Farringdon avenue, London, E.C.) deals with current critical work relating to the great dramatist. "Henry V" is the chief drama under consideration. The little magazine (annual, 6s.; single copies, 6d.) will please Shakespearean scholars and literary clubs.

"Jason Hildreth's Identity," by Virna Woods, is the complete novel in Lippincott's. *Alva Fitzpatrick* has an article entitled "French Pioneers in America," dealing with settlement in Alabama.

Kite-flying for scientific and photographic purposes, is dealt with in two splendidly illustrated papers in *The Century*. A chapter of secret history, very interesting to Canadian readers, is General Schofield's "Withdrawal of the French from Mexico,"