

**WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS—Cont'd.** ally, has come in for a large share of praise from the most critical buyers. It is not flattery to say that no frieze was ever made, either on this or the European continent, in finer coloring or shading. Added to that fact is the accompanying one: That the selection of shades in their ingrains has struck the popular eye just right, necessitating repeated orders to the manufacturers as the ordinary supply was sold long ago. This is a satisfactory sign.

#### SAMPLES FOR NEXT SEASON.

Colin McArthur & Co. have just finished up their manufacture for the season, and are now engaged in getting up samples for 1899 1900. Notwithstanding the marked superiority of the season's output, they are not content to rest on well earned laurels, but are determined to produce a still finer line for the coming season.

During the past three months, they have secured many new artistic and special designs, which they will bring out in taking character.

Their endeavor to put on the market a medium priced line of artistic goods in all the new shades, as well as to retain the high-quality trade, has met with such complete approval that they are encouraged to continue in it, and the trade may confidently expect next season's line to be the "record breaker" in Canada. Taking designs and rich colorings are the watchwords of this establishment.

#### MR. McARTHUR'S HEALTH.

Mr. Colin McArthur is sojourning at Atlantic City for a month or so, enjoying the benefits of sea air and bathing. It will be satisfactory to Mr. McArthur's many friends (and their name is legion) to know that he has been steadily improving in health during the last two years, and is now, as of yore, able to superintend the management of this large and continually increasing business.

#### REMOVING WALL PAPER.

To remove varnished paper from a wall is not so easy as appears at first glance. One of the simplest and most practical methods of doing it is to take a fairly sharp chisel, of narrow width, and to score the paper across, rapidly removing, with the sharp edge, strips of the paper. If one or two applications of water are then made, it will soak through and allow the whole of the paper to be scraped off without a great deal of trouble. It is better to use the water hot, and, in cases of extreme difficulty, one or more coats of paste of an average consistency may be applied. The paste holds the water and permits it to soak

through the paper more effectively than would water ordinarily applied.—Painting and Decorating.

#### MR. W. A. FRASER.

A CANADIAN writer whose name is becoming a familiar one to the readers of magazines is Mr. W. A. Fraser, of Georgetown. As a writer of short stories Mr. Fraser already ranks as one of the cleverest of the present day. His work is marked by originality of conception, and combines unusual strength with fine literary finish. He is a native of Nova Scotia, and follows the vocation of a civil engineer. Nine years of his life were spent in India, during which time he gathered a store of material that he now is utilizing in his stories. He has also spent some five years or so in the Canadian Northwest, where, in the new free life of the plains and prairies, he has found a rich vein which he has worked with great success. No better stories than his have been written of the Western life of Canada. Mr. Fraser is not a young writer. If he continues to develop as rapidly as he has in the few years since he first began literary work, we may look to his taking a place among the great writers of this period. London Literature, last year, in a highly appreciative article on Mr. Fraser and his work, referred to him as "the Canadian Kipling." In this connection it is interesting to note that Mr. Kipling has taken a great liking to his Canadian prototype, and has encouraged him to pursue the course in which his talents would seem to fit him for eminent work.



W. A. Fraser.

A collection of short stories by Mr. Fraser, entitled "The Eye of a God," will be placed on the market in Canada about the end of the present month by William Briggs. Of these a number have their scene in India, and others in the Northwest. All are good, and the book will be a creditable addition to Canadian literature.

#### THE COPYRIGHT MOVEMENT.

A meeting of the Canadian Copyright Association was held in Toronto April 8, Mr. J. Ross Robertson, M.P., presiding. The chairman reviewed the work done by the association in the endeavor to secure a settlement of the unsatisfactory conditions of copyright legislation in Canada, and it was

arranged to take measures towards cooperation with the Canadian Society of Authors in urging upon the Government the absolute necessity of giving immediate attention to the copyright question. A committee was also appointed to confer with the Typographical Union.

#### BOOKSELLERS' SPECIAL EFFORTS.

A bookseller of Blanktown recently learned that one of his old acquaintances had purchased a compendious work, and felt hurt at the thought that his friend should have gone elsewhere to make the purchase. When next he met him he reproached him for disloyalty, and asked him why he had not made the purchase at his shop. "Why, how could I guess that you dealt in such books," replied his friend, "a man recently called at my house and talked so irresistibly about the value of the work, its many advantages to my family, etc., etc., that I couldn't help buying it at once." "It is too bad," interposed the bookseller; "here I have kept that book right along for years and might have sold it to you as low as anyone can sell it, and at terms to suit yourself." "Well," his friend remarked, "let me advise you to hasten to our old friends Jones and Smith, and acquaint them of this fact. I have been so enthusiastic over my purchase that they have sent for the agent to show them the work, and it is more than likely that they will buy it, if they have not already done so."

The moral of this incident lies on the surface. Day by day agents invade the homes of bookbuyers—in person or in the shape of ingeniously worded and persuasive advertising matter. To what extent is the bookseller represented in this direction? To a very small one, we venture to say, if he is represented at all. In some indirect, impersonal way, and at the smallest possible expense to himself; in most cases through general advertising matter, furnished by the publisher. In single cases only by individual advertising, prepared to suit a particular constituency. Year after year thousands of books are sold by personal effort—by special campaigns. And in most cases the best of these books cannot stand comparison with the ordinary stock kept by the average bookseller.—Publisher's Circular.

The Toronto school board have awarded the contracts for the year's supplies to the following: The W. J. Gage Co., paper and envelopes, crayon and blackboard erasers, half of the text books required, all blank books; The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, drawing books, slates, rulers, slate and lead pencils, pens, penholders, inkstands, files; to Selby & Co., all book covers and wrapping paper, twine and wooden pointers.