

CURRENT NOTES—Continued.

to stop it. Booksellers, of course, will require to keep well posted about books that are copyrighted in Canada under the new law, and we shall advise them from time to time in these columns of such books.

Publishers Uniting. The publishers in the United States have formed a union, known as the American Publishers Association. A movement of this kind has been in process of development for some time. The officers elected were: President, Charles Scribner, vice presidents, A. C. McClurg and Geo. Mifflin, secretary, Geo. P. Brett, and treasurer, G. B. M. Harvey. The membership includes the leading publishing houses in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. The statement that royalties to authors would be reduced by common action among the united publishers is denied, and it is declared that the new organization is based upon the many interests which the members have in common. The organization is only following the example of the London publishers, who now have a powerful association of their own, and whose latest move is to promote the sale of books at net prices, and thus do away with the discount business, which cuts into retailers as well as publishers' profits. It would not be surprising if the Canadian publishers formed an association this Autumn, and, if they can do anything to prevent the cutting of prices by departmental stores, so much the better.

A member of the new American association says: "We will try to insist on having the prices marked on our books maintained, and we can accomplish this only by organized cooperation. No, I cannot state that the association will refuse to sell to those who refuse our terms. The underselling and cutting of prices by booksellers forced the pending meeting. It will be to their advantage, though, as much as to ours, to keep up the prices, and we ask and want their cooperation. There will be no discrimination against the department stores; we will consider them as much as the men engaged exclusively in the book-selling business. We want to protect ourselves and the booksellers from one another."

DR. BRYCE'S NEW WORK.

NOT for a long time has so elaborate and important an historical work come from the press in Canada as Dr. Bryce's new volume, entitled, "The Remarkable History of the Hudson's Bay Company, including that of the French traders of North-west Canada, and of the North West, X Y, and Astor Fur Company." (Wm. Briggs, Toronto, \$3).

Prof. Bryce has been engaged upon this for several years. He is very familiar with the records upon which it is based. He has lived so many years in the Western country that he has caught the spirit which alone can inspire a writer who essays to set forth in detail the pioneer work of the old fur traders. An idea of the great extent of the ground covered by the book may be inferred from the fact that there are about 500 pages of narrative and appendix, and it is divided into 47 chapters. The book is also excellently illustrated with scenes in the West and many portraits. Included in the latter are the principal worthies of the fur trade, including, of course, the founders and leading men of the Hudson's Bay Co.

Regarding the narrative, it should be said that many pages absorb a reader's attention as deeply as the most romantic of novels, and that Prof. Bryce again and again pictures to us, in the most perfect manner, the adventurous character and daring exploits of the sturdy race of men who have traded with the Indians during two centuries. In respect of this romantic feature, we doubt if the work could be better done. We get a wonderfully interesting account of Radisson, of Verandrye, of Alexander MacKenzie, of Frobisher, of Finlay, of McTavish and the old Scotch merchants of Montreal, with all of whom the fur trade is inseparably associated.

Prof. Bryce gains much by not limiting himself to the story of the Hudson's Bay Company. Valuable and full of interest as the annals of this company are, there is much to be said about the rival companies and those who were pioneers, but who were not connected with the ancient organization founded in the reign of King Charles II. There is a good account of the operations of old John Jacob Astor, and this chapter has already attracted considerable attention in the United States. There is also to be found in these pages the story of the Beaver Club in Montreal, the share of the Hudson's Bay Company in the search for Sir John Franklin, and also a full account of Lord Selkirk's colony and the career of that distinguished man himself.

Last, and by no means least, the record of the operations of our fur traders on the Pacific Coast has great interest at this time, when the claims of the United States to

portions of our territory bordering on Alaska are subjects of international negotiation.

Another feature which attracts the reader is the skill with which the author contrasts the conditions of to-day with the conditions of a century ago, so that we have perfectly reproduced for us a picture of the far North and the exploration and commerce that have been done there since the end of the 17th century. Prof. Bryce includes in the appendix such valuable material as a list of his authorities; a summary of the career of Radisson; a list of the Hudson Bay posts in 1856, the names of the chief factors to date, and portions of the Russian Treaty which was the outcome of the company's explorations towards the Pacific. There is a good index, and the book is in every way worthy of taking its place among the important works of Canada which no public or private library is complete without. It is a credit to the publishers in every respect.

IMPERIAL COPYRIGHT APPROVED.

AT the Congress of Imperial Chambers of Commerce in London in June, the question of copyright on books was brought up by Mr. Geo. N. Morang, of Toronto, who moved, seconded by Hon. Thos. Fergus, New Zealand, the following resolution:

Whereas the various Copyright Acts throughout the Empire are unnecessarily complicated and vexatious to certain dependencies, and whereas it is now contemplated to consolidate the same by a bill now before the House of Lords,

Resolved, therefore, that this congress declares its approval of such measure, whereby the Colonies are empowered to legislate for exclusive copyright, and earnestly trusts that it may speedily become law.

Note.—The section of the Act referred to is as follows:

Sec. 34.—In the case of a Legislature of any British possession, if the following circumstances occur, that is to say:

If a book has been first lawfully published in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions, and it is proved to the satisfaction of an officer appointed by the Government of such possession to receive such proofs that the owner of the copyright has lawfully granted either a license to import for sale in such British possession or a license to reproduce therein by any process an edition or editions of any such book designed for sale only in such British possession, it shall be lawful for the legislature of such possession by Act or ordinance to provide for the prohibition of the importation, except with the written consent of the licensee, into such possession of any copies of such book printed elsewhere, except under such license as aforesaid, except that two copies may be specially imported for the bona fide use of each of the public free libraries, the university and college libraries, and law libraries of any duly organized law institution or society for the use of its members.

Where a license has been granted under this section for any British possession any copy of the book produced subject to such license shall, if found in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions, be deemed a pirated copy, and be treated accordingly.

Passed unanimously.