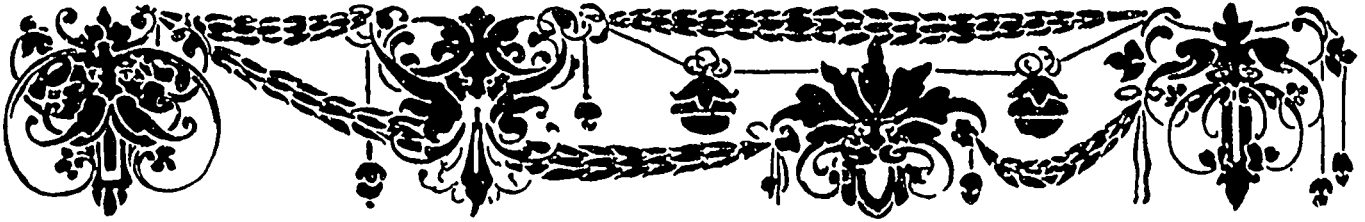


The Bookseller and Stationer



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CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS OF TRADE INTEREST.

Being now in its sixteenth year, THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER feels warranted in making a few remarks about itself in connection with the Special Issue which

now goes out to its readers in all parts of Canada. Notwithstanding the vicissitudes of the stationery and book trade during the past 10 years there has always been room for a paper representing the trade, and we have especially to thank our friends in all the Provinces who have stood faithfully by this journal for years. The aim during the coming season of 1900 1901, will be to make the paper more useful than ever before. Several features of considerable importance to the trade will be continued during the coming year. The reports of best selling books in this market have proved to be valuable to dealers as an indication of popular taste in new books, and we have received several letters from

readers asking that the department be continued. This will be done. The list of copyrights which appears monthly takes on a new importance from the provisions of the new law forbidding importation of certain editions. It is intended to enlarge the department devoted to stationery, in order to include the latest information regarding prices and novelties, etc. The information about books will be kept up-to-date, so that the dealer who takes the paper may feel that he is getting the worth of his money. We invite correspondence and inquiries from readers everywhere, and wish them all a very prosperous and satisfactory Autumn and Winter trade.

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The question of departmental store competition is one which the average bookseller and stationer feels more than any other merchant, because it seems easier to work the cry of "cheap bargains" in this trade than in any other. From no merely selfish point of view do we regard the mischief which is being wrought upon our trade by departmental stores. It is a bad thing for the community when bookstores decline. And, at any rate, no illegitimate methods should be allowed to crowd them out. Germany is to the front these days in all matters of trade as a live, progressive and successful country. What are the Germans doing with departmental stores? Putting a special tax on them. A law has been passed in Prussia legalizing special taxation of departmental stores by municipalities. The new Act divides these stores into four classes.

One class may sell groceries, foods, tobaccos, smokers' articles, apothecaries' supplies, colors, drugs and perfumery. Another class may sell dry goods of all

kinds, bedding, furniture, carpets, curtains and all articles for interior household decoration. A third class may sell household, kitchen and garden utensils and implements, stoves, china, earthenware, upholstered furniture and materials pertaining thereto. The fourth class may sell jewelry, bric-a-brac, books, music, bicycles, firearms, sporting goods, toys, sewing machines, and optical, medical, scientific or musical instruments. Any store handling more articles than are named in one class shall pay a special graduated tax, according to the total annual sales of the store, whenever the turnover exceeds \$95,000. This tax would be \$1,000 on a turnover of \$100,000; about \$2,500 on a turnover of about \$150,000; about \$3,500 on a turnover of about \$200,000, and so on. The big stores are given six months in which to prepare for the new law. It does not go into force until January, 1901. There is much speculation in Prussia as to the effects and working of the Act. On another occasion we shall give our readers further information about the matter.

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Booksellers are on the eve of what promises to be a fairly profitable season. The information given in this number of THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER may briefly be summed up as follows: First, Canadian publishers are going to issue a number of editions this year, both in fiction and in general literature; that English publishers are disposed to push both their new books and their cheap editions more vigorously in this market than heretofore, and that there is a better prospect for cloth bound books and works of a more expensive character than for several seasons back. As to the