

covered books from our American competitors which would otherwise be purchased from Canadian wholesale and retail dealers.

Therefore, we respectfully pray for a reduction of the postal rate on periodicals and paper covered books to one cent per lb., the same as in the United States, so that we may be placed on an equal footing with our American competitors.

THE ASSOCIATION AND THE DUTY.

The following petition was forwarded to the Minister of Finance from the Booksellers' and Newsdealers' Association of Ontario:—
To THE HON. GEO. FOSTER,
Minister of Finance, Ottawa.

SIR,—At a meeting of the Booksellers' and Newsdealers' Association of Ontario, held at this office, to-day, the following resolution was carried unanimously:

It was moved by Mr. Hain, and seconded by Mr. Wallace, "That this meeting of Booksellers' and Newsdealers, representing the Booksellers' Association of Ontario, hereby enter an earnest and emphatic protest against the petition presented to the Minister of Finance and Customs for an increase in the duty on American reprints of British and foreign books, periodicals, pamphlets, etc., and to point out that the increase asked for means a total duty of from 50 to 100 per cent., and on a class of books, periodicals, etc., that it will not pay to print and publish in Canada, even could it be done without reference to copyright, which, of course, cannot. That the trade would lose a large and profitable portion of their business, and our people deprived of the cheap editions of such works, besides resulting in a large loss of revenue to the Government, as the increase in duty asked for would most certainly greatly limit, if not entirely prohibit their importation. In this class are included the works of such authors as Dickens, Scott, Carlyle, Lever, Shakespeare, Macaulay and all the old standard works of British and foreign authors, and that even were the importation of such books, periodicals, etc., entirely prohibited, the petitioners would not, because they could not without loss, print and publish them in Canada, and further that the said increase in duty would be most unfair in its operations, because it would bear almost entirely on the poor classes, while on the more expensive editions it would hardly be felt.

And it has further resolved to ask the Government that the petition of the Employing Printers of Toronto be not granted, and that no change in the present duty on books and periodicals be made.

In accordance with this resolution we feel assured that we have only to bring these facts to your notice, to convince you of the unfair and unreasonable demand of the Employing Printers of Toronto, and to respectfully ask that their petition be not granted, and that there be no change made whatever in the present duty on books, periodicals, etc.

We have the honor to remain, sir, your most obedient servants,

J. H. McLEAN, Sec.-Treas., Ont.,
Booksellers' Association, Toronto.
Signed, A. S. IRVING, Chairman,
Executive Committee,
Ontario Booksellers' Association.

The following is the petition, of the same tenor, forwarded by Montreal Book and Newsdealers:—
To the Honorable GEORGE E. FOSTER,
Minister of Finance, Ottawa.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Booksellers and Newsdealers of Montreal, having learned with great concern of the recent petitions

made to the Government to increase the tariff on Books, Periodicals and Pamphlets, beg most respectfully to enter an emphatic protest against any addition being made to the present rates of duty collected.

We are fully convinced that should the duty on American reprints of British and foreign authors be advanced to the figures proposed by the Printers' Association of Toronto, it would cause not only a loss of revenue to the Government through the actual prohibition of importation, but would prove disastrous also to the bookelling interests of the country at large, and deprive the poorer classes of the advantages they now enjoy in the way of cheap and good literature, while its effect would be lightly felt by the purchasers of the more expensive editions. Periodicals which are now being admitted free of duty could not possibly, from their variety and the nature of their contents, be reprinted in Canada, and any imposition of duty would be keenly felt by Newsdealers and private subscribers throughout the Dominion.

Hence we have resolved to submit our united request that the petition of the Employing Printers' Association of Toronto be not entertained and that no action be taken by the Government toward any change in the duties levied on periodicals and books.

BOOK-PLATES.

The taste for elegant and choice books is undoubtedly spreading, and just now there is quite a craze among book-lovers for the collection of those little labels which are placed in books as marks of possession, and are usually known as book-plates. New ones are every day being designed, and much artistic excellence is exhibited in the designs. Most possessors of books like to write their names within the covers, and some, going a little further, have their names printed on a ticket to place inside their books. Here we have the book-plate in its simplest form. Every one must have come across in some old volumes the following doggerel, which appears in all kinds of illiterate writings:—

*[John Robinson, is my name,
And England is my nation.
London is my dwelling place,
And Christ is my salvation.]*

It is amusing to note the difference between the large and the small collector in the expression of his right of possession. The great book lovers Maioli and Grolier in the fifteenth century stamped upon their beautiful volumes the liberal information that the books were for themselves and for their friends, and several other collectors used the same expression, while one went so far as to state on his book-plate that his volumes were not for himself but for others. How far these liberal sentiments were carried out we cannot tell.

Let us now look at the other side. One man was so niggardly in the use of his books that he had inscribed in each, "This book is stolen from the library of——." A very pointed inscription, though not so bad as the last, was the verse: "The ungodly borroweth and payeth not again."

The notion that a borrowed book seldom finds its way back to its original home is a

deep-rooted one, and is variously expressed on book-plates. The following lines are of common occurrence.

*If thou art borrowed by a friend,
Light welcome shall he be.
To read, to study, not to lend.
But to return to me.
Not that imparted knowledge doth
Diminish learning's store,
But books, I find, it often lent
Return to me no more.*

Sometimes the inscriptions refer more to the treatment of books when lent than to their return, as this one:—

*Fear not, nor sell not;
Read all, but spoil not.*

The next might with advantage be borne in mind by those who are careless in the treatment of books:—

*If any one should borrow me
Pray keep me clean,
For I am not like the linen cloth
That can be wash'd again.*

There are many more verses inculcating a like sentiment, but the above are sufficient as samples.

Book plates appear to have taken their rise in Germany, or at all events the earliest examples known to us are connected with that country, and with the great master, Albert Durer. Willibald Pirckheimer was a great friend of Luther and Melancthon, and he possessed a good library filled with the works of the early reformers. In these books, many of them large folios, he placed his famous book-plates; one of these was a wood cut designed by Durer, which contained Pirckheimer's arms and those of his wife with much emblematical surroundings—the other was a copper-plate portrait of Pirckheimer, also by Durer, which must have been a speaking likeness of the burly jurist of Nuremberg. The books which are adorned with these valuable book-plates were bought by the Earl of Arundel, the famous connoisseur and collector, from whom they descended to Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, who presented them to the newly formed Royal Society, on the suggestion of John Evelyn, the diarist. Durer made several book-plates for his friends, which are described in *Thausing's* valuable life of the artist. One for Lazarus Spengler was designed in 1515, and in the British Museum there is a drawing of the same date which bears the inscription, "Albert Durer did this for Melchior Pfinsing's book." The plate for Hieronymus Ebner, of Nuremberg, also designed by Durer, is dated 1510. Before taking leave of German book-plates we must mention a very curious one of John Faber, Bishop of Vienna, who was called by his admirers the "hammer of heretics" on account of the curious statement which it contains. The Bishop in 1540, the year before he died, bequeathed his books to the College of St. Nicholas in Vienna, and he had a book-plate designed for the purpose, with this inscription (in Latin) upon it:—
"This book was bought by us, Dr. John Faber, Bishop of Vienna . . . and since, indeed, that money (which purchased this volume) did not arise from the revenues and properties of our diocese, but from our own most honest labours in other directions: and therefore it is free to us to give or bequeath the book to whomsoever we please: We accordingly present it to our College of St. Nicholas: and we ordain this volume shall remain for ever for the use of the students."

The collecting of book-plates is so far an evil that their labels are often taken out of books where they are of more interest than when collected with others in a scrap-book. But it is useless complaining, for the mania has laid hold of a large number of collectors, and a strong illustration of the way in which the taste has spread is to be found in the fact that during the last few weeks a special society of book plate collectors has been formed.—London Daily Chronicle.