

THE TRADE IN THE WEST.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WINNIPEG, May 1, 1902.

BUSINESS in the retail book and stationery trade is very good. Office supplies of all kinds and heavy stationery are much called for, and prices are fair.

Although this is housecleaning time, and usually a quiet one in the book trade, the demand keeps up. Just at present there are many books to choose from. "Audrey" is selling well, but the generally-expressed opinion is that Mary Johnson has injured, rather than enhanced, her reputation. "Audrey" is selling well on the reputation of "To Have and To Hold" and "Prisoners of Hope," but no future book of hers will sell because the buyer has read "Audrey." Had it been a first attempt it would have been pardoned, but, after the strength and witchery of the two preceding books from her pen, the disappointment is keen—so keen as to prejudice the reader against the book and obscure the many good points that are to be found in it. It is a pretty enough tale, but it lacks virility.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" is having an enormous run at present, and is equal in interest to "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." Everybody likes a detective story, whether they are willing to admit it or not, and this is certainly a very prince of detective tales.

The death of Stockton has occasioned a considerable revival of interest in his books, and there has been quite a large sale for "Rudder Grange," "Pomona's Travels" and "The Casting Away of Mrs. Leeks and Mrs. Ayleshire." His last book, "Kate Bonnet," has not had a large sale here.

The cloth edition of "The Voyage of the Cachalot," at 25c., has had a great sale. Gilbert Parker's "Right of Way" is almost as much called for as it was at first, and "The Man from Glengarry" is having a steady sale.

"From the Great Lakes to the Wide West," by Bernard McEvoy, is just to hand in Winnipeg. It is a bright, breezy and correct series of sketches of the great Canadian West. In reading it, your correspondent was strongly reminded of pleasant chats with the author during his stay in Winnipeg last Summer. Mr. McEvoy has escaped, in great measure, the guide-book style, and, at the same time, has furnished plenty of valuable information about the country. The cover is happily conceived, and the book is a desirable one to send abroad to

those unfamiliar with the growth and prospects of the West.

"The Conquerors," by Gertrude Atherton; "The Dark o' the Moon," by Crockett; "Maids and Matrons of New France," by M. S. Pepper; "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," and "Guide to Nature Study," by Mattie Rose Crawford, are all books that sell well in Winnipeg. McHarg's "Quebec to Pretoria" has just arrived. Booksellers report quite a number of inquiries for it before its appearance in print.

Mr. Thompson, of The Copp Clark Co.; Mr. Gundy, of Gage's, and Mr. Morang, have all been in the city recently in connection with the question of free text-books. An Act was passed at the last session of the local Legislature, giving power to the Department of Education to furnish free readers to the pupils of the public schools up to grade three, the claim being made that as the Government in order to get schools started among them will be obliged to do this for Doukhobour, Galician and other non-English-speaking children, it is only fair that all public school children should be treated alike. The present Minister of Education, Mr. Colin H. Campbell, favors Morang's readers. Copp, Clark & Co. and Gage & Co. claim they have a 10-year contract with the Manitoba Government, of which only three years has run, to supply them with readers specially prepared for the Manitoba schools. From all that can be learned incidentally, argument ran pretty high during the recent discussion. The whole matter has been left in abeyance for the time being, and the representatives of the various companies have left for the east. It is well known there is considerable friction between the present Minister and his board of education, of which the end is not yet in sight.

Mr. J. C. Saul, who for many years has occupied the important position of English master in the Collegiate Institute here, has resigned his position, sold his house and furniture and is removing to Toronto to join the staff of Morang's, it is understood, as critical reader. Mr. Saul has done much to foster a love of good literature in the rising generation of Winnipeg, and has been most liberal with his time and talents in the matter of free lectures on literary subjects, and his removal will be keenly felt and deeply regretted.

Mr. R. L. Richardson, ex-M.P. for Lisgar, is bringing out a book, which is understood to be now in the hands of Morang for publication. The title and drift of the book are not known. Mr. Richardson has for many years been editor in chief of The Winnipeg Tribune.

Winnipeg is running to books these days. Mr. W. C. Bell, of The Copp, Clark, Co., is in the city on his regular trip west, and, it is understood, has had the MSS. of a novel on the West submitted to him for consideration. The author is not entirely unknown in the field of literature, and has had ample opportunity to study the subject treated at first hand.

Mr. Walker, of the Methodist Book Room, accompanied by Mrs. Walker, spent a few days in the city on their return from a trip to the Coast.

The representative of the Musson Book Co. has also been in the city this week.

E. C. H.

The Bookseller and Stationer

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