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SNAP SHOTS.

THE season is at hand for getting rid of bad stock, and broken lots. The wholesaler tries it, but the retailer doesn't do it as much as he should. A bargain table should be kept well stocked and placed in a central position. Other methods are useful and numerous. Take a shallow wicker work-basket and fill it with purses at a price, job lines, remnants, slow sellers, etc.; fill another basket at another price, and still another. But at any rate some night after all the clerks have gone away, and you have time, lock the door, pull down the blinds, and search through the unfrequented corners, and recesses of your store, rummage amongst the drawers and shelves, and you will be surprised at the amount of stuff you can collect which should be pushed. Then fix it up in some striking and prominent way, and make every clerk available hustle that stock. It will go.

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Think of this. The United States during the months of July and August exported books to British North America to the amount of \$20,042 and \$12,365 for the respective months. For the eight months ending August 31st, 1892, they exported \$113,330 worth of books as against \$101,954 worth for the corresponding period of 1891.

Now Canada is nearly all of British North America, and nearly all those books came here. Now if we had a proper Copyright Act, and proper custom regulations, half at least of that money could be expended in Canada, paying wages, paper, etc. And there is no valid reason why the books sold in Canada shouldn't be made in Canada. Books sold in the United States are made in the United States; the paper, ink, labor, etc., is all secured in the States. Everything comes to the man who goes after it. Are we after it?

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This brings to mind the fact that this importing isn't all done by wholesalers, but that the retailers of this country seem to have a mania for dealing directly with New York firms. There should be a patriotism among retail booksellers sufficient to enable them to trust their jobbers to supply them with books, especially when the terms are equal. But the subject is too large for present consideration. But here we may remark that BOOKS AND NOTIONS is in receipt of some complaints regarding some stationery houses selling to business men in places where they have good customers in the trade. This is not mere hearsay, but the written facts are in our possession. We have said a great deal lately on this matter of each part of the book trade keeping its own proper sphere, and while we recognize that the retailers have grievances and that the wholesalers have grievances, we feel that our views have been sufficiently expressed. It is not for this paper to dictate to either trade; it simply holds itself free to say what it thinks concerning the doings of the trade, and this has been done. The proper adjustment of the mercantile machinery in the book trade is a matter of grave importance, but each side holds the thumbscrew which can make the necessary adjustments, and it remains for them to use them, to the attaining of the desired state.

THE COPYRIGHT STRUGGLE.

IT will be remembered that during the session of 1889 the Minister of Justice introduced and carried through the House an Act amending the Copyright Act. This bill provided that any author domiciled in Canada, or any part of the British Empire should have the sole right to print or publish his work, provided he registered the copyright and printed and published the work in Canada within one month after publication elsewhere. In case he neglected to avail himself of this provision anyone would be entitled to print and publish the work on receiving a license from the Minister of Agriculture, such person to pay a royalty to the author of ten per cent. of the retail price

of the book. The licenses will be protected by a prohibition of the importation of the work for which the license to print has been granted. This would not apply to importations from the United Kingdom. These are the main provisions of the Act.

Now this act has not yet received the assent of the Imperial Government. Moreover the opposition to it has been so strong that a committee was appointed to investigate the question. This committee did its work, by visiting Canada, and its report has been handed in to Her Majesty's Government, and a copy sent to the Canadian Government. It is understood that the report contains a historical narrative of the copyright question and makes various suggestions in the line of the Canadian Copyright Act of 1889, and deals with the subject of amendments thereto which are deemed important by the officers in question.

Then a few days ago a deputation from Toronto consisting of Messrs. J. Ross Robertson, A. S. Irving and G. H. Suckling went to Ottawa and a lengthy conference with the Minister of Justice on the copyright question when, it is understood, the different points brought out in the report of the four British experts were discussed in detail. The deputation say that there is not a single argument advanced by the English experts which cannot be refuted, and they hold that the Canadian case is simply impregnable.

Such is the state of the case at present. There is a Canadian act which will make it necessary that all books entitled to be copyrighted here, must be published here, but the English authorities have protested, then they have sent out a commission and they have sent into an "English" report, now this report will be thoroughly answered by the Minister of Justice, assisted by the two strenuous upholders of Canadians' rights regarding copyright—Messrs. Irving and Robertson. Thus the English authorities will have both sides of the question, and full material on which to base a decision. Hitherto the Minister of Justice, Sir John Thompson, has stood boldly up for Canadian rights, and he stands just as firmly on this question now, as ever he did, consequently there is ground for hope that the Act of 1889 will be allowed to go into force, either as it is, or with slight amendments. It is to be hoped that the decision will be speedy.

There is one thing important, and that is that Canadian book manufacturers must not be robbed. An English book copyrighted under the International Regulations must be set up and printed there before it can be sold in the United States. This effect should be produced here, and that right speedily. Great Britain has no right to toss the Canadian market as a sweet morsel for the American Eagle.