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TOPICS OF THE DAY

THAT there are to be certain changes in the Canadian Post Office regulations shortly is well known, but there is still some doubt as to their nature. Rumor has it that what is known as the remailing privilege is to be withdrawn from Canadian news agencies. Under this arrangement the news companies have, up to the present, been able to re-mail their importations to their customers at the rate of 1c. per lb., the same rate as applies in the United States. The new rule, it is said, will raise this rate to 2c. per lb. As it is, the news agencies bring in the great bulk of their importations by freight and mail them from their offices. It is threatened that if the rate is doubled these agencies will simply give directions to their sources of supply to mail direct to the agencies' customers in Canada. This will consequently withdraw a large revenue from the Canadian Post Office Department. On the other hand, the Government may feel that the agencies will simply have to receive the change with the best grace possible. If the agencies act as they threaten to do, it would mean that United States publishers would secure the lists of Canadian purchasers of their publications, and after that it would be comparatively simple for them to take over that business themselves. The rumored action of the Government will, doubtless, be strongly opposed by the agencies, but it is quite probable that they will have to accede to the altered state of affairs.

Many Canadian boys have been lamenting the death of George Alfred Henty, the inimitable writer of stories of travel and adventure, which occurred on board his yacht, the Egret, in Weymouth Harbour on November 16, 1902. He had been in a delicate state of health for the past year, and two weeks before his death he had suffered from a paralytic stroke.

Mr. G. A. Henty was born on December 8, 1832, and was educated at Westminster and at Caius College, Cambridge. He left the University before graduation to take a commission in the Purveyor's department during the Crimean campaign. On the conclusion of hostilities he retired into private life and assisted his father in the management of a colliery. Later he proceeded to Sardinia as manager of a mine there, which proved a failure. On his return to England he became first a

corrector on the press and then a member of The Standard staff. His work consisted mainly of reviewing and special war correspondence. In his capacity as war correspondent he witnessed Garibaldi's campaigns in Italy, he travelled with Lord Napier to Magdala and with Lord Wolseley to Koomassie. He saw a little of both sides of the Franco-Prussian war. He was in Spain during the Carlist risings, and he accompanied the British expedition to Khiva.

Latterly he became editor and proprietor of The Union Jack, a boy's paper, for which he wrote several serial stories. This brought him into prominence, and, when the magazine ceased publication, Messrs. Blackie, of Edinburgh, published his stories and made arrangements with him for bringing out several tales annually. Under this agreement Mr. Henty has written prolifically ever since and his name is to-day on the title-page of nearly one hundred volumes.

A recent consular report to the United States Government from John L. Bittinger, Consul-General at Montreal, contains some interesting details about the stationery business in Canada. He states that stationery imports from Great Britain and the Old World countries are considerable, and are growing rapidly, while, he adds—what we don't like much to hear—that "imported goods are generally chosen in Canada in preference to those of home manufacture." Evidently the Consul-General speaks on good authority and has, himself, carefully examined the matter. Nevertheless, it comes a little hard at a time when so much is being said about supporting Canadian industries, that it should appear to a foreigner that we prefer goods of foreign manufacture to home-made articles.

An important decision has just been handed out by Judge Street, of Toronto, in the suit of A. & C. Black, of Edinburgh, vs. The Imperial Book Company, Limited, of Toronto, involving the question of copyright. The suit was instituted for the purpose of securing an injunction, restraining the Book Company from importing and selling a pirated United States edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica. Owing to a technicality in regard to the registration of the copyright in London, Judge Street has decided not to grant the injunction. The case will, no doubt, be appealed.

**Injunction
Refused**