

the English publisher when he hands over "America" to the New York or Chicago house. In future arrangements will have to be made for printing an edition here, and our printers, bookbinders and pressmen will get the benefit. It is possible that publishing on a larger scale here will be one outcome. There are, however, many books which it would not pay to issue here, and these the buyer will have to pay English prices for, which, in cases not a few, will mean that he cannot buy at all.

Some comment has been made on the apathy of the Toronto trade, contrasted with the activity shown in Montreal and elsewhere. But it is a mistake to think that men who are thoroughly conversant with the publishing and book trade, like Mr. A. S. Irving, the Copp, Clark Co., Warwick Bros. & Rutter, etc., are not alive to the issue. But the retail bookselling trade, as an extensive business, no longer exists in Toronto as it once did. The department stores, which are little better than junk shops as far as books are concerned, have destroyed the business as it formerly existed. As the new tariff seems to strike a hard blow at these junk concerns, the Toronto trade—if we could analyze their inner consciousness—are probably secretly pleased at the new situation. The department stores will find it difficult to carry on their old tricks. Suppose they go in for colonial editions; it is not so easy to order fresh supplies from London as from New York; and, besides, these editions are not cheap in the sense that so many of the paper-covered books are cheap. Then, many cheap issues in the States are now prohibited. At present a line of cheap books which could be sold by the department stores at 5 cents are coming out in the States. But being English reprints they cannot be imported. What will the department stores do? Well, the duty is off corn, so they can devote the book counters to selling flap corn, a business better suited to the literary and intellectual make-up of the managers.

Where does the ordinary town dealer figure in the new arrangement? If the solid ground be really cut from under the junk stores, the legitimate bookseller should undoubtedly gain. But if cheap books are

actually ruled out the dealer will want a lower duty on cloth books, and the new rate is undoubtedly too high, and injurious to the trade as a whole. Then ordering from London will not be nearly so convenient as from New York. There will not be nearly so many 25c. books as before, and you cannot expect to sell so many colonial editions at 50c., 60c. or 75c. as of novels issued for a quarter. The coming season should see a great clearing out of old books, because the usual supplies of cheap issues will not be forthcoming. The situation calls for energy and enterprise.

Altogether, we think the new rates unsatisfactory and injurious to the trade—as also to the public—and if the booksellers make a united effort modifications will be made in the 20 p.c. tariff, although the exemptions to libraries and colleges will probably stand.

THE JUBILEE SOUVENIRS.

A WELL-KNOWN man of literary tastes told THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER the other day that he was making a collection of Jubilee souvenirs. "He said: "I am not satisfied with a button or a picture or some other trifle; I want every souvenir I can get hold of. These things make a fine collection, and my children and my children's children will prize them in the years to come. None of them are expensive, and I have already purchased quite a number for a small sum."

This struck the writer as a good idea, and as it also has a direct bearing upon the sale of these souvenirs, the suggestion is passed on to the trade, who can use it with effect. The time will come, in the lifetime of many of us, when a well arranged collection of Victoria souvenirs will be very valuable. They are mere trifles now, and some serious people may pass them by as too childish to notice. But in time they become historical. Anyone who visits a place like Greenwich, for example, where relics of Nelson or Franklin of the most trifling character are gathered together and cherished, will realise how time alters our views of things. This is a memorable year, and men who pass through the celebration of the Queen's sixty years' reign and fail to hand on to their successors some mementoes of the occasion will appear foolish and idea-less.

THE EFFECT OF LIBRARIES.

A READER of this journal declares that our opinion of libraries being competitors of the booksellers is not held in the States. "My experience there in visiting both small and large towns was that the trade regarded the free public library as an aid rather than a disadvantage to the book business. The libraries are held to be useful in encouraging the reading habits of the people, and the trade consider this more than an offset against providing free books for the people. Many people do not buy books because they are not readers; once they get interested in a subject they will want some books of their own."

Then he went on to criticise the Canadian trade in a way we cannot quite endorse. "The Canadian bookseller is too much afraid of his shadow. How can he expect to tempt and sell book buyers if he doesn't keep what they want to buy? The book business is decaying, because it is not pushed by competent men in the large towns." This is partly true and partly unjust. We really think, however, that the bookseller of to-day hardly realises how important his calling is, and what a combination of qualities is required to make a successful one.

THE CANADIAN "SHEEP" KICKS.

ONE special feature of the new prohibition against importing copyright reprints is worth noticing. Some New York publishers at present hold the Canadian market for certain new books. They bought us, like sheep in the shambles, when they secured the copyright for "America." We fear, in the eyes of some (not all) English publishers, "America" means the United States. Canada as a national entity is not known. They picture this country as consisting of a few wigwams north of the great lakes. In these wigwams are huddled together a shivering band of red Indians and some "colonists," whose chief use for books is to stuff up the holes that let in the snow. Viewed in this light, what rights have we, except a gracious permission to read round a roaring log fire in the freezing July and August nights books printed by other people?

Well, offers made by Canadian publishing houses in the last twelve months: a Canadian edition of certain books have been refused. There are a number of such cases.