

# THE Bookseller and Stationer

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## CURRENT TOPICS

**W**ITH this number THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER enters on its nineteenth volume. It would, perhaps, be too premature for us to make any definite announcement as to plans for the coming years. THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER will be strengthened in various ways, while still carrying on the policy it has advocated in the past. Particular attention will be paid to the various departments of store management, from which it is hoped retailers will derive benefit. Advertising, window and store displays and the office will all receive regular attention. More stress will be laid on the outlying sections of the bookseller's business, such as wall paper, pictures, picture-framing, etc., and ideas as to new departments will be from time to time inserted. The section devoted to books and book news will receive due attention, and booksellers will be guided as to what books are most saleable and what books are leading the market. Our column of best-selling books forms one of the most interesting pages in the paper and should be helpful to every bookseller. It is carefully compiled from month to month and the summary gives a fairly exact estimate of what the Canadian public are reading.

### A Foreword for 1903

Booksellers all over the country announce an exceptionally good holiday trade. A great deal of money was spent and the bookstores and fancy goods stores secured a large proportion of it. A feature was the increased sale of well-bound standard books. In the cities, particularly, booksellers report the sale of numerous valuable sets, and special and thin paper editions were largely in evidence. The sale of current fiction was large, and illustrated gift books, such as "An Old Sweetheart of Mine" and "Wanted: A Chaperon," sold in large quantities. Another feature was the enormous demand for handsome art calendars. Large stocks were cleaned out in short order. In the cities the old demand for the ordinary calendars almost disappeared and, instead, art calendars and art pictures of all sorts took their place. There was quite a demand for fancy stationery with crests and monograms, possibly more than usual, while leather and metal goods had an excellent sale. Taken all in all, universal satisfaction is expressed at the excellent volume of business done during the holiday season.

### Holiday Sales Large

For the 56th time The Canadian Almanac has made its appearance. Its growth has been contemporaneous with that of the country it so exhaustively describes. The first number, which appeared in 1847, contained 104 pages. The present issue has expanded to 440 pages. All the old departments have been revised to date, and we have, as usual, the Customs Tariff and the Post Office Directory, the lists of banks, schools, colleges, clergy and societies, much needful military information and the usual astronomical tables, besides other departments too numerous to mention. The Copp, Clark Co., who are responsible for this valuable compendium, deserve much credit for the able manner in which such a confused mass of material has been collected and arranged in a convenient form.

### Amalgamation Suggested

A correspondent has brought forward a suggestion on which we hesitate to express any definite opinion. It is to the effect that amalgamations of booksellers' and stationers' businesses with dry goods businesses in the towns and villages of Canada might be effected with mutual benefit to both parties. That is, he would suggest that a bookseller might with advantage enter into partnership with a dry goods merchant, and, while each still took charge of his own department, the general financial management of the combined businesses would be controlled by the firm. The practicability of the scheme is the point in question. Expenses would undoubtedly be diminished, and there are other points in its favor. All we can do is to throw our columns open to its discussion, trusting that our readers will make use of this opportunity to air their opinions on the matter.

### Readers' Preferences

Professor Peck's remarks as to the tendency of United States readers naturally suggests an inquiry into the present tendency of Canadian readers. One significant fact that may be taken as a pretty sure indication of what Canadian readers are seeking for in the way of current fiction is the rumored action of the Booklovers' Library in Canada. Some dissatisfaction has been expressed, it is said, by the patrons of that institution at the selections of books made by the directorate in Philadelphia, of which the Canadian offices are branches. Naturally, the lists contain a large preponderance