

MAGAZINES.

THE Canadian Magazine for December has an improved cover, an increased number of illustrations, and is printed on better paper. Moreover, the matter is of greater quantity and of higher quality than usual. "George Stewart's estimate of Thor-eau" is an article worthy of the best paper in the world. The articles on "John Brown in Canada," "Hudson's Bay," and "The Thousand Islands," are distinctively Canadian. A short story competition, closing March 1st, is announced, and four cash prizes are offered.

With an issue of 210 pages, *The Arena* inaugurates its eleventh volume. Articles by Prof. Max Muller, Count Leo N. Tolstoi, Rev. J. M. Savage, B. O. Flower, and a story by Ham'in Garland, are worthy of special notice. It is well worth the price 50 cents. An important feature of the January number will be a symposium on "How Lust is Fostered by Legislation; or, our Age of Consent Laws." Frances E. Willard, Helen Gardner, Emily Blackwell, and others, will contribute. Walter Blackburn Harte will contribute a social story, "A Drama in Tatters."

The Century's Christmas Number has a pretty cover and an admirable list of contents. William M. Sloane's "Life of Napoleon" continues, and is charming reading. Several Christmas stories are bright and timely, while the other fiction and the heavier articles make this a remarkable issue.

The 15-cent *Cosmopolitan* is still with the rest. Its illustrations are just as artistic, and even more irresistible than ever. Rudyard Kipling, Mrs. Purton Harrison, Wm. Dean Howells, Katrina Trask, and Albion W. Tourgee, contribute stories. All are well-known in Canada, with the exception of Katrina Trask, and anyone who reads her charming little story, entitled "The Hall-Mark," will not soon forget her dainty imagination, her delicate perception of the finer human feelings, and her broad knowledge of the workings of the human mind.

The *Overland Monthly's* three-color cover is bright and taking. San Francisco's production is thus up to the times with its holiday number. The contents are bright, entertaining and pleasing.

The December *Outing* has an article on the Japanese theatre, which is very bright. Football is given considerable attention, while the fiction is suitable. The illustrations are among the best of the month.

The Christmas number of *The Art Interchange* is a delightful one, and carries the spirit of the holiday season through its pages. The number opens with an engraving of John La Farge's scene of the Nativity, at Bethlehem, followed by the second part showing "The Arrival of the Magi," from the double mural painting in the Church of the Incarnation, New York, accompanied

by "A Christmas Hymn," by Richard Watson Gilder, which seems almost to have been written for these pictures. An appreciation on Mr. La Farge follows, which recognizes him as a genius of no common order. The color plates are unusually handsome; being a capital picture of kittens, "Out of Mischief," from a painting by Lambert, and a brilliant panel of Violets, by Mary E. Hart, both of which will be enormously popular.

BOARD OF APPRAISERS NEEDED.

A change in the administration of Customs affairs is badly needed. Mr. Wallace, the Comptroller, should give his acting commissioner, Mr. Walters, some other berth for which he is better adapted. He is said to be an excellent accountant, but from a lack of practical business knowledge is unable to give an intelligent decision on questions constantly submitted to him for a ruling. The thing is so bad that the Department is afraid to send out his decisions for the uniform guidance of collectors generally. The result is that every port has a rating of its own. A case in point is *The Delineator*, the fashion journal. At many points it comes through free of duty. At others 80c. per 100 copies is charged, while at Toronto \$3.90 is the rate.

A Dominion Board of Appraiser is needed to decide upon all such points. In many cases a Comptroller such as Mr. Wallace, who has had years of experience as a general merchant, can deal intelligently with important matters. Each trade, however, should be represented on such board. The book and stationery trades should have at least one good man on it. We could name several who are now in the business who would make very capable appraisers.

THE CANADIAN ALMANAC.

Dealers are now selling it, and making money on it—that is the best recommendation the trade can give it, and this cannot be given to every almanac published in Canada. The Copp, Clark Co. use the trade squarely on this publication, and this is reciprocated.

The almanac has, behind its beautiful cover, many new features this year, they not having all been used up in the previous 47 issues.

The publishers were fortunate in securing an article from Dr. J. G. Bourinot on "Canadian Parliamentary Procedure." The doctor, who is a world-wide authority on such matters, describes in plain language the work of a session, and tells us how our laws are made. The series of articles on the defences of Canada will be found interesting. They comprise: "H.M. Regular Forces in Canada," "H.M. Ships on our Coasts," "The Royal Military College," "The Defences of Esquimaux," and "The Fisheries' Protec-

tion Service." A timely article on the Canadian Sault Ste Marie Canal, with a map of the district, is also of interest. Statistics of all the British colonies and possessions throughout the world are given, with a map of the world, showing British territory shaded. A study of this list shows to what a great and powerful empire we belong. The statistical and directory portion of the almanac is complete, accurate and up-to-date, and, altogether, it is more vigorous and meritorious than ever.

TRADE CHAT.

THE net profits of the Canadian Pacific Railway for October last were \$1,010,247, an increase over those of the corresponding month for last year of \$63,821. These figures are the largest net earnings for any month in the history of the road, with the single exception of October, 1892, when the figures were \$1,024,502. Taking into consideration the prevailing depression and the difficulties in which so many Americans roads have found themselves this year, the record is one of which the Canadian Pacific Railway authorities are justly proud.

Our "Book Reviews" are unavoidably held over until next issue.

The book stock of the Williamson Book Co., of Toronto, has been nearly all sold at auction.

E. E. Rogers, of Oshawa, has not made book-selling pay, and his father is liquidating the claims against him.

The liabilities of Moses S. Hall, Fredericton, N.B., previously reported, amount to about \$10,000, with only \$4,000 assets.

Thos. H. Hall, bookseller, of King street, St. John, N.B., has assigned, with liabilities of some \$15,000 and \$10,000 assets, with \$4,500 preferences.

J. H. Kenner, the popular Stratford bookseller, was married last month to a lady in that city. His father, who is a clergyman, performed the service.

Ansley, Sons & Co., Parry Sound, have sold their book, stationery and wall paper stock to John D. Laurie. They will confine themselves to the grocery branch of their business.

WESTERN Incorporated 1861.
ASSURANCE COMPANY

Fire and Marine

Capital - - -	\$2,000,000.00
Assets, over - -	2,400,000.00
Annual Income -	2,350,000.00

Head Office: TORONTO, ONT.

A. M. SMITH, President. GEO. A. COX, Vice-President.
J. J. KENNY, Man. Director. C. C. FOSTER, Secretary.