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BY CHARLES M. C. HUGHES
of the Bank of Montreal

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in the "Westminster" is entirely astray on this question. It says that if a United States house published a book in the United States and it was also published in England, we would have to import that book from England. This is not the case, for obviously that book would not be a reprint of a British copyright, and so would not come under the restriction. Further, the English prices are not so much higher than the United States prices; in fact, many books it is much cheaper to purchase in Britain. Besides, the editing is done more carefully there, a point that is worth a few cents additional. Where the English prices are higher the edition is a much better one than the American edition. If this law is retained the British houses will either publish a lower priced edition for Canada, or publish an edition in Canada. The statements in regard to the English prices are not mere guesses, but are backed by the opinion of everyone who has had anything to do with English and United States editions.

To return to the action of the Montreal booksellers. A meeting was held and the matter discussed thoroughly. Mr. Foster Brown, Mr. Wm. Drysdale and Mr. Brophy, of the Montreal News Co., went to Ottawa and saw the members of the Government. They urged the removal of all exemptions, and asked that if the old duty could not be maintained, the 20 per cent. should be reduced to 10 per cent. In regard to the prohibitory clause they asked that the words "except authorized editions" be added, thus allowing importation from the States of books published under international copyright. Mr. F. E. Grafton and Mr. Robitaille, of Beauchemin et Fils, went up later to urge substantially the same amendments. Whether the deputation will succeed in their requests is not determinable, but all the members express themselves gratified with the Ministers' reception and they are hopeful of a good result following.

It might be added that the prohibitory clause is not displeasing to booksellers. It shuts off the supply for the departmental store to a great extent, and gives the legitimate bookseller a better chance to gain and keep trade, a point not lightly to be forgotten.

WHAT BROKE HIS PRIDE.

A laughable incident occurred recently in a Boston bookseller's store. A young new arrival approached the proprietor and asked for employment. After putting a few questions to him the bookseller decided to give him a chance and offered him work at \$7 per week. The young fellow evidently set himself at a higher valuation, for he declined the offer. As he went out, however, his eye was attracted by a sign on a counter near the door which read: "Dickens Works for \$5." "Well," he said, "if he does, I can't afford to throw away seven." And he returned and accepted the situation.

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Our stock after the holiday season was never run so low. Since then we have had a large staff making up New Styles, New Designs in New Unique Leathers, Purse, Wallets, Portfolios, Letter and Card Cases, etc.

Binders' Material

We are giving increased attention to this department. Leathers, Cloth, Wire, Mill and Straw Board, Thread, and all sundries required in a bindery.

Printers' Supplies

We call special attention of printers to our stock of Flat, Linen, Colored Cover and Fancy Papers, Card and Bristol Board, Cards, Memorials, Programmes, Wedding Stationery, Billheads, Statements, in fact everything required by the trade. Printing Papers at Mill Prices.

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