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CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS

OF INTEREST TO THE TRADE.

The State of Trade.

From various quarters come encouraging reports of the state of trade among Canadian book and stationery dealers. Business is more active, and dealers are inclined to put their stocks and stores in better shape in prospect of a good Autumn and Winter trade. This is a feature which indicates that dealers are taking a more hopeful outlook than for several years past. There is a distinct demand for better stationery, and, in cloth-bound books, sales are made now which would not have been deemed possible a few seasons ago. The same is true of fancy goods, and importers have done well with lines of superior articles.

Encouraged by the prospects, THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER proposes to make its next issue a special one, in which every tributary branch of the trade will be dealt with, and the features of the coming season in stationery, books, fancy goods and wall papers be brought out. Look out, therefore, for the September issue!

Copyright and its Effects.

The Copyright Bill has passed Parliament, and only awaits the consent of the Imperial authorities to become law. There is said to be no doubt that such assent will be given. In future, therefore, every publisher of a book copyrighted in Canada can

exclude every other edition of that book except the copies brought in for libraries.

Now that the Canadian publisher has his market on certain books, it may be well to consider what he will do. For instance, he has it in his power to insist that the retail price of such books shall not be cut. He may also refuse to sell to department stores, which are steadily demoralizing the book trade, both in Canada and in the United States. It is said that the department stores always manage to get a supply. That may be. But we believe also, that, if a publisher has the desire, he can prevent his book being slaughtered by the department stores, to the manifest injury of the regular dealers. As to increase of price on paper-bound copyrights, there may be, as we pointed out a month or two ago, some increase due to increased cost of paper, wages, materials, etc. But the market will only stand a certain price, and there will be competition enough among Canadian publishers handling different books to keep the price down to a reasonable figure.

Meantime, the publishers now for the first time in the history of Canada given an exclusive market for certain books ought to do all in their power to help the regular trade. Bookselling is a profession, and the men who sell books should be encouraged by the men who publish books. That is, they should not be cut under by the depart-

ment stores, which do nothing to educate the public to appreciate good books, and might as well sell by the yard or the pound, as far as the art of bookselling is involved.

Penalty for Infringement.

At the late session of Parliament, Mr. McCarthy, member for North Simcoe, presented a bill amending the Criminal Code to punish "forgery of copyright." This bill drew some stringent provisions punishing those who infringed copyright without the authority of the owner of the copyright. It would have made everyone wilfully guilty of this offence liable to a heavy fine or to imprisonment and the infringing copies would be forfeited to the owner of the copyright. But this bill did not become law and was dropped. The situation hardly seems to call for any such law, since the present laws are quite equal to the protection of copyright books. The new law, for example, giving copyright on certain books to Canadian publishers, makes it incumbent upon the Customs authorities to seize any English editions which are imported in quantity. No doubt a list of the new books copyrighted under the new law will be posted up for the benefit of Customs appraisers, so that no infringements can come in. If any are imported in ignorance they would simply be confiscated when the entry was presented to the Customs. As for anyone in Canada attempting to issue editions of their own, illegally, in spite of the fact that an authorized edition was already being issued in Canada, it is almost impossible to suppose such a thing. Anyway there is ample ground under the present law