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EDITORIAL.

Injurious Copyright and Postal Regulations.

The disadvantages under which Canadian book publishers labor in respect to copyright and the anomalous condition of our postal regulations are subjects of real concern to farmers as members of a common community as well as from the fact that they are becoming the foremost of our reading classes. Under existing copyright arrangements between Britain and the United States, Canada is practically treated as though she were a part of the States. If Canada exercised the right to legislate in its own interests, it is safe to say that out of the 250,000 books imported under the heading of "fiction books and sheets" in 1900 into Canada from the States, 200,000 would have been published in Canada. As it stands, Canadian interests are sacrificed to the interests of British and American authors and publishers.

If the copyright conditions are bad, the postal conditions are worse. It now costs about 75 cents a year to deliver the "Farmer's Advocate" to subscribers in England; a dollar a year for the Weekly Globe or Mail-Empire, and 72 cents for the Canadian or Methodist Magazines. It costs nearly a dollar a year to carry British monthly magazines or weeklies to Canadian subscribers, and two and a half pence a week to bring Australian papers here. The Imperial rate of eight cents per pound on periodicals is exorbitant, unwise and unpatriotic, and the Canadian Government must charge this rate on Canadian periodicals going to Great Britain. Canada cannot reduce the rate without Imperial action. The United States Postal Department carries periodicals at the mere cost of service, about a cent per pound, believing that trade follows the press.

What are the consequences of this state of affairs, for which the British Postal Department is primarily responsible? A single mail train carries more sacks of United States papers into Canada than the total sacks of British papers for a whole week. Canada and the United States have what is called postal reciprocity, but for one Canadian newspaper carried free into the Republic probably 100 American periodicals, including a mass of baneful newspapers, are unloaded free into Canada. The nearly \$1.00 a year tax on British magazines has crowded them out of Canada and replaced them with cheap United States magazines or else with inferior American editions of the British periodicals, the British advertisements and other features being removed in New York and replaced with American. For some months we have been taking note of Canadian news and book counters, and find them loaded down with stacks of American magazines, instead of Canadian and real British magazines, as should be the case. We have some splendid magazine publications issued in Canada, which should be loyally supported as on their literary and artistic merits they richly deserve by the Canadian people, and be given a fair field—for special favors they do not need—at the hands of our authorities. Naturally, American periodicals are saturated with Americanism, if not offensively anti-British.

Surely the authorities in Canada and Britain must see what the ultimate consequences of such streams of influence are likely to be. As Dr. Withrow, the gifted Canadian historian and

editor, says: "Nothing, we judge, would do more to foster a community of sentiment and interest between Canada and the motherland, to diffuse information in each country about the other and to divert emigration from the British Isles to the Dominion instead of to the United States, than greater freedom for the interchange of printed literature between the two countries. The constant exchange of papers would keep up the home ties and would make each country vastly more familiar with the resources, commercial necessities and facilities for trade than any other agency of which we can conceive."

The Canadian publisher contributes heavily in taxes on the paper, the type and the machinery he uses, but while British periodicals are practically excluded, the American flood of nastiness is freely admitted. We do not believe that Canadians are becoming "Americanized" in national sentiment. All the tendencies are growing tremendously stronger in the other direction, but in manners, morals and trade the obnoxious influence is telling and is likely to grow worse.

The Montreal Witness contends at least for an Imperial postage on newspapers similar to that between Canada and the States, and the "Farmer's Advocate" believes that this would prove even more beneficial in the long run than the Imperial 2-cent letter postage. The Canadian Magazine, in summing up the needs of the whole question of copyright and postal regulations, makes the following condensed statement:

"THE FUTURE OF CANADIAN LITERATURE."

"Canadian writers and artists must have a home market. They will not have it until three reforms are accomplished:

"First.—The two million pounds of foreign (not British) periodicals annually admitted free into this market must be taxed as books, unprinted paper and advertising matter are now taxed.

"Second.—There must be a Canadian Copyright Act which will build up a strong publishing interest.

"Third.—The postage rates on newspapers and periodicals to other parts of the Empire must be reduced from eight cents a pound to one. This will bring in British periodicals and let out Canadian."

At a recent conference between the Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice, and several publishers in Toronto, Mr. Mills intimated, speaking for himself, that provision might be made that in all cases where the British author had taken a copyright in the United States, and had also disposed to an American publisher the copyright of his works in Canada, a high duty should be imposed on all such works imported from the States. That would be practically saying, "If you want our market you have got to deal fairly with us." Where we thought we were being discriminated against or unjustly dealt with, we could compel the British author to deal with Canadians instead of Americans for the Canadian market. Some might object to that, but we have got to make sacrifices in the interests of each other with a view to maintaining our own political authority. Mr. Mills intimated that a measure looking towards relief was contemplated in the near future. It is said that coming events cast their shadow before. Is this the reason that within the past few weeks one of the largest New York publishing houses decided to put the control of their Canadian business exclusively into Canadian hands, and hereafter many of their works will be printed and bound in Toronto? Even under existing conditions, Canada absorbs

in proportion to population more books than the United States.

With regard to postal regulations as well as copyright, we apprehend that the views of the Minister of Justice must be shared by the Postmaster-General, Hon. Mr. Mulock, and other members of the Cabinet, and that such measures will be taken as will afford an effective redress for the grievances we have pointed out.

The Sir Wm. Macdonald Educational Gift.

By the kindness of Prof. Robertson we have before us full memoranda of Sir Wm. Macdonald's plan "proposed for the improvement of education at rural schools and for the establishment of courses of instruction and training in Domestic Economy at the Ontario Agricultural College."

In addition to provision for a Nature Study and Domestic Economy school at Guelph, as reported in our last number, the gift makes provision for two experiments or object lessons in each of the five Eastern Provinces of Canada, of the following character:

No. 1.—The consolidation of five, six or more rural schools into one central graded school, to be equipped with a school garden and a manual-training room.

No. 2.—The appointment of a travelling instructor to visit and spend one half-day per week in each of a group of eight or ten rural schools for a term of three years, to train the teachers and pupils of these schools in nature study and the making and proper using of school gardens.

No. 3 is supplementary to the two mentioned, and consists of the establishment of evening continuation classes, either at the central graded school or at one or two convenient schools in group No. 2, for advanced instruction in agriculture and horticulture, of the youths employed during the day on the farm.

It is thought that the practicability of the central graded school has been demonstrated by the facility with which milk and cream are collected. Since the milk or cream of a half dozen school sections can be collected daily to a central place, it is believed that the collection and distribution of children by a similar arrangement of routes may be provided for.

Of course, these single examples in each Province are to serve the purpose of object lessons or illustrations of what may be accomplished and how it can be done. Nature study and manual training cannot be generally introduced in a day; their introduction must come as a gradual evolution and improvement of the aims and methods which may be dominant for the time being. Concrete examples of the kind designed by Sir Wm. Macdonald and Prof. Robertson will set a standard, furnish effective answers to objections and thereby, doubtless, greatly hasten the desired end.

The memorandum cites three causes that have hindered the right kind of educational progress, viz., "want of money, the fact that the timetable is already too full, and the fact that teachers are not properly qualified to take up better methods." We shall presently add a fourth cause that is equally valid, but first a word as to those assigned.

The lack of money will not stand in the way when the people realize the need of improvement; indeed, in most schools but little increase of funds would be required. Then, with regard to the time-table the difficulty is more imaginary than