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CURRENT NOTES.

THE IMPORT BOOK TRADE.

WHILE a few weeks of comparative quiet in the book trade has followed a very good holiday business, the outlook in Canada is hopeful, and we have not heard dealers speak as confidently for years as they do now. The book and stationery business is almost the first to feel depression and almost the last to feel a revival, but it is evident that the greatly improved conditions in Canada have extended to books and stationery, and we are likely to have, during 1899, a restoration of something like our old prosperity. The importation of books last year exceeded those of 1897 by a

considerable sum, and the monthly returns for the year show this:

	1897	1898.
January.....	\$50,338	\$53,210
February.....	40,378	57,679
March.....	53,277	71,344
April.....	60,365	73,298
May.....	55,690	78,565
June.....	57,628	56,639
July.....	48,028	81,378
August.....	66,489	97,184
September.....	95,308	119,642
October.....	101,633	123,089
November.....	109,274	128,130
December.....	101,530	114,631
Total.....	\$839,938	\$1,054,789

It is understood that the imports of English books account for a large portion of the increase. But the official statistics, even for the fiscal year ending June, 1898, have not been published in detail yet, so we cannot know certainly. Considering the increase in Canadian copyright editions produced here, the fact that \$200,000 (£40,000) worth of books more were imported in 1898 than in 1897, speaks loudly of improved trade conditions.

A CANADIAN AUTHORS' SOCIETY.

A meeting was held in the Canadian Institute, Toronto, on Monday, February 6, to take preliminary steps towards the organization of an authors' society in Canada. The head of the movement is Mr. Goldwin Smith, the most eminent man of letters on this continent, while among those who have given it their support, either as authors or professional writers for the press and magazines are: Messrs. O. A. Howland: President Loudon, Toronto University; Prof. Clark, Trinity University; Prof. Mavor, Toronto University; Prof. Alexander, Toronto University; Dr. Teefy, St. Michael's College; Dr. Burwash, Victoria University; Prof. Rand, McMaster Uni-

versity; B. E. Walker; James Bain, jr.; John A. Cooper, editor Canadian Magazine; Rev. Dr. Dewart; Rev. Dr. Withrow; Rev. J. A. Macdonald, editor Westminster, and Bernard McEvoy. It is proposed that the programme of the society on copyright and other subjects shall be submitted to the principal authors living in various parts of Canada, so that cooperation with its objects may be general.

One of the gratifying signs of the times, indicative of a growing national sentiment in Canada, is the remarkably increased demand from public libraries and Sunday-school libraries, too, for Canadian books—history, travel, biography, etc. Our literature has had a long and hard struggle for recognition, but it is coming, and our writers may take heart.

By the death, in Toronto, January 23, of John Y. Reid, an old and worthy member of the Canadian paper and stationery trade passed away. Mr. Reid was born in Berwickshire, Scotland, in 1823, came to Canada in 1846, and entered the well-known stationery firm of Buntin Bros. & Co., Hamilton, now known as Buntin, Gillies & Co. He removed to Toronto as managing partner of the branch here, and as years went prosperity attended his efforts, the firm being organized in 1881 as Buntin, Reid & Co., a title it still retains. Mr. Reid, owing to failing health, retired in 1894, but his son, Geo. B. Reid, remains in the service of the house. The late Mr. Reid was prominent in commercial, political and religious circles, and was much respected for his worth and integrity.