

we recollect having seen a well-posted and competent man in charge of such a counter. The big stores are oftener than not the resort of people who have no discrimination, taste, or education in the best sense.

THE GAGE CO.'S NEW BUILDINGS.

THE expansion of the publishing, book and stationery industry in Canada is indicated by the enlargement, refitting and rebuilding of The W. J. Gage & Co., Limited's warehouse, on Front street, Toronto. The changes now in progress will more than double the space and capacity of the manufacturing and selling facilities of the company. Having acquired the warehouse next door, formerly occupied by Messrs. Nelson, the Gage Co. is building an extension back to Piper street. The rest of the establishment is being thoroughly rearranged and refitted, and the company believes it will have the most extensive and complete book and stationery manufactory and warehouse in the country. The company's customers will be interested in a brief description of the improvements, which the managers courteously allowed BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER to make.

When all arrangements are concluded, the first floor will be given over to the sample room and the public offices, with Mr. Gundy's private office. A new staircase, on the west side, will lead up to the stationery department on the second floor. A door will communicate with the book department, alongside, in front of which, will be the private offices, those of Mr. Gage and Mr. Spence. Above the book department will be the envelope factory, and next it the flat writing papers and envelope stock. On the fourth floor will be, as before, the bindery, which is being extended back to the newly acquired building on Piper street. On the fourth floor of the new Front street warehouse the paper for manufacturing purposes is kept, while the publishing of school books is carried on in the Piper street building. Next to this, on the same street, is being erected an entirely new building, in which will be the press room and printing machinery (the company do no job work). Electricity provides power for the whole establishment. In the large basement are stored many tons of paper, including that made in the Royal Mills.

The shipping-room is being extended and a more convenient arrangement in this respect made. In fact, the whole establishment is being equipped and remodeled in a systematic and complete manner. In point of light, space and facilities the new buildings will leave little to be desired.

IMPORTING U.S. REPRINTS ILLEGALLY.

THE PRACTICE SAID TO BE PREVALENT AT SEVERAL CANADIAN POINTS JUST NOW.

BOOKS WHICH ARE NOW INVADING CANADIAN COPYRIGHTS—THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS NOT VERY ACTIVE—THE POSITIONS OF THE PUBLISHERS AND THE BOOKSELLERS.

THERE is reason to believe that the importation of United States reprints of Canadian copyright books is on the increase. In cities and towns which are near the United States border the practice is said to be prevalent, and some cases are already being investigated by the Customs authorities. The owners of Canadian copyrights are not usually very insistent on their rights in this matter, where only one or two copies have been brought in inadvertently by a bookseller, and where the local Customs authority is not well posted on the list of prohibited imports. Although, even in these cases, an injustice exists, it is only where large numbers of copies of reprints are systematically brought in by dealers who seem to ignore the question of right, or the legality of the practice that protests are made. There are three different classes or interests that play a part in, or are affected by this unfair importation.

First, there is the position of the Customs authorities. If the local officials are ignorant of what books are copyright they ought to be instructed. If the books are being smuggled, then the law should be enforced, and offenders prosecuted. The tariff Act is plain, and heavy penalties are imposed for infraction. The central Customs authorities at Ottawa should be alert to give effect to the law which they are bound to enforce and administer. The violations now going on constitute a genuine grievance, and, except at a few ports, one would suppose there was no supervision of book importing at all. Among the works, unauthorized editions of which have been largely selling in certain parts of Canada for some time past, are reported to be "Quo Vadis," Tennyson's Poems, "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," "The Standard Bearer," several of G. A. Henty's books, and a number of others. The Customs officials ought, in common fairness, to do their duty.

Secondly, there is the case of the Canadian publishers or owners of copyrights. These people buy the right to the Canadian market in good faith. The Canadian market is not large, and there is no protection against English editions, only United States reprints. If the latter are not excluded, the publisher's interest is seriously invaded. The publishers are getting out creditable editions. They give a good deal of work to Canadian workmen, and, as the book market expands the printing and bookbinding trades may become very prosperous. The present copyright law is defective enough as it

stands, without allowing infractions of it. Both political parties at Ottawa agree that, if an agreement can be made with the Imperial authorities, a new Act should be passed. The Canadian publishing industry, therefore, is in no very advantageous position and ought to have whatever advantage exists under the present law.

Lastly, the bookseller or dealer is concerned in this matter. It is a serious affair for him, since even if the local Customs house allows the entry of the volumes, through ignorance, that does not relieve the dealer of responsibility for importing them. He is liable to a fine ranging from \$20 to \$200. Then there is the unfairness of the practice. When the forbidden United States reprint is brought in, the owner of the Canadian copyright loses, the sale of his edition and is robbed to that extent. If the reprint is also a pirated edition the author is robbed as well. It is not just to expect the publisher to refrain, through generosity, from prosecuting offenders who may happen to be purchasers of his other books, because that is very like picking a friend's pocket and trusting to his friendship to ward off serious consequences. The booksellers, as a body, are not ungenerous men, and surely, it is unnecessary to remind them that if they are not willing to see others' rights protected, how can they expect their own rights, as citizens, or merchants, to be guarded? One of the crying evils of the day in business, in ordinary affairs, in almost all relations of life, is the selfishness which wants one's own rights guarded, but doesn't care a fig for the other man's. How on earth is one element in a community to obtain common acceptance of its just claims if this element will not be equally anxious that the rights of other elements are secured?

In this question of copyright, some dealer may say: "Oh, copyright is a nuisance anyway; why shouldn't I import any book I like?" For the simple reason that other people have legal rights which interfere with this freedom. Put the boot on the other leg. Supposing an organized effort were made to do away with the retail trade of the Canadian booksellers. Would not the trade appeal to the public? Is it not now, as other retail trades are doing, appealing to the State for legislation against the unfair competition of department stores? It is probably only necessary to put the matter squarely before the book trade and the Customs to have the grievance removed.