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CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS OF TRADE INTEREST.

A Veteran of the Trade.

The old city of Quebec contains a veteran figure in the retail trade. M. C. E. Holiwell, the oldest bookseller and stationer in Quebec, was born in England and emigrated to this country in 1851. He settled first in Toronto where he secured a position with the firm of Rowsell & Co., with whom he remained some time. When the Parliament of Old Canada was moved to Quebec, in 1859, he decided it would be a good idea to follow it. He did so, and opened a shop opposite the present post office. Here he soon established a prosperous business, and continued in this store for the space of 40 years—until the opening of the street railway changed the course of travel—when he removed, about a year ago, farther up town. During the past 40 years Mr. Holiwell has watched the growth of his adopted city with increasing interest, and many and varied are the changes in the ancient capital, as well as Canada at large, which have taken place in that space of time. He is now 72 years old, but as attentive to business as ever, and few who talk with him would believe he had passed the allotted three score and ten. Mr. Holiwell has always taken a deep interest in military matters. Joining the volunteers in England in 1846, he, upon coming to Canada, attached him-

self to the Toronto Field Battery, to which he belonged until his removal to Quebec, when he joined the Quebec Garrison Artillery and subsequently retired with the rank of captain.

A subject of some concern to St. John, N.B., the trade has developed in Regulation.

New Brunswick, where the city of St. John has had in force for several months an enactment affecting outside stationery firms doing business in that city. The matter was brought to our attention not long ago as one which might retard legitimate business, and we have looked into the new law from that standpoint. It appears that about July last the common council of St. John passed an ordinance amending its regulations regarding business licenses. It provides that all persons not taxpayers of St. John (excepting non-resident barristers and attorneys and commercial travelers), who shall engage in any professional or mercantile employment without taking out a licence shall be subject to penalties. A scale of license fees ranging from \$10 to \$100 is imposed. For instance, tailors from other points who come in to take orders for clothes are taxed \$100. Persons who take orders for printing, stationery etc., are taxed a similar amount. Ordinary street pedlars

are taxed \$50. But the regulation takes care to except commercial travelers, and in order that there may be no mistake the new law defines exactly what is understood by that class. Clause 4 of the ordinance says:

"The term 'commercial traveler' under this law shall be considered to mean a person who offers for sale, sells or takes orders for any kind or description of goods, wares or merchandise, either by sample or otherwise, to or from any person, firm or incorporated company, when such person, firm or incorporated company buys or gives orders for such goods, wares or merchandise with the intention of selling the same again to some other person or persons.

It appears, therefore, that the law aims at preventing outsiders from doing any retail business in competition with local concerns. Those who sell to the trade are not taxed or impeded. The regulation has the support of the trade in St. John, and it is intended, we understand, to put in force a similar enactment in Halifax.

A Dealer Victimized.

Dealers who handle both new and second-hand books often have constant visitors, who drop in regularly, look over the books, take them down from the shelves, and often stand reading them for a long time. As a class, these persons are respectable, and often good buyers. You cannot watch them suspiciously, both from lack of time and because it might not be good policy. Occasionally, however, a dealer is victimized in this way. The other day, Albert Britnell, the well-known book dealer of Yonge street, Toronto, located a person who had been appropriating books, and had him arrested. The man, by name Ingram, had, ap-