

ishing Co., Toronto. This club consisted of a limited number of patrons of this firm, each member having the privilege of reading any of the standard works in stock, at a charge of 25c. per book, the books to be brought back unsoiled. The club was in August last merely in the experimental stage, but gave every promise of success.

These promises have been fulfilled. In nine months one member has taken out nearly 100 books, and many others have taken out large numbers. At 25c. for each book, this makes quite a respectable addition to the income of the book dealer. It has also been found by the Bain Co. that this club has not reduced the sale of books, rather a contrary effect resulting.

At this writing there are many more such clubs being organized by bookstore firms, especially in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. The idea seems to have met with distinct approval in the west, and travelers from that section of Canada predict the establishment of many such clubs in towns and villages there.

THE IMPORT BOOK TRADE.

The results for the month of February, as compared with the February of 1897, again show an increase in the import book trade. It is impossible to examine the monthly returns since the new tariff went into force in May, 1897, without realizing that there is a steady improvement in the buying capacity of the Canadian trade. In the nine months the new tariff has been in operation the value of the imports has increased by \$43,000, while the duties collected have been over \$30,000 less. The details, each month, are as follows:

IMPORTS OF BOOKS INTO CANADA				
	1897.	1898	Duty 97	Duty 98
June	\$ 57,628	\$ 69,964	\$13,317	\$18,562
July.....	48,028	56,917	10,327	13,857
August.....	66,489	62,638	13,801	15,496
September ..	95,308	96,062	17,683	23,920
October	101,633	90,430	16,501	21,648
November ..	109,274	102,977	19,075	25,291
December...	101,530	86,131	19,251	22,626
	1899	1897.	1898.	1897.
January.....	\$ 52,210	\$ 50,538	\$ 12,173	\$ 12,228
February ...	57,679	40,378	10,938	10,335
Totals	\$691,436	\$617,135	\$133,160	\$161,498

It will be seen from these figures that our imports in February were \$17,000 more than during the same month last year. The first two months of 1898 indicate an increased import of \$20,000 over the same period in 1897. Each month since October last the

imports have risen in value. The regular trade would hardly go on increasing importations during five months if the prospects of selling had not improved. But who is doing the increased trade, the regular bookseller or the department store?

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY.

The craze for amateur photography is said to be more marked in the United States this season than ever before. It grows with the bicycle habit, as people of both sexes go more about the country and like taking snap shots of nice bits of scenery and towns new to the casual visitor. Dealers in the United States, it is said, are going to devote more time to cameras this summer as there is a profit on the goods, which the book and stationery people can handle to advantage. Is there a hint in this for some of our Canadian trade?

UNION LABEL ON CITY STATIONERY.

The Toronto labor unions asked that the city printing and stationery all bear the union label. A deputation of stationery manufacturers, including Mr. Richard Brown, of The Brown Bros., Limited, and Mr. A. W. Thomas, of The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, protested against this policy as it would mean the discharge from several establishments of old employes not members of the union but receiving union rate of wages. The city solicitor has decided that to affix the label as required is beyond the city's legal power. Thus ends the incident. The labor leaders should now turn their attention to the fact that the union label is not attached to the sun, moon and stars, all doing business here as lighting agents, and that the employes of these concerns are probably underpaid. When the leaders get through with the neighboring planets they can go to work for civic reforms by quoting valuable precedents.

MAPS OF CANADA.

THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER has been given an advance glimpse of part of the new map of Canada being prepared by The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. The newest and most accurate spelling of names, in accordance with official usage and the latest explorations, is being embodied, particularly in relation to our far northern districts. All names are being printed in a bold type, which will be appreciated. The map

avoids the painful error of the Canadian Department of Railways' map, which shows Canada as a sort of accidental and unnecessary fringe along the northern part of this continent. As a national undertaking, the new map is entitled to supersede others made in foreign countries, and it should be used not merely for schools and offices, but also for emigration purposes in the Canadian agencies abroad.

A PROTECTING PENHOLDER.

A new penholder being shown in Berlin, is named "Schutzmann." The policeman is, in German, called Schutzmann or Polizist, and a penholder which claims that name must therefore be able to protect or keep something in order. It extends its protection, however, merely to rulers, fingers, and its own nibs, which is certainly all we can reasonably expect from a penholder. Besides that it draws double lines like those used in book balancing. The holder is made of wood, and a short tube can be moved backward and forward on the same in such a way that either the nib in the body part can be entirely hidden and the holder be safely carried in the pocket or, so as to allow a second nib being inserted in that tubing. In the latter case the point of the second nib would be placed a little to the left of the first one, and slightly in front of it. If the latter is filled with ink, lines could be drawn by the dry nib gliding along the ruler, which would remain clean, or, by dipping both in the ink double lines can be produced. The invention will most likely be extremely welcome to those who are in the habit of always soiling their fingers when writing, but they must not be forgetful at the same time, for they would, of course, have to push back the moveable portion whenever replenishing the ink.

HERALDIC EMBLEMS ON PAPER.

In New York, according to The Stationer, fashionable people continue to hunt for the arms of their ancestors in order to have them emblazoned upon their correspondence papers. As was to be expected, the hoi polloi are seeking to ape this latest fad. Heraldic artists are in demand. Certain of the swell stationers about town report that they are unable to fill the orders they have piling in upon them. There must be money in the business, for I notice among the business personals of a New York Sunday paper the advertisements of several heraldic artists who are anxious to get up crests and mottoes for patrons at home. The stationer who is unable to supply a king-at-arms for his patrons these days is, indeed, behind the times.