

possibilities of our foreign trade. Our wealth in undeveloped resources was greater than those of any other country on earth except Russia, and the conditions were much more favorable here than there. He thought the Department of Trade and Commerce, at Ottawa, should be made more valuable. We were not taking full advantage of the advertising Canada was getting at present in the Empire. A great interest was shown in Canada at the Glasgow Exhibition, and there was not proper information given to those inquiring. We were not represented in the business circles of London fully enough. The next 25 years would see great changes in Canadian trade. We were now laying the foundation. Let us make character the corner stone, so that the word Canadian will be synonymous with business integrity.

THE PRESS.

The last toast was "The Press," proposed by Mr. Richard Brown, who thought that to reform the press, if it needed it, the public must be first reformed. A vicious people makes a vicious press, and pure readers make a pure press. Mr. W. J. Douglas and Mr. John A. Ewan were called upon to reply.

Mr. Douglas did not think that there was a section of the community that had the interests of the industries and prosperity of the nation more closely at heart than the press.

Mr. Ewan felt sorry that usually the last toast of the evening was the "old press." He spoke admiringly of the old publishers and publications of Canada now no longer in existence. They put up a noble struggle. Present-day publishers owed them a good deal, for they had laid the foundations and prepared the way for the modern publishing business.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Gage was replied to with three cheers and "He's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. Gage replied, saying that he felt fully repaid by meeting his fellow business men in this way. He was proud of his business and of his fellow publishers.

EARLY CLOSING IN NORTH SYDNEY

The merchants of North Sydney, N.S., have decided to close their places of business from now until April 1 at 6 o'clock every evening except Saturday. During April they will close at 7 p.m. From May 1 to November 31 their stores will close on Mondays and Thursdays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7.30, and Wednesdays at 6.

THE BRITISH BOOK TRADE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, December 28.

It is curious to note how the state of the weather affects the book trade, even when the approach of Christmas is supposed to make it brisk. If the weather is fair, no matter how cold it may be, book buyers invade the shops. Should it, on the other hand, be wet, they leave book shopping alone, as they would ordinary shopping. A well known London bookseller took the trouble to test how much his receipts fell away on the two driving wet days we had last week. He found that they were less by 40 per cent. than they should have been.

ROYALTY AND BOOKS.

Two items about Royalty and books: King Edward has accepted a copy of Mr. Allan Fea's history of "King Monmouth," and the Kaiser a copy of Mr. Walter Phelps Dodge's volume "From Squire to Prince," which tells the story of a German Royal House.

Some little time before his death, Sir Walter Besant wrote a biographical sketch of the King and Queen. It will appear as part of the Coronation literature, which promises to be fairly bulky. By that time we may also get the autobiography which Sir Walter Besant left. As might be supposed, it is most interesting, but not very long.

Mr. W. H. Wilkins is to write a full biography of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, and it will appear first in parts, with a perfect gallery of illustrations. Meanwhile, there is just appearing his study of the life and times of Queen Caroline, the Queen-Consort of George II. He points out that, so far, no life of Queen Caroline having any claim to completeness has been written. Yet, in his opinion, she wielded more authority over political affairs than any of our Queens Regnant, with the exception of Elizabeth and, in quite another sense, Victoria. He says that she was justly called by her contemporaries "The Illustrous," and his book, which has much fresh information, has that term in its title—"Caroline the Illustrious." The work is well illustrated.

NEW FICTION.

Miss Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler has finished a novel she entitles "Fuel of Fire." It will appear serially in *The Woman at Home*.

Several novels which were to have appeared in the Autumn have been postponed until the Spring. One of them is Mr. Robert Barr's volume "The Adventures of a Merry Monarch," which largely relates to

the actual life of a Scottish king. It looks as if the Spring publishing season were, in a special degree, to be a "fiction season." One firm has a list of 28 novels for it.

WHERE FURS ABOUND.

At the ancient trading post of The Hudson's Bay Company at Edmonton you are away from the modernity of the new town, and are conscious of a certain atmosphere of historical romance. From the front of the massive whitewashed buildings, which have more than once been attacked by hostile toes, you have a fine prospect of river, and woodland, and fertile plains, stretching away to the blue distance. The Saskatchewan runs in a deep gorge below you and on the farther bank there is a diversion of outline and tinge that is very delightful. But I don't suppose the Hudson's Bay people used to think much of the beauty of the scenery in the midst of which their trading post happened to be situated. Their eyes were set on the "main chance" rather too intently for that. When the Indian came for a sack of flour they stood his gun upright and made him pile skins up to its muzzle from the ground as the price of it. Well, of course, it had taken considerable trouble to get the flour there and there was no competition.

The fur trade is still pursued at Edmonton, and on the main streets one sees more than one sign on which is painted on legible letters: "Furs bought here for cash." Bears are to be seen occasionally within a few miles of the town, and it was not long ago that a Gaiquan farmer of the neighborhood, seeing a cub roaming near his shack, fetched his gun and fired at it. Thereupon its mother appeared and ran at him viciously, open-mouthed, and wished to tear his vitals. The man, having powder, but no more slugs, felt that a Galician's house is his castle, and retiring therein, barricaded himself as well as he could. All the day broke tho sho bear clawed all over the place in the endeavor to get at him. But the daylight enabled the hunter to find a couple more slugs, with which he despatched his assailant, afterwards coming up to Edmonton triumphantly with her skin and that of the cub for sale. Only the other day a bear was seen by a townsman prowling around his back yard, though it decamped with rapidity, warned, apparently, by the increasing daylight and by the noise the Edmontonian made in opening his back door, that the environment was unsuitable for an animal of its type. If you go 40 or 50 miles north or northwest you may "load for bear" with reasonable hope of bagging a specimen. Other fur-bearing animals are correspondingly numerous, and many a Mooswa and his companion roam in the vast wilderness.—*Calgary Correspondence Mail and Empire.*