

found in the cheap postal rate in America, which materially assisted the publishers in securing such a large sale, and thereby enabled them to turn out such a fine magazine. Our proximity to the United States makes it already hard enough for Canadian publishers to issue any publication creditable to Canada; let a heavy postal rate be imposed, and any hope of ever seeing this branch of the publishing trade increase in Canada would be effectually killed, while the existence of some publications now seemingly successful, would be greatly imperilled. The tendency of all legislation to-day is towards a lower postage rate, both domestic and foreign; and THE CANADIAN BIBLIOGRAPHER trusts the Postmaster-General will firmly resist all pressure looking to an increase of present postal rates. Rather let the present rates be lowered by one-half on books and letters, and the people, who pay the deficit, will be the gainers in the long run.

CANADIAN WRITERS.

Canada is a country with a vast extent of territory and with great natural resources stored in its countless acres; and it is a most encouraging sign to know that Canadians appreciate the vastness of their country and feel that there is a great future before it. For a young "colony" we do not make a bad showing at all, when we consider that we have the longest line of railway in the world; that our shipping interests are far ahead of many older and more populous countries; that our rivers and lakes are connected by a magnificent system of canals; that our manufacturers are able to compete successfully against the world, and that in other ways on every hand there are signs of a rapid and vigorous growth. Yes, Canada is forging ahead; and while it is pleasing to note so many evidences of material prosperity, it is no less pleasing to know that intellectually our progress is equally satisfactory. Our public school system is unrivalled; our newspapers are edited with conspicuous ability and will compare favorably with those published in other coun-

tries; while the "honor roll" of Canadian writers contains the names of men and women of whose record Canadians are justly proud.

One purpose of THE CANADIAN BIBLIOGRAPHER is to specially record the work of Canadian writers, and a series of biographical sketches, with portraits, and a bibliography of the writings of each author has been prepared and will appear regularly.

We begin the series with a portrait and sketch of Gerald E. Hart, of Montreal, who, coming of old English-Canadian stock (his ancestors being among the earliest settlers in Canada under the English flag), has naturally taken special interest in the history of his native land. Mr. Hart was born in the city of Montreal, March 26, 1849. His father, Adolphus M. Hart, was a well-known member of the legal profession. His paternal grandfather, Aaron Hart, was a commissariat officer on the staff of General Amherst, at the time of the invasion of Canada by the English in 1760, finally settling at Three Rivers, and becoming a large landed proprietor in that vicinity. Young Gerald learned his A B C's in Montreal. The family removing to the United States, he received further tuition at the excellent public schools of New York. Returning to Canada, he finished his education at Lawlor's English Academy at Three Rivers, sitting at the same desk with the afterward brilliant scholar, litterateur and poet, George T. Lanigan, the founder of the *Montreal Star*, and subsequently chief editor of the *New York World* until his untimely death. Having been actively engaged in business since leaving school, Mr. Hart has not had much leisure to devote to literature; nevertheless he has written and studied to some purpose. The most of his leisure time, however, has been devoted to society work, such as the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal, of which he was secretary for many years; also its vice-president, and was at length elected an honorary life-member. This society is, to-day, in a very flourishing state, and next to the Literary