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ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

The announcement of the publication of a new and the eleventh edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica marks an event in the world of letters worth more than a passing notice. It is twenty-eight years since there has been an entirely new edition of the Encyclopaedia. The so-called tenth edition, published by The Times some nine years ago, consisted in reality of a supplement to the ninth edition, which was begun in 1875 and completed in 1889. The first edition dates back to 1768, and consisted of only three volumes, but so important was the service rendered by this and succeeding editions, and so well was the work done, that it is doubtful if there is any other publication in the world which enjoys so high a reputation. In this connection it is interesting to note that of the more notable encyclopaedias published in various countries since the first issue of the Britannica some never attained to a second edition, and only one can claim a continued existence of more than fifty years.

The eleventh edition is a completely new work founded upon a fresh survey of the world in every department of knowledge. Edward Gibbon, author of what Time has declared to be the greatest historical work the world has seen, in his autobiography naively observed: "My name may hereafter be placed amongst the thousand articles of a Biograph Britannica." Gibbon, with

his estimate of a thousand articles, would be astounded at the proportion of the present work. Instead of a thousand articles, there are forty thousand, occupying 27,000 pages of text and requiring the use of 40,000,000 words. This production represents the labors of 1,500 specialists and cost \$1,500,000 before a single volume was printed. It has occupied for eight years a permanent editorial staff of sixty-four members. Illustrations include 450 full-page plates, 417 maps, and 7,000 illustrations in the text. The index volume contains 500,000 references.

Another new, almost revolutionary feature of the present edition is furnished by the use, optional with subscribers, of having the edition printed on India paper. In this way the bulk and weight of the volumes are reduced to one-third of their previous size. In previous editions the size of the volume has been recognized as a serious drawback—quarter volumes weighing close upon seven pounds and measuring 2½ inches thick. On India paper each volume of the new edition, although it contains twenty-five per cent. more matter, measures less than one inch in thickness and weighs not quite three pounds. Formerly two hands were needed to lift a volume of the Encyclopaedia from the shelves; in the new edition a volume may easily be held in one hand and read with all the comfort of an ordinary sized book.

In connection with the introduction of Indian paper it is related that in 1841 a graduate of Oxford, returning from the Far East, presented to the Clarendon Press a small quantity of paper of unusual thickness, capacity and toughness. That paper was used for the printing of twenty-four copies of the smallest Bible then known. Subsequent attempts to trace the source of the paper were fruitless, but in 1874 experiments led to the invention of India paper as now known.

The high standing of the contributors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica need not be dilated upon. They represent the foremost men in every department of learning. Canadians will be interested to note that among the authorities who deal with Canada and its history are Dr. Parkin, Prof. A. P. Coleman, Prof. W. L. Grant, Mr. E. H. Godfrey, Prof. G. M. Wrong and Prof. C. W. Colby.

Previous editions with the number of volumes and the mean dates of publication are as follows:

First edition, three volumes, 1770.
Second edition, 10 volumes, 1781.
Third edition, 18 volumes, 1793.
Supplement, 2 volumes.
Fourth edition, 20 volumes, 1805.
Fifth edition, 20 volumes, 1816.
Supplement, 6 volumes.
Sixth edition, 20 volumes, 1824.
Seventh edition, 21 volumes, 1836.
Eighth edition, 22 volumes, 1857.
Ninth edition, 25 volumes, 1882.
Supplement, 11 volumes.
Eleventh edition, 29 volumes, December, 1910.

THE TARIFF WALL

(S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Record-Herald)

"What is that fellow grumbling for?" said Giles, with his spade.
"Free spuds and wheat, free spuds and wheat," the poor consumer said.
"What makes you look so glad, so glad?" said Giles, with his spade.
"Canadian reciprocity," the poor consumer said.
"For they'll cease to charge us twice as much as what we ought to pay."
"For our butter and potatoes if we let Taft have his way."
"They'll reduce the cost of living, but they'll not cut down our pay."
"When the tariff wall is levelled in the mornin'."
"Why should you feel so good, so good?" said Giles, with his spade.
"I do not keep a cow or sheep," the poor consumer said.
"What's wrong with that chap over there?" said Giles, with his spade.
"He has a special interest," the poor consumer said.
"He owns a sheep or two sometimes, or maybe keeps a cow."
"And thinks that reciprocity would ruin him somehow."
"But he'll probably keep making just as much as he makes now."
"When the tariff wall is levelled in the mornin'."

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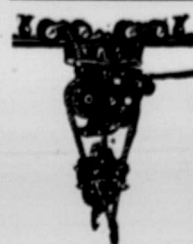
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