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THE MacLEAN PUBLISHING CO.
 Limited.

Publishers of Trade Newspapers which circulate in the Provinces of British Columbia, North-West Territories, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island and Newfoundland.

OFFICES:

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- LONDON, ENG. - - - 109 Fleet Street, E. C., J. M. McKim.
- MANCHESTER, ENG. 18 St. Ann Street, H. S. Ashburner.
- NEW YORK - - - - 14 Irving Place, M. I. Henry.

Subscription, Canada, \$1.00. Great Britain, \$2.00
 Cable Address { Adscript, London.
 Adscript, Canada.

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CURRENT NOTES.

ILLEGAL IMPORT OF BOOKS.

THE bookseller who inadvertently imports the unauthorized edition of a work, copyrighted in Canada, will probably have no trouble with the owners of the copyright. Where, however, the importation looks like an evasion of the law, and the facts are brought to the notice of the Customs authorities, a heavy fine on the bookseller follows. It seems to us just as reasonable that the owner of copyrights should be protected, as any other person. Mr. Morang, the Canadian publisher, has declared plainly, that he intends to invoke the law when the rights, for which he has paid money and gone to expense and trouble

to secure, are deliberately invaded. A fine has been imposed in one instance, as was recorded last month. If further infractions take place, we may expect the publisher to seek the protection which the law secures to him.

There seems to be an impression in this country that copyright is the selfish interest of a few publishers who want to control this market and make money for themselves. This silly story is believed by no one who understands the principles of copyright. There may be difference of opinion as to what kind of copyright law we should have in this country, but some form of copyright does and must exist. The present Canadian law is as unsatisfactory as could well be, since it confers the minimum of benefit upon the publisher and is of no great value to the book trade. But there it stands, and, as long as it exists, it must be obeyed. We would have a poor opinion of any publisher or bookseller who allowed his rights to be taken away, so that the prosecutions for illegal importations are quite natural and proper.

DEATH OF DR. KINGSFORD.

The death of Dr. William Kingsford, the historian of Canada, just after the completion of his great work, has called forth many expressions of sympathy. Dr. Kingsford labored diligently and conscientiously at the sources and new materials for writing a history of Canada. In this respect, the sifting of fresh evidence brought together in the archives, his work has never been equalled by previous writers, and will probably never be surpassed. This and the

next generation will not see so elaborate a history of this country, nor is there any other way for the ordinary reader to get at much of the information embodied in Kingsford without reading him. Interest, therefore, attaches to the fact that, while the history in ten volumes was sold chiefly by subscription, the author's Canadian publishers, Messrs. Rowsell & Hutchison, Toronto, have a number of complete sets which can be obtained by those who desire them.

LARGE INCREASE IN BOOK IMPORTS.

The imports of books during the present year have been increasing, as the accompanying table shows. During the months of July and August the imports were especially heavy, and the results of the eight months for which figures have been issued, compared with the same period of 1897, shows an increased importation of over \$135,000. The details are:

	1897.	1898.
January	\$ 50,538	\$ 52,210
February	40,378	57,679
March	53,277	71,344
April	60,365	73,280
May	55,690	78,565
June	57,628	56,639
July	48,028	81,378
August	66,489	97,184
Totals	\$437,303	\$568,297

UNFAIR.

There has recently been another evidence of the unfair position in which the Canadian publisher is put by the colonial edition of a book being sent into this market after the right had been purchased by a Canadian house to issue a local edition. Do the English publishers imagine that this kind of thing can go on indefinitely? How would