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CURRENT NOTES.

ILLEGAL IMPORTS.

THE recent warning in these columns against importing reprints of Canadian copyright books does not seem to have been effectual. We cannot understand how any dealer cares to run the risk of paying the heavy penalty that may be imposed on him for violation of this law. Surely it is not worth while—to say nothing of the moral question involved.

In three cases, Mr. Morang, the Canadian publisher of "Quo Vadis," is proceeding against dealers who have imported United States editions. The publisher intends to see that they are dealt with according to law, as he believes the importations were not innocent violations of the statute. The

penalty is a serious one, but it is hard to see what else Mr. Morang can do.

Just consider how matters stand in the case of "Quo Vadis." That book was a great success in the States, but the edition at \$2 was too expensive for the Canadian market. In order to give the Canadian trade a chance to sell a popular book at a reasonable price, Mr. Morang buys the right to print in Canada an edition in paper at 75c. That is the authorized edition. The author and his United States publisher both have their rights respected. But the author is a Hungarian and cannot get copyright in the United States. Hence the appearance of cheap unauthorized reprints there. These can be kept out of Canada, under the law, and Mr. Morang will have the sympathy of every fairminded man in enforcing his own rights and the right of the author in this country.

STATE OF THE BOOK TRADE.

Judging from general indications, the book trade is in a fairly satisfactory condition. Retail dealers in the cities report a good volume of trade in spite of the torrents of "war specials," which the American and Canadian press have been pouring out upon a long-suffering public. The manager of a large publishing house told BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER that his Maritime Province travelers speak most encouragingly of the condition of trade. The slackness in lumbering and fishing, due to the war, is effecting nearly every other line of business in Eastern Canada, but the bookseller seems to be coming through it uncommonly well. Perhaps it is that the influx of American

tourists to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is booming things; but whatever the cause may be, the result is a pleasant one for the trade to view, and it is to be hoped that this satisfactory condition of affairs will continue.

IMPORTED BOOKS.

The returns for twelve months under the new Canadian book tariff are now complete. The period extends from June, 1897, to May, 1898, both months inclusive. Compared with the same period in the previous year, the imports have increased by about \$100,000, or 12½ per cent. The drop in duty paid is about 15 per cent. The details are:

	1897.	1898.	Duty '97.	Duty '98.
June.....	\$57,628	\$60,964	\$13,317	\$18,562
July.....	48,028	56,917	10,327	14,857
August.....	66,189	62,608	13,804	15,416
September.....	95,308	96,062	17,683	21,920
October.....	101,653	99,430	16,501	21,618
November.....	109,274	102,977	19,075	25,291
December.....	101,530	86,431	19,254	22,626
	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.
January.....	\$52,210	\$50,538	\$12,173	\$12,228
February.....	57,679	40,378	10,303	10,935
March.....	71,311	53,277	13,333	14,095
April.....	73,298	60,365	12,919	15,231
May.....	78,563	55,690	14,140	13,436
Totals.....	\$914,643	\$816,467	\$174,182	\$207,170

The trade regard the tariff as working satisfactorily. It is not high, and, without a copyright law of any value, gives little encouragement to native publishing.

A PLAN THAT SOLD BOOKS.

For some months The New York Times has been publishing a Saturday supplement containing notes and criticisms on books and art. The edition of June 25 selected and reviewed 150 books for summer reading, covering the whole field of history, biography, travel and fiction. The