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**WHEN WRITING ADVERTISERS  
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**CURRENT NOTES.**

**THE BOOKSELLER'S BUSINESS.**

NO doubt the bookseller is a superior type of merchant, much above the ordinary, and usually ahead of the locality in information. If he has built up a fine business in a prosperous town he can afford to regard with a certain degree of equanimity the stress of competition and dull times which have brought disaster to less favored men. The latter are, we fear, in the majority, and must realize that as popular habits and tastes change business methods should change with them. Are we expected to weep tears of sympathy over a bookseller who gazes mournfully out of the window and watches people pass and re-pass without coming in to buy books? Does he suppose the only task incumbent

upon him is to sigh over loss of trade and make angry remarks about department stores? We know what would happen to the person who sat down with an empty pail and waited for the cow to come along and be milked. What is the bookseller doing to get these people to buy? Each man must determine, according to his town and the tastes of his customers, what can be done to develop trade. But assuredly apathy means disaster sooner or later.

**THE KLONDYKE CRAZE.**

It would be well to have a Yukon map open and framed on a rack if possible, and near it a collection of such Klondyke material as you think saleable. Let those who are "talking Klondyke" know they are welcome to come into your bookstore to consult the map, and that it is a centre of information to that extent about the gold region. If the cheaper publications about Yukon are there, too, sales will be made. A neat card in the window, stating that a map is shown inside, will interest the public. Everyone seems to be thinking about the Yukon just now, and the bookstore should be getting a share of the new trade in some way.

**IT WAS THE EDITOR'S FAULT.**

Reference was made in our last issue to what seemed an instance of literary theft in an article in Chamber's Journal for February, entitled "The Making of Canada." The publisher of the book "In the Days of the Canada Company," which formed the basis of the article, wrote a letter of protest to the editor of the journal, and has received

reply that in cutting down the original M.S. article a reference made by the writer to the book in question was struck out from the article by the editor. This, for the writer, was a most unfortunate omission. Several letters have reached friends of the author of the book here commenting severely on what appeared to them to be an unblushing piece of appropriation. We are glad to know that the editor's acknowledgment and explanation has relieved the writer of the suspicion.

**THE IMPORT BOOK TRADE.**

The import book trade continues to thrive. We have now the monthly figures to the end of January, 1898, which covers eight months of the new tariff. In that time the value of book imports has increased by \$26,000, and the amount of duty collected has decreased by \$31,000. The following are the details:

IMPORTS OF BOOKS INTO CANADA.				
	1897.	1896.	Duty '97.	Duty '96.
June .....	\$57,628	\$60,364	\$13,347	\$18,562
July .....	48,028	56,947	10,327	13,857
August .....	66,489	62,608	13,804	15,406
September ...	95,308	96,062	17,683	23,920
October .....	101,633	99,430	16,504	21,648
November .....	109,274	102,977	19,075	25,291
December .....	101,530	86,431	19,254	22,626
January (1898)	53,210	50,538 (97)	12,173 (98)	12,228 (97)
	\$633,100	\$606,757	\$122,222	\$153,473

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**

One need not subscribe to all that is said in the article on Public Libraries in this issue, but certain unpalatable truths are plainly stated there. No one doubts that libraries for study and reference are invaluable, and the public reading room is a great boon. The circulating department, however, is effecting a revolution in popular book-buying habits. The craze for fiction