

MONTHLY REPORT FROM BOOK CENTRES

WINNIPEG.

Office of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
515 McIntyre Block, Winnipeg, Man.
February 3, 1906

JANUARY book trade always shows a big decrease when compared with the generous buying of the holiday month-preceding. Clearing sales were held by nearly all the Winnipeg stores and the results were good. One store held a "Stock-taking Sale" clearing out many standard and popular books at from 33 to 50 per cent. reduction, and of course there were the usual clearing sales of calendars and other holiday goods which it was absolutely necessary to dispose of. To stimulate business in an ordinarily dull month one local store holds an annual January sale of Bibles and hymn books and results would seem to warrant the effort. At time of writing the local stores are making attractive displays of valentines, but it is early yet to state results. These sales have all been backed by a judicious use of printer's ink.

As there is little profit for the dealer who handles the Ladies' Home Journal on the yearly subscription basis a local store has been trying to stimulate the sales of single copies. A window display of this journal was made and prizes offered to those who should guess correctly the number of copies in the window. Needless to say it was necessary to buy a copy for 15 cents to qualify.

The book trade proper is quiet now and there is little change in the popular fancy. "Doctor Lake of the Labrador" and "The Prospector" are still called for and evidently will retain their popularity for an indefinite period. "God's Good Man" appeals to a large class of readers who are always ready to welcome the latest from this author's pen, and the demand did not altogether cease with the close of the holiday season. "Old Gorgon Graham" is still selling well for the quiet season.

A slight effort was made to push sales of standard sets in January, but apparently it did not meet with much success.

F. R. M.

TORONTO.

Office of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
10 Front Street East, Toronto.
February 10, 1906

AS was to be expected January has been a quiet month among booksellers and stationers. Book sales have been very small and few new books have been added to stocks. The lull in trade has given dealers an opportunity to sort up and take stock of the contents of their stores. The holiday turnover has been found to have been most satisfactory and stocks are pretty free of dead matter. The department stores have as usual been slaughtering their left-overs.

One store reports a good sale of Robert Hitchen's "The Garden of Allah," just received from England.

"The Masquerader" is still selling well. Every person, who reads it, has been recommending it to his friends.

"The Prospector" and "God's Good Man" are also finding purchasers. The same may be said of "Beverly of Graustark." According to all reports "The Prodigal Son" has been disappointing in sales and the sale of "Dr. Luke of the Labrador" has fallen off since the new year.

Valentines are the enlivening feature just now and every dealer is showing them. The sale is the best for years. The variety shown is endless. From hand-painted designs at \$3 and \$5 to the one-cent card, all are in stock. Books such as "An Old Sweetheart of Mine" and "Out at Aunt Mary's" are selling in sympathy. Gilbert's special pictures are going well. In novelties, love's telegrams and cables are popular.

Tally cards, playing cards and prizes for euchres are in demand just now; also books on bridge and bridge score cards.

W. A. C.

MONTREAL.

Office of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
232 McGill Street, Montreal.
February 11, 1906.

JANUARY is always a quiet month in book circles. New editions are held over till Spring and the public usually have a supply from the holidays. Strenuous efforts have been made in departments and many book stores to induce free buying. Twenty per cent. discount sales were numerous and are being continued through February. Odd lots are collected and marked at tempting prices. A window display of popular paper editions at 50c brought business. Regular \$1.50 editions were offered at \$1.10 and \$1.25 editions at 90c. Standard sets shared in the slashing and moved freely. Other stores report business as fair and one store as good, without any price-cutting.

In fiction, nothing startling has occurred. Discount sales have brought increased results and created a demand for slow sellers. Since "The Prospector," which is still keeping up its sales, nothing has made a stir. "The Masquerader" continues popular and booksellers are re-ordering. Three new books are well spoken of. "My Lady of the North," by Randall Parrish; "The Man on the Box," by H. MacGrath; "The Magnetic North," by Elizabeth Robbins. These tales are peculiarly suited to the Canadian market. An American edition of "The Garden of Allah" is selling. "The Law of the Land," a Southern story, is displayed.

Two good stories dealing with Japan "The Heart of Japan" and "Dux Christus" are doing well. "Poems and Songs," by J. R. Newell, Canadian by birth and an Anglican minister residing in the States, has merit. Odd new titles like "Sermons by the Devil" and "Intoxicants and Opiums in all Lands" have a call. Religious books are in some favor. "The Self and Sex Series" has done well.

School promotions have caused a fair demand in school books and supplies. Valentines this year are arousing more attention and larger displays are made than ever before. There is an absence of the old-time coarseness, and beautiful effects are seen. This puts the trade on a higher and more profitable basis. Tissue paper addities, comets, and valentine post cards are the favored lines.

G. E. F.