

# BOOKS AND NOTIONS

ORGAN OF THE

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No. 64



THE Postmaster-General's reply to the question asked by Dr. Landerkin, M.P., in the House of Commons, regarding postage on periodicals, does not apply to any of the complaints made in the March No. of BOOKS AND NOTIONS.

It is quite true that the Canadian news agent has the right to re-mail English periodicals to subscribers in Canada. In order to do so, however, he must first pay the British postal

authorities \$160 per ton postage from Great Britain to Canada. The following table will, I think, make this point clearly understood.

Postage on one ton of English magazines from London, Eng., to Toronto .....	\$160 00
Cost of re-mailing from Toronto to retail dealers and subscribers in Canada (re-mailed free) .....	.....
Total .....	\$160 00

Freight on one ton of English magazines from London, Eng., to New York by mail steamer .....	\$20 00
Cost of mailing from New York to retail dealers and subscribers in Canada .....	20 00
Total .....	\$40 00

The above clearly shows that even with the "re-mailing" privilege the Toronto dealer would have to pay \$120 per ton more than the New York dealer for delivering English magazines in Canada.

Then compare the cost of mailing from Canada to the United States with the cost of mailing from the United States to Canada.

Postage on one ton of English magazines from London, Eng., to Toronto .....	\$160 00
Cost of re-mailing from Toronto to retail dealers and subscribers in the United States .....	80 00
Total .....	\$240 00

Freight on one ton of English magazines from London, Eng., to New York .....	\$20 00
Cost of re-mailing from New York to subscribers and retail dealers in Canada .....	20 00
Total .....	\$40 00

The Toronto dealer would have to pay just \$200 per ton more to supply the United States than the New York dealer has to pay to supply Canada, if the former brought his supply from Great Britain by mail.

Now compare the cost of mailing American periodicals from Toronto, with the cost of mailing them from Buffalo.

Cost of mailing one ton of American periodicals from Toronto to retail dealers in Canada .....	\$80 00
Cost of mailing one ton of American periodicals from Buffalo to retail dealers in Canada .....	20 00
In favor of Buffalo .....	\$60 00

There are wholesale news agents in Toronto and Montreal, and they ought to be in a position to mail these publications as cheaply as their rivals in Buffalo and New York. The wholesale price of the Century is the same in Toronto as in Buffalo. But a bookseller in Hamilton can have a copy mailed from Buffalo for one cent, while it will cost him four cents to have one mailed from Toronto.

Another complaint made in BOOKS AND NOTIONS for March, was that the publishers of Canadian libraries are unfairly treated by the present law. These libraries are published periodically, weekly or monthly as the publisher so desires. They are dated in the same way as magazines, and in the United States, are recognized as periodicals, and carried for one cent per pound, while in Canada they are classed as books, and have to pay four cents per pound if sent in the Dominion, and eight cents per pound if sent to the United States.

Cost of mailing one ton of Canadian libraries from Toronto to the retail trade in United States .....	\$160 00
Cost of mailing one ton of American libraries from Buffalo to the retail trade in Canada .....	20 00

It takes \$140 per ton more to send libraries from Toronto to the United States than it does to send them from Buffalo to Canada.

Cost of mailing one ton of Canadian libraries from Toronto to Canadian retail dealers .....	\$80 00
Cost of mailing one ton of American libraries from Buffalo to Canadian retail dealers .....	20 00

It takes \$60 per ton more to send libraries from Toronto to another part of the Dominion than it does to send American libraries from Buffalo to any part of the Dominion.

The "re-mailing" privilege is valuable in the case of English daily and weekly newspapers, and we wish it retained in the Act, but we also desire the following clause inserted as well:

"British and foreign periodicals, when mailed by newsdealers to subscribers and other newsdealers in Canada or in the United States, one cent per pound."

Then let our postal officials interpret the term periodical in the sense recognized in the United States and all will be right.