

Re: PROHIBITION OF IMPORTATION INTO CANADA  
OF CERTAIN BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

(Memorandum by Examiner of Publications,  
Department of National Revenue)

Item 1201, Schedule "C" of the Customs Tariff,  
classifies the following as prohibited goods:-

"Books, printed paper, drawings, paintings,  
prints, photographs or representations of  
any kind of a treasonable or seditious, or  
of an immoral or indecent character."

Section 13 of the Customs Tariff Act reads as follows:

"The importation into Canada of any goods enumerated,  
described or referred to in Schedule C to this Act  
is prohibited; and any such goods imported shall  
thereby become forfeited to the Crown and shall be  
destroyed or otherwise dealt with as the Minister  
directs; and any person importing any such prohibited  
goods, or causing or permitting them to be imported,  
shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding  
two hundred dollars."

The power to prohibit the importation of treasonable  
or seditious, or immoral or indecent publications, has  
existed in all Tariffs since Confederation, and the Tariff  
schedules of some of the provinces prior to 1867 contained  
similar power.

Collectors of Customs, officers of various organiz-  
ations, and the public generally, constantly forward samples  
of imported books and other publications concerning the  
character of which doubt may exist, to the Examiner of  
Publications at headquarters.

There are many publications known as those of a  
"borderline" character, which have sprung into existence in  
the United States during the past year or two. These, while  
not actually immoral or indecent, deal with matters of crime  
and the activities of criminals, and in many cases the  
illustrations depicting scenes of murder and other crimes are  
of a very objectionable character.