

MONTHLY REPORT FROM BOOK CENTRES

MONTREAL

Office of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
232 McGill Street, Montreal
March 8, 1905

QUETNESS still reigns in book circles, as absolutely no new fiction is appearing, and none is anticipated till the middle of the month. In addition, while old favorites are selling to some extent, the general public is well stocked with a supply of reading matter for the remainder of what long days are still with us. With the coming of longer days, much present fiction is necessarily relegated to the background and magazines and the very light class of literature are pushed to the front.

The popular books outlined last month still continue in favor, with "The Prospector" at the head of the list. "Dr. Luke of the Labrador" is another good story, which has still retained its popularity. "Beverly of Graustark" is reviving in favor. "God's Good Man" is in the same class.

A story which has created some little furore is "Mrs. Maybrick's Own Story." More than one store reports a healthy quantity of sales. Another new story inclined to sell well is "The Return of Sherlock Holmes," by A. Conan Doyle. It is the same Sherlock, only more so. A few new paper editions, such as "The Records," are doing well.

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Department store competition is as bad as ever. All new \$1.25 books are offered on bargain days at 95c., and those works of fiction which have slightly outworn popular fancy are to be had at 69c. One store offered good cloth-bound editions of Henty's books on a Monday at 10c. The price jumped to 19c. on Tuesday. Standard works in large quantities sold as low as 40c. Even then trade was not any too brisk.

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Just at this time of the year magazine selling commences with renewed briskness. The posters supplied by some magazines are well utilized. The new English magazine, "The Grand," is meeting with favor.

While the book trade is quiet, stationery and kindred lines are being pushed. Picture post cards are just beginning to have sales adequate to the beauty of the lines on display.

G. E. F.

TORONTO

Office of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
10 Front Street East, Toronto
March 11, 1905

THE proverbial quietness of January is being largely overcome by the introduction of seasonable novelties. Booksellers report the sales of books as slow, but they all qualify their remarks with the statement that other lines have been exceptionally good. The fine India paper on which the classics are now being printed, is adding if possible to the popularity of these standard works. However, outside the few new novels, which are selling fairly freely, there is no noticeable movement among books.

Valentines played a bigger part than was expected even in last month's business. There were more of the better class of valentines shown this year than ever before. More dealers were handling them, too, than heretofore. Yet all the stationers who were seen, unite in saying that it was the best season they have ever known.

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A good business was done throughout the month in tally cards, dance programmes and playing cards. These accessories have done much to infuse life into business during the otherwise quiet season.

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Mr. A. E. Huestis, the secretary of the Canadian Club of Toronto, informs us that he has just secured the following well-known authors to address the Canadian Club: Prof. Walter A. Wyckoff, author of "The Workers," etc., will be the guest of the Club on Monday, March 20. Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, author of the new book, published by Revell Co., "Harvest of the Sea," will speak on April 17, and Norman Duncan, author of "Dr. Luke of the Labrador," will be the guest of the Club on April 24, at the Club's annual meeting.

F. P. M.

WINNIPEG

Office of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
406 McIntyre Block, Winnipeg, Man.
March 7, 1905

BOOKSELLERS seldom look forward to February book sales with very keen expectations of brisk business, and the general opinion in Winnipeg stores seems to be that business was surprisingly good. Efforts were made by several stores to stimulate trade during a dull book month by advertisements of special sales. A feature of these sales was the offer of standard sets at big reductions and the marking down of a number of popular novels. Results seem to have been satisfactory as the stores were busy.

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A feature of the month was the extraordinary demand for "The Virginian," accounted for by the fact that Kirke La Shelle's dramatization of this novel was presented at the "Winnipeg" theatre. This demand was not foreseen and hence was not provided for as it might have been; many customers were disappointed and some profitable sales were lost. "We could easily have sold two or three hundred copies if we could have stocked them in time," remarked one bookseller.

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Apart from this brisk demand for "The Virginian" for which there was a special reason, the book of the month was probably "Dr. Luke of the Labrador," the popularity of which shows no signs of abatement. "The Prospector" is still selling well, but it must yield first place to "Doctor Luke." "The Masquerader" and "The Clansman" are also good sellers and "The Prodigal Son" is meeting with a good reception.

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Valentines regained something of their old-time popularity this year and Winnipeg stores report the best sales in years. In great measure this popularity may be accounted for by the efforts made to give prominence to high class productions. The silly and vulgar valentine has seen its day, but the popularity last month of the artistic Valentine should encourage retailers to pay more attention in future to a profitable line.

F. R. M.