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CURRENT NOTES.

THE Canadian book and stationery business is steadily improving as the Spring opens and a good Summer season is looked for. The tourist trade is expected to be much larger this year, there being no Spanish war to interfere with the tide of travel from the States. Payments are reported to be much ahead of previous years, and there is a note of confidence in the trade which has not made itself felt for some time.

There is a good deal of competition in publishing just now in Canadian circles, and in Toronto especially there are about

seven different houses getting out cheap Canadian editions of new fiction. This is having one effect which was not altogether anticipated. The competition has caused American publishers (who sell novels in printed sheets ready to be bound and issued in Canada) to put up their prices for the sheets about 20 per cent. This increased cost may make it difficult for Canadian houses to go on turning out 50c. novels by popular writers. No doubt this is a popular price for Canada, but, at the prices asked by the owners of copyrights, it is going to be hard to get really successful works for 50c. retailing.

The first issue of the new 15c. edition of Black and White for the Canadian market is now ready, and, if the dealers have pushed the preliminary free copies that were supplied to the trade, there ought to be a large sale for it. Several dealers, we learn, have not yet applied for any. This seems rather like missing a chance to do an extra trade in illustrated papers. The Toronto News Co. have still left a few hundred copies, which newsdealers may still have by prompt application. Several dealers, even in small towns, have done the distribution thoroughly, and are said to have bagged quite a number of orders. A little canvassing had to be done, but the results were worth the trouble.

The Canadian Society of Authors and the Canadian Copyright Association are going to act in concert in securing legislation which will give the Canadian market to the publisher who buys the right. This will entail upon our publishers the duty of ad-

vertising extensively the books they wish to push. As matters stand, the dealer is forced to do a lot of advertising. Many booksellers who read this journal inform us that it costs them a great deal of money every year to increase their sales of books. In England the bulk of the pushing is paid for by the publishers. They can afford to do it, because the market is theirs. In Canada the publisher does not get any hard and fast copyright for the best selling books. Consequently, the dealer has, at great expense, to push his books in his own locality. A law which will relieve him of this would be a point gained.

A live bookseller reports that he intends to have a series of window displays this Summer which he believes will produce good results. The improved condition of trade, he thinks, warrants him in going to the trouble. For the week preceding Queen's Birthday he will show a patriotic display set off with flags, fancy and tissue paper. Dominion Day falls on Saturday this year, and many persons will go out of town for the two holidays. Previous to that he will make a display of Summer fiction, such as travelers are apt to take away to read on trains and boats and at country resorts.

A bookseller in a large Ontario town, says he increased sales last Summer by noting the addresses of ladies who took their families away to the country or seaside for July or August, and offering to keep them supplied with new novels as these came in. He wrote post cards as the new books arrived, and got several orders as a result.