THE CANADIAN BIBLIOGRAPHER
AND LIBRARY RECORD AND ITS EDITOR.

Few bibliographers and few literary or cultural historians seem to be using the mines of information contained in the Canadian book trade journals of the past. If this is true, perhaps it is because no bibliography of these journals exists; certainly little is known of their history, and no (?) Canadian library, public or university, seems to have complete or even long runs of any of them.

Perhaps a bibliography and a description of these trade journals will be made some day. Let us hope it is not too late to establish on microfilm complete runs of all these periodicals.

The following pages reproduce three issues of one of these trade journals, *The Canadian Bibliographer and Library Record*, published in Hamilton in November and December, 1889, and January, 1890.¹ These three issues apparently make up the complete run of this periodical. They are reproduced here partly for their intrinsic interest, partly because they are obtainable in few libraries, public or private, and partly because questions about why this journal appeared in Hamilton in November 1889 and lasted only three issues, about the identity of its editor, about its editorial policy, and about its relation to other Canadian book trade journals illustrate some of the difficulties (and pleasures) the future bibliographer of these trade journals will encounter.

The Canadian publishing and book-selling world of the latter part of the nineteenth century seems to have been served by four trade journals. The first (?) had a short life; it was *Canada Bookseller*, published in Toronto in 1870 and 1871. Does any Canadian library have a complete file of this journal? The most important one, and the one with the longest life, began in 1884 as *Books and Notions*, published in Toronto (then or shortly after) by J.B. McLean, and

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continued until today under other titles by the MacLean-Hunter Company. Within four years of its founding it claimed to be the official organ of the Canadian Booksellers' and Stationers' Association, with a subscription list including nine-tenths of the approximately 2,500 booksellers, stationers, and news-vendors in Canada.

Books and Notions changed its title with volume 12 (?) to *The Canadian Bookseller and Stationer*; then became the *Bookseller and Stationer*; in 1909, the *Canadian Bookman*; in 1910, the *Bookseller and Stationer and Office Equipment Journal*; and in 1946 divided into two magazines, the *Canadian Bookseller*, and the *Canadian Stationer*. Even the MacLean-Hunter Company does not have a complete run of these periodicals from 1884 to 1968.

In the earliest issues of *Books and Notions*, many articles informed the Canadian book world of the agitation for a new Canadian copyright law which would give Canadians copyright home-rule and afford protection to the growing Canadian publishing industry. To promote such a protectionist law, a group of prominent Toronto and Montreal publishers and booksellers formed themselves in 1888 into the Canadian Copyright Association. They drew up a model copyright bill; they sent delegations to Ottawa to argue their case with government officials and with representatives of an alarmed British publishers' association. Their president was John Ross Robertson, of the *Toronto Telegram*; they included Toronto publishers such as Dan A. Rose, of the Rose Publishing Company, and George MacLean Rose, his father, of the Hunter, Rose Company; booksellers such as A. S. Irving, and Montreal men of the calibre of Samuel Dawson and John Lovell. Their secretary-treasurer was Richard T. Lancefield, of whom more later.

Just after the organization of the Canadian Copyright Association in 1888, one of its most vigorous members, Dan Rose, founded a periodical to serve as a propaganda organ for the views of the association, and also, it seems, to outrival the successful *Books and Notions* of J. B. McLean. Each copy of the first issue (March, 1888) of this Rose publication, *The Canadian Bookseller*, carried an enclosure of a petition form, "praying the House to appoint a committee to examine fully into the question" of Canadian copyright.

The masthead of the first issues of the *Canadian Bookseller* bore the name "Canadian Bookseller Company, Dan. A. Rose, manager, 25 Wellington Street, Toronto [the building of the Hunter, Rose Company]." In the third issue, in May, 1888, the masthead read "Richard T. Lancefield, Editor and Publisher," and the address

changed to 4 King Street East, Toronto. Richard T. Lancefield was, of course, the very active secretary-treasurer of the newly-formed Canadian Copyright Association, and in the *Canadian Bookseller* missed few opportunities to present the arguments of that Association. He wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister in the October issue; he attended meetings in Ottawa; his letters on copyright were printed in British papers and quoted in editorials in *The Times* and other journals. The Canadian Government did pass a new Copyright Bill in 1889, but it did not become law until it was ratified in Westminster, so Lancefield and the Association had to continue to press their case throughout the 1890's and into the new century.

Lancefield's career leads us to the question of why the *Canadian Bibliographer and Library Record* appeared in three issues in Hamilton in the late 1889's and early 1890's. He was an interesting and ingenious man. He had been born in London, England, in 1854, and brought to Hamilton by his parents a few years later. He was educated there, and served an apprenticeship as printer on the Hamilton *Spectator* before he opened a bookshop at 52 James Street, where he also conducted a subscription library, "Lancefield's Lending Library." In late 1882 he became bankrupt, and the store was taken over by A. Hunter. Lancefield worked as telegraph editor of the *Spectator* for a brief time, then left for Toronto, where in 1883 he was a clerk in A. S. Irving's Toronto News Company. In 1887 or 1888 he was manager of the publicity department of *Grip*.

When Lancefield's name appeared as editor on the masthead of the *Canadian Bookseller* in May, 1888, it was followed by the statement "the Editor having assumed entire control of its publication." Does that statement mean that he actually had taken over the periodical completely, or does it mean that Lancefield was acting as a front for Dan Rose? What happened then and in the following months is obscure. At least it seems clear that, less than a year later his name appeared among the 23 names of applicants to the Library Board appointed by the City of Hamilton for the post of librarian in the proposed new Free Library. His application was supported strongly by letters from the Mayor of Toronto and the Librarian of the young Toronto Public Library. After some wrangling among the Board members, certain of whom argued that Lancefield lived in Toronto and therefore was not a Hamilton man, and that moreover he had gone bankrupt in Hamilton in 1882, he was selected as the new librarian. In mid-1889 he moved to Hamilton to take up his new duties of ordering books for the library and preparing its temporary quarters.

In Toronto in mid-1889 it seems clear that Dan Rose was in control of the *Canadian Bookseller*, and that one of his employees, James S. Robertson, had become either editor or assistant editor. Rose tried to edge out his rival, *Books and Notions*, by moving in the annual meeting of the Canadian Booksellers' and Stationers' Association in Toronto on October 30, 1889 that the *Canadian Bookseller* replace *Books and Notions* as the official organ of the Association. His motion was defeated, partly because some of those who would have supported him earlier had been impressed by the greatly improved format of *Books and Notions* which McLean had recently introduced. Consequently *Books and Notions* remained the official organ. In its November 1889 issue, it denied a rumour from Montreal that it was owned by the Rose Publishing Company. It declared that the *Canadian Bookseller* was the Rose periodical, and that Rose had stated that its editor "is, and has been for some time" Robertson.

In this same month in Hamilton, the first issue of the *Canadian Bibliographer and Library Record* appeared. Its masthead read "published by Griffin and Kinder" in Hamilton. Justin Alonzo Griffin and Frank Kinder were well known Hamilton men, both trained as printers there, and both had written for Hamilton newspapers. They had just moved their printing business to a new plant at 58¼ King William Street. In the third issue in January, the name of Richard T. Lancefield appears as editor. Was the *Canadian Bibliographer* planned, founded and edited by Lancefield in those first busy months as librarian in Hamilton? In appearance and in material (especially in its emphasis upon the need for a new Copyright Act) it is much like the *Canadian Bookman* of 1888. I have not been able to locate copies of the *Canadian Bookman* for November and December, 1889 and January, 1890, and so have not been able to compare the two periodicals. Is it possible that the *Canadian Bookman* of Toronto became the *Canadian Bibliographer* of Hamilton for those months? It seems more likely that in Hamilton Lancefield, in his new position, had become enthusiastic about reaching a new audience with the copyright message, while at the same time also reaping a new money crop from advertisers.

Why did the *Canadian Bibliographer* disappear after three issues? Too few subscribers? Or did the *Bibliographer* merge with the *Canadian Bookman* and Lancefield go back to his earlier editorship, while continuing as librarian of the Hamilton Public Library?

While he served as a very efficient librarian throughout the 1890's, he also continued to act as secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Copy-

right Association, writing articles, attending conferences, introducing test cases in court, and producing the most useful and comprehensive description of the copyright situation in his 92-page book *Notes on Copyright, Domestic and International; with a Synopsis of the Canadian, Imperial and United States Copyright Acts* (1896, enlarged to 108 pages in a later edition). It was published in Hamilton by the Canadian Literary Bureau, another Lancefield creation, which offered to the writing public, for a fee, the services of reading, editing, and typing manuscripts, and advising on copyright matters. The address of the Canadian Literary Bureau was Box 203, Hamilton.

Sometime in the 1890's Lancefield appears to have resumed his editorial work for the Rose trade journal. *The Canadian Bookseller and Library Journal* (as it was entitled in the mid-1890's) has no name after "Editor" on its masthead, but it does advise that while subscriptions should be sent to 25 Wellington Street, Toronto [the Rose establishment], letters should be sent to the editor at Box 203, Hamilton. About the turn of the century, the Hamilton address was replaced by a new Toronto address, and it seems that Lancefield severed his connections with the Rose periodical. Shortly after, in February 1902, he also left the Hamilton Public Library. On the morning of the Annual Meeting, it was discovered that he had disappeared, and that the Library funds were short by over \$5,000. He died in Toronto on September 21, 1911. The news that morning of the Conservative landslide, which swept the Laurier government out of office, seems also to have swept away any detailed obituary notice.

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