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BULLETIN OF THE A. L. A. COMMITTEE ON BOOK PRICES.

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The money paid for books by 206 libraries in a recent year was about \$700,000. Of these, 123 spent less than \$100 each. Only six college and three state libraries are included. All the libraries in the country spend for books annually over \$2,000,000. Such a group of buyers, if united in purpose, can obtain proper concessions in the market.

For those who wish to file a protest against a certain bill now before Congress, with any member of Congress, the following is suggested:

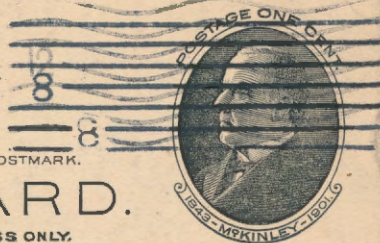
"In the name of this Library, I desire to enter a protest against Senate bill 5314, introduced by Senator Platt of Connecticut, on March 30. It provides that the privileges of the free importation given to libraries shall be restricted to the case of those articles concerning which 'the holders of the American copyrights thereof, in writing consent to such importation.' This law is unwise because there are often occasions in which it is desirable to have both a foreign and an American edition of a book in a public library, and because frequently the foreign edition is more desirable than the American one, on account either of the character of the paper, binding, or price. There is a still more serious objection. It would make it almost impossible for a library to order a book in advance of publication. Frequently a book is announced on one side of the ocean or the other, months and even years before it is published, and before plans have been made to obtain an international copyright for it. It is impossible for libraries to know in advance what books will be copyrighted, and it would happen continually that a book which we had ordered from abroad would be copyrighted in the United States between the date of the order and the time when we receive the book. I trust that you will use your influence against this bill."

Publishers depend on library trade in issuing books not in great popular demand. For example, some of them have said it pays to issue any "nature book," as the libraries will always take enough to cover the cost. If librarians generally refrain from the purchase of new books, within the first year after issue, the value of their trade to publishers will become very evident.

Pilgrim Press, Chicago; Baker & Taylor, S. F. McLean & Co., and John R. Anderson, all of New York City, all issue remainder catalogues, offering recent books at very low prices.

A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, Ill., issue lists of recent books on which the net price rule of 10 per cent. discount only has expired by lapse of time. On such books the discount which may be given is not limited. Many libraries will find these lists valuable.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the Committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, *Chairman*, N. Y. Public Library, 226 West 42nd St.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.



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