

College school, Port Hope. In 1884 he returned to California, where he entered journalism, and the next eleven years he spent on the staffs of San Francisco's two big dailies, *The Chronicle* and *The Examiner*, *The Fresno Republican* and *The Denver Republican*. Coming to Toronto in July of the present year, he engaged as reporter on *The World*, succeeding to the city editorship when Mr. Claude Lawton vacated that position to purchase *The Paris Review*.

The purchase of *The Toronto Star* by Edmund E. Sheppard brings back to daily journalism one of the brightest men in the profession. The price paid is said to be about \$25,000. The same staff remains in charge. Mr. Crabbe, who has conducted from the first a manly and dignified newspaper, continues manager. Mr. Colin Campbell is editor, and Mr. Sheppard's contributions will be signed. *Saturday Night* is not affected by the deal. Mr. Sheppard, Mr. J. T. Clark and their coadjutors will give it the same attention as heretofore.

Two signed articles in this issue of *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER* by experienced newspaper men will be read with interest. Mr. Nichol writes sound doctrine on the tone of the press. Mr. Dufoc's views on make-up are commended to the attention of all and sundry. He has been pegging away at this reform from almost pre-historic times.

A COPYRIGHT VICTORY IN SIGHT.

AFTER a sustained and gallant fight the promoters of Canadian copyright begin to see victory ahead. In 1888 the Copyright Association was formed, with Mr. John Ross Robertson as president, vice presidents from all the provinces, and a council consisting of the following: James Murray, W. D. Gillean, A. W. Croil, J. T. Gilmour, Richard Brown, D. A. Rose, A. S. Irving, W. Bryce, A. F. Rutter, G. M. Adam, D. T. McAmish and George H. Suckling. The chief labors have necessarily fallen to a few, like Messrs. Robertson, Rutter, Irving, Rose, etc., and nobly have they done their work. There is every probability that the Canadian Act of 1889, modified by inconsiderable amendments, will shortly obtain the Royal sanction and that with the consent of nearly all parties concerned.

The Ottawa conference was thoroughly representative. Sir Hibbert Tupper appeared for the Dominion Government, Mr. Hall Caine as the authorized delegate of the British authors, and unofficial agent of the Imperial Government, Mr. Daldy for the British Publishers' Association, and Messrs. Dan. A. Rose, A. S. Irving, A. F. Rutter and John Ross Robertson for the Canadian publishers, book jobbers, printers and proprietors of serial publications respectively. There is, therefore, the more cause for rejoicing that an agreement was practically reached by those assembled.

Of course, a great deal of discussion occurred before an understanding was arrived at. The advocates of Canadian rights, however, endeavored to divest the question of all side issues and to place it in a simplified form. This being done, Messrs. Caine and Daldy both agreed that the existing regulations were wrong, inasmuch as after an Englishman, an American and a Canadian had each taken out a copyright in his own country, the two first-named were allowed to compete in the Canadian market, while the latter had no compensating privilege whatever.

This much having been granted, the matter of arranging

details was taken up and slight concessions were made on either side. It was agreed, for instance, that the author should have 90 instead of 30 days within which to secure a copyright on a work, before the right so to do should revert to any Canadian publishers.

The hitch came when the clause allowing the importation by any private person of two copies of the original English edition was reached. It may be here stated by way of parenthesis that this section of the draft bill was inserted merely to comply with the letter of the Berne treaty, while evading the spirit of it. At any rate, as stated above, this proved the rock upon which the conference almost split. Both Mr. Caine and Mr. Daldy agreed that the cheap British Colonial editions should not be sold in the country, but while Mr. Caine allowed Canada's right to extend the prohibition to the original English edition, Mr. Daldy did not see it that way. He thought that the British publishers would object to such a provision, and asked that the Canadian booksellers be placed upon the same footing as the general public. Thus the matter stood when the conference broke up, and it is expected that the authors and publishers of England will agree to allow the clause to stand as it is. But even if the right of selling the original English edition of any work here is insisted upon, the real object of the Act will have been obtained, viz.: The shutting out of cheaper literature, for a high-priced English publication could not very well compete with a much less costly Canadian edition.

It is thought that if the result of Mr. Caine's visit materializes as soon as is expected, a revised bill, founded upon the draft before the recent conference, will probably be brought down in the Dominion House at the coming session.

Now that this question is nearing so satisfactory a conclusion, we should like to make an observation or two regarding some popular objections to the bill, which seem to us to be founded upon fallacious conceptions.

In the first place, it has been said that the constituency of readers in Canada is too small to support publishers of our own. In answer to this we would simply ask: How is it then that the publishers of the British Colonial editions, who, as is well known, depend for circulation largely upon Canada, manage to make a success of their enterprises?

On behalf of the reading public another exception has been taken to the bill, to the effect that it will give Canadian publishers a monopoly, and that they can ask what prices they like for their books. Those who raise this objection must either know not whereof they speak, or they must consider Canadian publishers a brilliant lot of asses. They will certainly not be so foolish as to put the cost of their books above the people's heads. On the contrary, it will obviously be to their interests to publish at paying figures. Besides, it is to be borne in mind that only the exceptional books will ever be copyrighted by either author or publisher in Canada, and, not being copyrighted, will come in as freely as they do now.

In fact, as far as the public are concerned, it is easy to show how they will be not only not injured, but actually benefitted by the Act. We have only to instance DuMaurier's "*Trilby*," thousands of copies of which were sold in Canada at an outrageously high figure, simply because nothing but the original English-American edition was obtainable for some months here. For upwards of a year Canadians had to pay \$1.75 for the book, the Canadian market having been thrown in "to boot"