

"The undersigned, therefore, recommend that your excellency should acquaint her majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonies that there is no probability of the Dominion parliament consenting to any measure for enforcing British copyright in Canada, unless it provide for local publications; and that while the Canadian government will be ready to introduce a measure that will be a great advantage to British authors they must, in reference to the foreign reprints, have regard to the interests of Canadians as well as of British publishers."

In 1872 the government of Canada were still without a definite reply to the request which had been made by the address of the senate in 1868, and which had been reserved, as above stated, by her majesty's government, until further information could be gathered and until the result of negotiations with the United States might be known.

On the 14th May of that year the following report of a committee of the privy council of Canada was approved by the governor general and transmitted:

"On a memorandum dated 10th of May, 1872, from the honourable the ministers of finance and agriculture, reporting that much anxiety has been manifested by the houses of the Canadian parliament on the unsatisfactory state of the Imperial Copyright Act, that, as no reply has yet been received to the approved report of the committee of the privy council, dated 1st December, 1870, they think it desirable that the attention of her majesty's government should again be called to the subject.

"That they have reason to believe that a good deal of discussion has taken place in England among the parties interested in copyright, and that the result of that discussion had been a considerable accession to the ranks of those who are in favour of the proposition submitted by them in the report already referred to. That it is apparent that the class which alone has a just claim to protection, viz., authors, have at length been convinced that their interests are not promoted by the maintenance of the present system.

"That it is no doubt true, that the principal owners of copyright are the London publishers, but it is, they state, equally true that those publishers have never paid the authors one single pound more for their copyrights in view of circulation in Canada."

"That it cannot be denied that the Canadian demand for concurrent publication in Canada should alone entitle the author to the benefit of copyright. That under the present system, which is wholly indefensible, and which is objected to, as well by the English publishers as by Canadian publishers, the latter are treated with the greatest injustice.

"That it has long been the custom for the owners of English copyrights to sell to American publishers advance sheets of their works, and when Canadian publishers have offered to acquire copyright in Canada by purchase, they have been told that the arrangements made between English and American publishers were such as to prevent negotiations with Canadians.

"That Canada has passed a law by which British authors can secure copyright in Canada, and has further expressed a readiness, where authors do not choose to take out copyright, to secure adequate compensation to them by means of an excise tax on all English copyright works for the benefit of the authors.

"They, the ministers, recommend that a further appeal be made to her majesty's government to legislate upon this subject without further delay.

"The committee concur in the foregoing report, and submit the same for your excellency's approval."

In the session of the Canadian parliament of 1872 a copyright bill was passed, in substance and principle like the act of 1889. This was reserved by the governor general for the signification of her majesty's pleasure.

In May, 1874, the pleasure of her majesty not having been communicated, and in view of the fact that the two years within which the royal assent might be given to it would expire on the 14th of June, 1874, addresses to his excellency the governor general were presented by the senate and house of commons respectively, asking him to convey to her majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonies the respectful expression of the necessity felt by the senate and house of commons that the bill