

tection here when there is no copyright treaty between us and the United States. Also I feel sure from what I hear that there are many music dealers of the cheap class in Toronto making a living, why should they be closed up in order that Mr. Suckling should become rich. I fail to see it again.

The profits allowed retail music dealers by publishers on copyright music does not pay expenses—or only in the case of a few monopolists who commanded the largest trade—again, these publishers such as Mr. Suckling go all over the country and sell to teachers and schools at the same price, or nearly so, as to dealers, and in addition send out packages on sale or return to such school. (See their own catalogue.) If Mr. Suckling were a small dealer, struggling up with a little capital, he would not write like this.

All the great English publishers depend on their special catalogues of foreign reprints, which they offer at one-tenth or one-twelfth of marked prices. If we could depend on Mr. Suckling giving us these benefits, we should be delighted to deal with him. Anyway I can after twenty-five years of dealing in music, say, that at least music should be supplied at one-fourth, to make it pay, to dealers, considering the immense loss by *bad music and bad paper* which in a few months is unsaleable if kept on the counter. When publishers want protection and get it, the law should say that their prices should be limited to so much a page. How would that suit Mr. Suckling?

Encouragement of native talent is all we want here and a free open market for all else.

W. STREET.

DEAR SIR,—I rather like the idea of ventilating the copyright law, and so would like to ask a question, raised by the letter of Mr. Suckling. I pass over the items of the music, and come to the case of the Rose Publishing Company. There are one or two statements in that I cannot understand. First, why, if Canada is under the English law, did the Rose Publishing Company pay Mr. E. P. Roe for what, by English law, is public property. Ward, Locke & Co. reprinted the book in England; but I very much doubt that they paid anything for the privilege of doing that which any other publisher could do without payment, or else I do not understand the English copyright law as it applies to American authors.

The original article said: "The Rose Publishing Company purchased from E. P. Roe the *right given him by law* for the publication and sale of the book in Canada." Where does this right come from? There is none in England, unless the author lives there for a certain time; so that the law must be a Canadian one, and that kills the balance of his letter, I think.

Will some of your correspondents inform us whence comes this right? Then, again, do we want any copyright law of the sort that puts a monopoly of a book into the hands of one firm? That, I think, is protection for one against the whole Dominion. If it was a Canadian author, it would be very different; but this is paying American authors for the benefit of one Canadian firm.

Ventilate the subject; let us hear from all sides.

Yours truly,

A RETAILER.

[Prior publications in England gives copyright to the foreign author.—Ed.]

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