

action of the United States in favour of the Berne Convention which British authors here so long hoped for, and which Lord Knutsford's despatch of 25th March last asked us to wait for.

As regards amendments which may be desired in our act of 1889, we should, of course, be quite ready to make them. I think, however, that when Mr. Hodges intimates that the collection of the excise duty in favour of the English copyright holder is not sufficiently secured, he has overlooked the fact that your excellency in council is to make the regulations under that act by which the collection is to be enforced. These regulations will, of course, be prepared with the strongest desire to make the collection thoroughly effective.

I am now preparing a report on this subject to your excellency in council, for the purpose of bringing the pressure which Lord Knutsford intimated would strengthen his hands.

I am inclined to think that a communication from your excellency to Lord Knutsford would give an important impetus to the matter, in advance of the action of council.

I have the honour to be, my lord,

Your excellency's obedient servant,

JOHN S. D. THOMPSON,

*Minister of Justice.*

*REPORT of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 18th December, 1890.*

The committee of the privy council have had under consideration a report dated 15th December, 1890, from the minister of justice calling attention to a minute of council approved by your excellency under date the 17th August, 1889, on the subject of an act passed by the parliament of Canada in the session of that year entitled: "An Act to amend the Copyright Act."

The committee concurring in the said report advise that your excellency be moved to forward a copy to the right honourable the secretary of state for the colonies.

All which is respectfully submitted for your excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE, *Clerk Privy Council.*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

OTTAWA, 15th December, 1890.

To His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

The undersigned has the honour to call your excellency's attention to a report which he made to your excellency on the 3rd August, 1889, on the subject of an act passed by the parliament of Canada, in the session of that year, entitled: "An Act to amend the Copyright Act."

The act referred to has not yet been brought into operation, as it awaits the signification of the pleasure of her majesty's government that a proclamation should be issued by your excellency to bring it into force.

In the same connection, the undersigned begs to call your attention to the despatch from Lord Knutsford to your excellency, dated 25th March, 1890, in which his lordship is pleased to signify a desire that the matter should be further considered by your ministers, and in which his lordship concluded by expressing every desire to assist as far as possible in any well considered measure which would substantially preserve the rights of copyright holders under the imperial act and would at the same time meet the wishes of the Canadian people.

In the month of July, 1890, the undersigned had the honour personally to press upon the attention of Lord Knutsford the arguments in favour of the position assumed