

the commission was issued before this case occurred, still it was proceeding when this lamentable occurrence took place, and the commissioners investigated it as far as they could. There is a report on the subject by the commissioners. They have taken the subject into consideration, they have investigated the facts and given their opinion. I have only this to say, that the report of the commission is satisfactory or not satisfactory. It will be laid on the Table to-morrow, and I invite the attention of my hon. friend to it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It hardly deals with this subject.

The PRIME MINISTER. If it is not satisfactory, we shall have to deal with the matter in some other way, but my hon. friend will have an opportunity, after reading it, to answer the challenge given by the Solicitor General to indicate what action should be taken by the Government. If the report shows sufficiently where the guilt is, because it is beyond doubt that a most lamentable occurrence has taken place and those two young men were brought to premature death by ill-treatment, it is quite possible a charge of murder, or if not murder of manslaughter will lie. We know that wrong has been done, we know that parties have suffered, we do not know who are responsible. If the report is not satisfactory, we shall be ready to investigate the facts, and if possible to bring the guilty parties to that justice they deserve. We can do nothing more at this moment. An hon. member opposite stated a few moments ago that the law of this country was adequate to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants, whether a citizen or an alien, but though we may be in that position, we may have to implement the law in order to bring the administration of justice to bear where the law is not sufficient to mete out adequate justice to everyone. The laws are sufficient in the old parts of the country, such as Ontario and Quebec, but in the mountainous regions of British Columbia it may be quite possible that the general law, which will be sufficient in the older provinces, is inadequate in that portion of the Dominion. Certainly the administration of the law has been inadequate in this instance. The Government have no intention but to give the matter their best consideration, and I have again to say to the junior member for Pictou (Mr. Bell) that the Government have no fault to find with the manner in which he brought the case to the attention of the House, which he did in a calm and judicial manner and in a manner which will engage the attention of the Government.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON. Before the House resolves itself into Committee of Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Supply there is a matter to which I would like to refer for a few moments. I desire to call the attention of the Government, and more particularly the attention of the First Minister, to the fact that a very important Bill has been introduced in the British House of Lords concerning copyright by Lord Herschell, and this Bill has received its second reading. The passage of this Bill may most materially affect the copyright interests of Canada. If the Parliament of Canada has the power, as I think it has, to enact and enforce such copyright legislation as may be necessary for the Dominion, this Bill needs no further consideration; but if the right of Canada to legislate on the question of copyright is to be restricted in the future as in the past, then I think we are bound to consider the effect of the Herschell Bill on the publishing interests of this country. Let me point out to the House a few facts in connection with this question of copyright and emphasize these views in connection with the Herschell Bill. There has always been doubt as to the legality of copyright by simultaneous production in Great Britain and the United States. The Herschell Bill dispels this doubt. The noble lord proposes that simultaneous publication in any part of Great Britain and the United States shall secure copyright throughout the entire British Empire. This provision, as the House will see, gives a direct and important advantage to the American publisher. Under this clause the American publisher need no longer send his stock of books across the sea to London and issue them on the same day as he issues his stock in New York and Boston in order to secure British copyright throughout the British Empire. Oh, no, the American publisher has under this new regulation merely to send his books to any Canadian point across the international boundary line between Canada and the United States in order to secure copyright throughout the British Empire. At the present time I am advised there is considerable doubt whether an American author can obtain copyright in Great Britain without manufacturing in Great Britain. On this point I am also informed that the British law is not very clear. A British subject may secure copyright in Great Britain by the British law, but it is not clear that an alien may secure copyright in Great Britain. At the present time Great Britain is most liberal in its terms for copyright with foreign countries. Great Britain, with France and Germany and other foreign countries is a member of the Berne Convention; an international copyright convention which this country unwittingly joined through the profound—I might almost say criminal ignorance of the Canadian politicians of that period. The United States was asked to enter this Berne Convention, but the American Government is more mind-