

The former communications, while criticising some details of the licensing provisions of the Act, which the Petition characterises as "unjust and impracticable," appeared to Her Majesty's Government to justify the conclusion that the Society of Authors did not entertain any insuperable objection to a system of licensed re-printing.

With regard to the Berne Convention, I am to observe that that instrument reserved the power of announcing at any time the separate denunciation of the Convention by Canada.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 104.

COLONIAL OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE and BOARD OF TRADE.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 16, 1895.

WITH reference to your letter of the ^{19th}/_{22nd} ultimo,* respecting the petition of the Society of Authors and others on the subject of Canadian Copyright, I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to transmit to you, for the information of the Earl of Kimberley, Board of Trade, a copy of the reply† which has been returned to the petition.

I am, &c.

EDWARD WINGFIELD.

No. 104A.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to the EARL OF ABERDEEN.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, May 18, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for communication to your Ministers, a copy of a Petition‡ from various authors and others interested in the question of copyright on the subject of the Canadian Copyright Act of 1889.

I have informed the Society of Authors that their Petition has been referred to your Ministers, who will, no doubt, give it the consideration to which the influential names appended entitle it.

I have, &c.

RIPON.

No. 105.

THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 24, 1895.)

[Answered by No. 110.]

4, Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.,

May 23rd, 1895.

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant,† which was brought under the attention of the Managing Committee of the Society of Authors at their last meeting. With respect to your reference to former communications from the former Chairman, Sir Frederick Pollock, regarding Canadian Copyright, I am directed to point out that it is only recently that the attention of British authors has been seriously directed to this question and that anything like a strong consensus of opinion has been formed about it.

* Nos. 100 and 102.

† No. 103.

‡ Enclosure in No. 92.