

rope, secures copyright recognition for French authors in Canada since Canada is a part of Great Britain and the law applies to her. Opposing interests aver that French authors, to secure their rights, must take advantage of the Canadian copyright law and have their books reprinted in Canada and registered at Ottawa. Further, it is alleged that the market is very small and that if French authors' works had to be solely imported the high price would preclude sales, whereas French-Canadian editions as low as ten and twenty cents sell where otherwise a book at \$1 would not. Against this it is urged that the works of French-Canadian authors are not given just recognition, as French-Canadian reprints and cheap American editions of French authors swamp the limited market.

Let the various interests affected speak for themselves.

Mr. E. Roby, of C. O. Benuchemin & Fils.

"Undoubtedly the terms of the Berne convention apply to Canada, although they are regarded as a dead letter. I am speaking against the interests of my business because I feel the French author should be protected and the French-Canadian author encouraged. However, does the French author or publisher suffer much? The sales of French fiction in the Province of Quebec owe what success they have to their cheapness. If we had to ask \$1 instead of twenty cents for a book the sale would be very limited.

"In this connection the customs laws need revision as well. It seems to me that they have been made entirely in the interests of Ontario publishers. The duty on paper fiction is 20 per cent and on bound fiction it is only 10 per cent. French fiction no matter how good is always in paper and bears the twenty per cent. duty. I have protested against this constantly.

"To illustrate the extent of the market our most successful reprint 'Cyrano de Bergerac' during four years has only sold slightly over 1,000 copies. We had Fasquelles French edition in stock and to protect that edition against the American edition we printed one ourselves. We did not register our edition and the French edition was still imported. What I advocate is that the French author should receive a just compensation and the law so read that provision be made that the book may be reprinted in Canada if he refuses.

"At present the market is limited, but what it may be in future is another question.

"The law also must protect us against American publishers who are reprinting the best French novels and dramas at popular prices and spoiling the Canadian market. The Berne convention effectually provides for this. What we need is international copyright. The United States was not in the Berne convention and by a special arrangement with England they register at Stationer's Hall, London, and secure copyright throughout the Empire. However, if this is not done their works may be pillaged by Ontario publishers. On the other hand the United States can steal the works of English authors if the American copyright law is not complied with. To comply with their strict law English authors must print and register their books in the United States at the same time as the English edition is prepared. In regard to French

authors the present situation is an injustice to them which legally can be straightened out satisfactorily."

Mr. C. E. Beauchesne, Montreal.

"I do not see how the terms of the Berne convention apply to Canada when we have a Canadian copyright law, which provides for the printing in Canada and registering at Ottawa to secure Canadian copyright. The British North America Act provides Canada with a responsible government and after much discussion Canada secured its own copyright law independent of Great Britain. The question is an involved one and Great Britain will not renounce the convention. What is the use of the convention when we have our own law to cover that. The principal works that I print are the product of French authors whose right has expired. A French author retains his right for only forty years and it is books of forty or fifty years ago that I reprint. These are works of a sensational and romantic character and please French-Canadians. Modern French literature after Zola's style is a failure in Canada. My editions are never large as the trade is cut into by innumerable printers and the market is limited. I do not think the talk is serious and consider that nothing can be done. Mr. L. De Montigny, a young French lawyer, has investigated this matter for his own publicity, assuring all concerned that the terms of the Berne convention apply. I do not look for any further developments.

"The main authors I use are Capendu, Camothe, Carr, Navry, Feval, etc. The French publishers who are well-known here are Lemarre, Flammarion, Calman Levy, Plon-Nourrit, and Juven."

Mr. Amic Geoffrion.

"The French Society des Gens des Lettres have consulted me. Whether the defendant will be the French Canadian newspapers, theatres, or publishers, or American publishers is yet undecided. The society will urge that the terms of the Berne convention apply. This will be effective against the United States as well. Against this the defendant will probably urge that the Canadian copyright law must be complied with. The Imperial copyright Act applies here for books, but not for works of art, as the interesting case of 'What we have, we'll hold' attests. I think proceedings will undoubtedly be taken."

Manager of the Book Department of Granger Freres.

"Many of the French-Canadian reprints at popular prices sell like hot cakes. They can be printed to sell at 20c, whereas the French edition will demand at least 90c. The French author suffers scandalously. We get a good many works from French publishers in Paris which Canadian publishers do not deem worthy of pillaging. Publications by French-Canadian authors average two a month. There is just as much profit from French publishers as from Canadian ones. The Canadian editions sell much more rapidly and if higher prices had to be asked sales would be less. Just settlement should be made with French authors."

An English Bookseller.

"The rights of French authors have been trampled upon, and some adjustment should be made. As a class we are utterly disinterested as there is no competition. I trust a test case will be made."