

business in Canada that the time referred to is not unreasonably short, and that the holder of copyright in the United Kingdom can easily make arrangements for simultaneous production in the two countries, so as to have republication made in Canada within the time specified in the act. The time for republication must necessarily be of short duration, because, during that period, the importation of foreign reprints of the work as well as the republication in Canada by other than the copyright holder in Great Britain is prevented, pending the exercise of the option by him as to whether he will avail himself of the Canadian copyright law or not.

On this, and on all other matters of detail, any suggestions which your lordship may think proper to make will, I am sure, receive the earnest and respectful attention of the Canadian government.

Your lordship's despatch refers his excellency's government for some particulars of the objections which have been pressed on you to a letter dated "Aldine House, Belvidere, Kent, 20th February, 1890," supposed to have been addressed to me, signed by Mr. F. R. Daldy, honorary secretary of the Copyright Association, but I have been unable to gather much information from that letter as to the objections which are entertained in England with regard to the Canadian Act of 1889. Mr. Daldy and the association which he represents are hostile to any measure by which the right of any colony to self-government on this subject may be asserted or conceded, and his letter suggests an entire abandonment of the legislation of 1889, and the adoption of further measures to carry out more strictly the existing law, which is unsatisfactory in Canada. I may mention here, in case the fact should be of any importance, that I know Mr. Daldy's letter only by the copy appended to your lordship's despatch. If Mr. Daldy has ever sent such a letter, it has never reached me.

Coming now to a statement, more in detail than could be made at our interview, of the views which prevail in Canada on this subject, I am charged by the Canadian government to express to your lordship, in the strongest terms which can be used with respect to the dissatisfaction of the Canadian government and parliament with the present state of the law of copyright as applicable to Canada, and to request most earnestly from her majesty's government that they will apply a remedy, either by giving approval to a proclamation to bring the Canadian act of 1889 into force, or by promoting legislation in the parliament of Great Britain to remove any doubt which may exist as to the power of the parliament of Canada to deal with this question fully and effectually.

Your lordship is aware that the statute of 1842 (5 and 6 Vic., c. 45) is the imperial statute by which copyright in Great Britain is extended to all the colonies and dependencies of the empire.

Any principles of common law by which authors and publishers might have claimed copyright were superseded by that act and given to any person who should publish a literary work in the United Kingdom, if he should be a subject of her majesty or a resident of any part of her majesty's dominions.

I need not remind your lordship that the operation of that act was immediately attended with great hardship and inconvenience in the North American colonies.

The legislature of the province of Canada, in the year 1843, passed a series of resolutions expressing strong remonstrance, and nearly all the other legislatures in North America followed.

The legislature of Nova Scotia, in 1845, memorialized her majesty for a modification of the act. They stated that the high price of English books, and the monopoly of London publishers, which were felt to be serious grievances in the United Kingdom, but mitigated there by the periodical sales by some of the publishers and by the wide establishment of circulating libraries, clubs and reading societies, were intensified in the colony, where the importation of English editions of new books were confined to a few copies for the use of libraries and wealthy individuals; that the trade of the colony was usually supplied by American reprints of English books, and that any law of copyright to prevent the importation of such reprints could not be enforced, and would be ineffectual even to extend sale of English copies beyond the previously existing demand.