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AUTHORS HANDICAPPED.

Writers In This Country Have Cause
for Complaint.

At the present time Canadian authors are under a distinct handicap as compared with the authors of other nations. It is a well-known fact that to-day moving pictures and phonographs bring the writer's thought to millions who formerly depended on the printed page, yet the Copyright Act of Canada gives no protection against the reproduction of an author's work by means of moving pictures, phonograph records, or music rolls. No matter how popular a song by a Canadian may be, it can be reproduced on phonograph records, without the payment of any royalty to the author, and no Canadian author can prevent the moving picture companies from reproducing his ideas on film without any payment of royalty.

To remedy this state of affairs, the Authors' and Composers' Association of Canada, whose headquarters are in Toronto, have submitted a memorandum to the Canadian Government asking them to adopt the British Copyright Act of 1911, the provisions of which include, among other things, the payment to the owner of the copyright of 5 per cent. of the retail price of each record or roll sold. The memorandum says:

"The United States publishers are now refusing to consider a song by a Canadian writer on account of the fact that they cannot collect any mechanical royalties under their copyright act, because Canada has no such provision in her act.

"Lieut. Gitz Rice (now said to be the most popular song writer on the continent) is a Canadian and a member of the Authors' and Composers' Association. Mr. Robert Service is also a Canadian whose lyrics are being set to music, and he, too, is being very greatly handicapped by our present Copyright Act. Mr. A. E. McNutt, of St. John, N.B., who wrote 'We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall,' is a Canadian. Mr. Morris Manley, of Toronto, wrote 'Good Luck to the Boys of the Allies,' etc. Mr. Gordon V. Thompson, of Toronto, wrote 'When Your Boy Comes Back to You,' 'When You Wind Up the Watch on the Rhine,' and over a dozen other patriotic songs. Miss Irene Humble wrote 'We're From Canada.' Miss Muriel Bruce wrote 'Knitting.' Mr. Will J. White wrote 'Home Again.' All these songs have been reproduced by phonographs and player-roll companies in Canada and the United States without the payment of royalties."

Surely the authors only have to state their case to get this injustice removed. Canadian authors have enough to contend with without being subjected to such a heavy handicap as is now imposed through the fact that our present Copyright Act is out of date.

Trees on the Prairie.

The Canadian Forestry Association sent to the Prairie Provinces during the summer of 1920 a tree-planting car in charge of an expert. The object was to enlist and direct the enthusiasm of the prairie people for tree-planting—a movement that has attained much importance in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The experiment has been an unqualified success, for the help given to farmers and town residents in their tree problems will show splendid results in a few years—when the trees now set out grow to normal size. The prairie need no longer be treeless, even in the dry belts, and no home need be without a protecting fringe. Near Lethbridge, one farmer has succeeded, in the driest years, in growing trees to fourteen feet. In another part of Alberta, an Englishman has succeeded in growing a wind-break of trees around his entire farm, and has a rich border of English perennials all along the side of the drive to his house. He does not suffer from drifting soil, as do his neighbors, and he has grown strawberries and other tender fruits under the protection of the trees. This widespread tree-planting movement is one of the solid constructive features of Western life, and can be made a great economic and social asset. We in the East often regard trees as a sort of nuisance, but in the irrigation districts, and on the monotonously unbroken levels of Western Saskatchewan, they are prizes to be cared for as we care for rare roses and rhododendrons.

Diameter of Pine Tree.

Mr. Hill, lockmaster at Buckhorn, Ont., experimented with a pine tree to determine improved growth which may be secured by proper care. Fifteen years ago, he pruned all the lower branches off a 4-inch white pine sapling, removing other saplings from its vicinity, dug up the earth around it and applied manure to its base. It is now 19 inches in diameter at its base and has a long, clean pole. Thus, during the fifteen years, the growth in diameter has averaged one inch annually.—Conservation.

Manitoba.

The Province of Manitoba covers an area of 251,832 square miles, of which 178,000 square miles were added in 1912. The added territory, known as New Manitoba, contains 424 miles of railroad, 332 miles of which have been built by the Canadian Government to connect the grain fields of the northwest with the Hudson Bay.

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