

decision of what it means—that I come outside the Act personally; that I could claim I would be on the footing of a British author under this Act.

Q. Do you vote in this country?—A. I do. Even then I should have no objection to representing my own pecuniary interests, and my views, if anything, would be very much sharpened on the subject, that's all. What I want to say is, I am afraid I am absolutely unable to sympathize with the point of view of those who seem to think that the production of literature is principally a manufacturing business; those who think to make the literature of a country you have to weigh it out in so many tons and pounds, and look on it as a kind of manufactured product.

Q. Have you met any such persons as that?—A. Yes, I have. I do not want to throw bricks, but I am afraid I have. I am afraid I have been listening to one this morning, if it is not rude for me to say so. That is to say, from my point of view when an author makes up a poem, or composes a play, or writes a story he has got something that is absolutely his own, if he likes he need never put it on paper. His idea is his own; the result is his own property. And as I understand, gentlemen, the whole meaning of copyright law here and anywhere, a copyright law is a law which has the fundamental idea of recognizing the property of the author in the thing that he creates. Now, I do not want to speak about the details of Canadian copyright. I have not the knowledge of the subject for that, but I want to speak on the principle of compulsory printing. As I understand the contentions that now surround our Copyright Act, the principal question at issue is whether an author in this country, a Canadian, should be compelled as a condition of his copyright, to have his work printed in Canada. I claim, sir, that any such compulsion is absolutely unjust; that it is contrary to the most fundamental principles of equity, that it is as sharp an attack on the principle of individual property as if you come and took away my house. If you take away my copyright or if you so restrict it as to make it less valuable to me, you are stealing from me, and I will not listen to the idea that you are thereby helping to build up the printing trade; as if there was any comparison between the protection of literature and the purely mechanical material in the printing trade of a country. I am afraid there are some people in this country who would measure out the greatness of Shakespeare according to the number of copies of his works, and the number of employes who would set the type. I say, to my mind, there is absolutely no comparison between these things. Copyright is created to protect the author; to stimulate authorship, to make a national recognition of the value of literature; that is the fundamental basis of copyright, and you are violating it here.

Now, I do not care what the United States does. The worst argument that can be brought forward in our country is to say that they do this or that in the United States. If you adopt their copyright laws, are you going to adopt their criminal laws? Are you going to adopt every institution they have? That is absolutely no argument at all, to say the United States does it. But I will tell you this, that if the United States does have compulsory printing, they have it under conditions absolutely different from our own. I know of what I speak. Every book that I write is printed over in England and printed also in the United States. If they abolished their law to-morrow, those books would still be printed in the United States. They are printed there because the American market is so large that it pays to print them; it is better business to print in the United States than to import. If a book has a sale too small to guarantee the printing in the United States, then it is too small to steal and the copyright is safe anyway. But what we are proposing to do and what we have already done by the Acts on our books is to over-stimulate a smaller market, try to make out by law that our market shall be bigger than it is, to force people to print. You can only get as the result of that—you are bound to get—an increase in the cost of books to the Canadian public; a diminution