

the complete American edition while importing them themselves. They got a corner which, being in the book trade at the time, affected me. So I copyrighted "In Memoriam," which is in the very middle of the book, and so I cut them out. This is a case exactly in point bearing upon what Mr. Brown has said. There is, of course, danger of grave abuses resulting. But it seems to me that this particular point has been pretty well threshed out. I am satisfied the Ministers see the exact difficulty and the way it affects the public.

Mr. ROSE.—Before you pass that point, would you mind expressing an opinion as to the effect of the copyright on the sales of Tennyson's works in this country. Are the people of Canada suffering for want of copies of Tennyson through this law?

Mr. DAWSON.—No, because they get the English cheap editions. So, in the case I referred to, the English editions came in; but I did not allow any one else to import the American editions.

Mr. ROSE.—Is it not the fact that the importation is mainly confined to the editions better than our Canadian editions?

Mr. DAWSON.—One of the last things I did before leaving business was to import a large number of copies.

Mr. LANCEFIELD.—It was not copyrighted then, was it.

Mr. ROSE.—It was copyrighted within the last three years.

Mr. DAWSON.—One thing struck me as important with regard to the Berne Convention. If there is one thing clear in that convention, it is that registration in one country is registration in all. Have these gentlemen considered the fact that this bill contains a number of conditions of registration? I think that ought to be looked into.

Mr. LANCEFIELD.—Before that is touched upon, there is one point I would like Mr. Brown to understand distinctly. He held up this "The Men of the Moss Hags" and said that if this law was in operation we should be deprived of the colonial edition and should be confined to the \$1.50 edition.

Mr. BROWN.—No.

Mr. LANCEFIELD.—I think that is what you said.

Mr. BROWN.—I said that if the proposed Act is to be enforced, we could not have the cheap editions, but under the present Act we could.

Mr. LANCEFIELD.—I am going to show that we could. Section 8 of this importation clause applies only to the author and provides that he has the exclusive rights in his own hands and can set the price. It does not touch the license clause at all. It is only when the author has registered for his own exclusive copyright. He can fix any price. The moment a book is registered, the colonial edition is shut out, but until the book is registered any edition published in England can come, whether the colonial or any other. We want that point emphatically understood, as it gives the people of Canada the chance to receive all the editions that come in up to date of registration. If the book is not registered, and application is put in for a license, the author still has the opportunity of getting the exclusive copyright and he can set his own price. If he refuses to avail himself of the opportunity, the license goes to the man making application. As Mr. Rose has told you to-day, if the author of "The Men of the Moss Hags" wished to have a copyright in Canada, he would have had two opportunities to secure it and also that the Canadian publisher can produce the book for 6½d. in Canada as is done in England. It could then be sold for 50c. or 75c. a copy, and that is the price at which it is sold to-day. I do not speak from the point of view of the publisher, but as one of the great body of readers in this country. I am a reader and come in daily contact with readers, and I believe that if there is one point in this bill that should commend it to your approval more strongly than another it is that it will reduce the price of books to the people of Canada. That is why I have taken such an active part in this agitation. The draft bill gives us every opportunity, until the book is published in Great Britain or in the United States. But the moment it is published in Canada it stands to reason, owing to the peculiar circumstances of the Canadian market, the people will have the book at a cheap price. We cannot publish a five dollar book,