

the purpose of avoiding the expense that under present conditions must be incurred of putting into type in this country an edition of the work printed in the language of origin. There is, as a rule, not sufficient demand from American buyers, even in the case of an author of repute, for a book originating in French or in German, to make the American publication of such work, printed in the original language, a satisfactory business undertaking. It is, on the other hand, as a rule, not practicable to have a translation produced in time to enable the American edition as translated to be issued in the United States "not later than the date of publication" in the country of origin. The French or German publisher is generally not willing to agree with his author to lose a season's sale of his edition of the books for the chance of securing for such author the advantage of an American edition.

The typographers objected to the amendment as worded on the ground that it gave copyright protection for a term of say six months to a book in any edition which had not been printed in the United States. It was pointed out by the publishers (many of them themselves printers and all of them interested in the production of American editions) that no book could, under such amendment, secure the final protection of the law unless an American edition was produced. It was emphasized further that, under the present conditions, the publishers were not willing to make investments in American editions of Continental works which were well suited for the requirements of American readers, but that if the publishers could, as would be possible under this amendment, secure the copyright control of such editions, a number of books would be put into print in the United States which would not otherwise have been taken up and from the manufacturing of which that printing and allied trades would secure business advantage.

It did not prove practicable, however, to convince the typographers that there might not be some risk of disadvantage to their trade in the proposition. The amendment was therefore re-shaped so as to meet their objections. Under the amendment as now worded, a work originating in language other than English is left open to "appropriation" unless an authorized American edition shall have been produced within the term of twelve months after the first publication of the book in the country of origin and unless such editions shall have been produced and duly protected by copyright in advance of any unauthorized edition. In case, however, within such terms of twelve months, the book shall be brought into print in the United States in an edition which shall comply with the other requirements of the law, the author of such book, or his assign shall enjoy for the term of copyright the full protection of the law, not merely for such English version, but for the entire text in any version. Under the working of the present statute, the producer of an English version (whether authorized or unauthorized) of a Continental work secures the protection of the law only for his own version. In case this first version secures a success, there is always the risk that other versions may be produced by unauthorized reprinters desiring to take advantage of the literary judgment and of the advertising of the publishers producing the authorized version. Such appropriation of the text of the original will be impracticable when the pending amendment has become a part of the statute.

The typographers have given their approval to the amendment as now worded, realizing that it ought to have the effect of increasing the production of American editions of Continental works. While it is a disadvantage that the Continental book should be open to "appropriation" for a term of twelve months (or less) and that should unauthorized editions have once been issued no copyright control can be secured for the work through the publication of an authorized edition, it is believed that under actual business conditions this disadvantage may not prove serious. It is the fact that the unauthorized reprinters prefer, as a rule, to follow the literary judgment of the publishers who act as the representatives of the authors. The "piracy" firms find it "better business" in the selection of works by Continental authors to appropriate a work which has secured the approval of a leading publishing house than to risk ventures based upon their individual judgments.

The amendment in question has been introduced in the Senate by Senator O. H. Platt, of Connecticut, who is an old-time friend of international copyright and whose services in connection with the Act of 1891 was of the greatest importance. The bill (which bears the number "Senate 849") has been referred to the Committee on Patents and its supporters hope to be able to secure favorable action on it early in the regular session. The amendment has also been introduced into the House (House No. 2,229) by Mr. Carrier. It is of essential importance, if the copyright relations of the United States with France, Germany, and Italy are to be preserved, that no further delay should be incurred in remedying the very serious injustice to which the authors of the Continent are now exposed. It would also be a serious mortification for Americans who have at heart the good name of their country to have these international copyright conventions cancelled on the ground that the American Government had failed to carry out in good faith the reciprocity conditions of the Act of 1891 on the strength of which conditions the States of Europe have extended to American authors the full protection of their own copyright laws.

PERSONALS.

Mr. A. H. Stratton of Peterboro was "spending money" in Toronto recently.

Mr. C. L. Nelles of Guelph paid a visit to the Toronto wholesale houses recently.

Mr. H. S. Hallman, printer, of Berlin, was in Toronto a day or so ago. He was buying supplies.

Mr. T. Thanburn of Brampton was in Toronto a few days ago. He visited the leading manufacturers and jobbers.

Mr. D. J. Young of Calgary paid a visit to Toronto recently. This is Mr. Young's first visit to the Queen City for twenty years.

Mr. Gundy, the genial treasurer of the W. J. Gage Company, Limited, Toronto, is preparing to take a trip to Europe. He purposes visiting the principal cities of the Continent as well as those of Great Britain. Mrs. Gundy will accompany Mr. Gundy on the tour.

Mr. A. W. Arnott, of Geo. Ridout & Co., Toronto, was a recent caller at our London offices. Mr. Arnott is in the Old Country getting in close personal touch with the houses his firm represents, and is visiting the trade centres of Great Britain and the Continent. News of new agencies of interest to the trade will be announced on Mr. Arnott's return to Canada.