

agree that he has given us to understand that the Bill as expressed here will not necessitate our retiring from the Berne Convention.'

"MR. HALL CAINE: 'That is my general view. At the same time, I do not wish to express any legal opinion. It is for the law officers to speak on that point.'"

It is quite clear to anyone who has investigated the copyright question, that under the Berne Convention and the laws of the different countries of the Copyright Union made in accordance with it, a Canadian author of a book first published in Canada has copyright in every country of the Union for the term allowed by the British Copyright Act, or any less term allowed by the law of the foreign country for copyright under that law.

It is also clear that the legal effect of the Convention and of the foreign copyright laws is, that the obligations and advantages under the Convention are strictly reciprocal, and therefore any country which imposes an obligation to reprint locally as a condition of obtaining copyright for that country in a book first published in any country of the Union must withdraw from the Union, such a condition being inconsistent with the terms of the Convention.

Great Britain in acceding to the Convention reserved to the Crown the power of denouncing the Convention for Canada or any other of the self-governing colonies. Such a denunciation is not to take effect until after the expiration of twelve months from its date.

The Berne Convention could not be carried into effect in the Empire without the authority of Parliament, and to enable Great Britain to accede to the Convention, a Bill was intro-