

not the slightest intentional desire to overlook or ignore any one in the trade. The meeting was called for eight o'clock, on the evening of the 16th inst., in the rooms of the Press Club, which had been procured through the efforts of Mr. J. Ross Robertson, and at the hour named, the following gentlemen were present:—William Bryce, J. Ross Robertson, Daniel Rose, A. S. Irving, Dan. A. Rose, James Murray, Geo. H. Suckling, F. G. Howe, W. F. Maclean, D. T. McAinsh, W. A. Shepard, W. D. Gillean, R. T. Lancefield, I. T. Gilmour, C. Miller, W. H. Parr, and F. W. Stratton, the last four gentlemen being a deputation from the Toronto Typographical Union. Mr. J. Ross Robertson having been unanimously elected chairman, and R. T. Lancefield, secretary, the object of the meeting was explained. It was shown that the bill was introduced in order to bring this country under the operation of the Berne International Copyright Treaty. It provided that works copyrighted in Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Hayti, Liberia and Tunis, should be held to be copyrighted here *without registration*, as long as the copyright held good in the country where it was obtained. The most objectionable feature of the bill, however, was the one which made the *printing* of a copyrighted work here *unnecessary*. The present law stipulates that a book copyrighted here must be printed here, thus giving work to Canadian printers, book-binders, electrotypers, etc. The sweeping away of this provision was, therefore, a most serious blow at these industries, as well as the publishing business generally. And, as if this was not enough, the retail dealer was to receive a blow which would be an irreparable loss to many of them, as, if the bill had become law, the importation of all reprints of British copyright works would have been absolutely prohibited. It is no wonder, therefore, that all present were of one mind that a united effort should be made to secure the postponement of the bill until time had been given for a fair and impartial discussion of the merits of the proposed changes. Telegrams to this effect were sent to the Minister of Justice, to Sir John A. Macdonald, and to the three city members, while other telegrams were sent privately by Toronto people, as well as by several Montreal firms. In addition to this, a deputation consisting of

Messrs. A. S. Irving, D. A. Rose and W. Bryce, publishers; D. T. McAinsh, bookseller, and Jas. Murray, of the *Typothetæ*, went to Ottawa on Thursday to plead their cause personally before the Minister of Agriculture. The Hon. John Carling informally met the deputation with his usual affability, and promised to lay their representations before his colleagues, the result being that shortly after Sir John Macdonald, from his place in the House, announced that the Copyright Bill had been withdrawn for the session. It was subsequently learned that a telegram from W. J. Gage & Co., on behalf of themselves and certain other Toronto publishers had been received, memorializing the Government in favor of the bill. It may be added that Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn, M.P., was most assiduous in assisting the deputation to secure the object of their mission.

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It is now in order for those interested to see that the matter is not allowed to drop. There are many conflicting interests to be considered in framing a bill, but that is no reason why all interests should not meet and discuss the matter amicably.

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Since the above article was written, another meeting of those interested in this question was held on the 25th inst., the following being present:—W. Bryce, A. S. Irving, Dan A. Rose, A. F. Rutter (Wm. Warwick & Son), James Murray, Bruce Brough, T. G. Wilson, John Imrie, W. A. Shepard, A. W. Croil, Geo. E. Challes, W. D. Gillean, Geo. Virtue, Geo. H. Suckling, D. T. McAinsh, J. T. Gilmour, J. Ross Robertson, Chairman, and R. T. Lancefield, secretary. After considerable discussion, it was resolved to form an organization to be known as the Canadian Copyright Association, for the mutual protection of the various interests in connection with the book and publishing trades of Canada. A committee was appointed to draft a code of by-laws, etc., which will be submitted to another meeting to be called by the Chairman, when the organization will be officially formed, officers elected, etc. It is intended also that the members of the trade throughout the Dominion shall be invited to co-operate with this central association, as well as to form local organizations, so that no stone may be left unturned to accomplish the object in view.