

continually are, by reason of the vast competition of the United States in every branch of trade, industry and commerce, your Lordship will not wonder at our being disposed to complain, when, in regard to so important a matter as the furnishing of literature for our people, we are hindered by a monopoly, nominally in favour of the London publishers, but really and practically in favour of the publishers in the United States, and when we are held in that position by virtue of an Imperial statute passed nearly half a century ago, when the wants and capabilities of the people of British North America were greatly different from what they are now, when the population of British North America was only a fraction of what it is now, and when the powers of its people, as regards self-government, had hardly begun to exist, while they are now fully developed.

I proceed now to show that the request which I am urging upon your Lordship, by direction of the Canadian Government, was pressed on Her Majesty's Government immediately after the Dominion of Canada was established, has been pressed at many times since, and has always been met in a manner which justifies the hope that compliance with our request will not now be longer delayed.

On the 15th May 1868, the Senate of Canada passed an humble address to His Excellency the Governor-General, as follows:—

The Senate, 15th May 1868.

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1st. To call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the provisions of the Imperial Act, 10 & 11 Vict. c. 95, by which power is given to Her Majesty to approve of any Act passed by the Legislature of any British possession, admitting into such possession foreign reprints of British copyright works, provided that reasonable protection to the authors is, in Her Majesty's opinion, thereby secured to them.

2nd. To impress upon Her Majesty's Government the justice and expediency of extending the privileges granted by the above cited Act, so that, whenever reasonable provision and protection shall, in Her Majesty's opinion, be secured to the authors, Colonial reprints of British copyright works shall be placed on the same footing as foreign reprints in Canada, by which means British authors will be more effectually protected in their rights, and a material benefit will be conferred on the printing industry of this dominion.

Ordered, that such members of the Privy Council as are members of this House do wait on His Excellency the Governor-General with the said address.

Attest,

F. TAYLOR,
Clerk, Senate.

In June 1868, Mr. Rose, then Canadian Minister of Finance, being in London, was referred to by the Colonial Office for information on the subject of this address, and in a memorial dated the 30th of that month, he stated briefly, the inconveniences which were felt in Canada, and he declared the desire of Canada to be, in accordance with the address of the Senate, that the Canadian publisher be permitted to reprint English copyrights on taking out a license and paying an excise duty, effectual checks being interposed so that the duty on the number of the copies actually issued from the press, should be paid to the Canadian Government by such publishers for the benefit of the author.

A letter from the Colonial Office to the Board of Trade stated that consideration ought to be given to the course which should be taken with regard to the recommendation of the Senate of Canada that Colonial reprints of copyrighted works be placed on the same footing as foreign reprints in the Dominion, and that the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, then Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, would be glad to be informed whether the memorandum submitted was sufficient to enable their Lordships of the Board of Trade to form an opinion on this question.

On the 21st July 1868, his Grace informed the Governor-General of Canada that he was in communication with the Board of Trade with regard to the recommendation of the Senate, and would apprise his Excellency of the result so soon as he was placed in possession of their Lordships' views.

The reply of the Board of Trade, dated the 22nd July, 1868, was that the question raised was far too important, and involved too many considerations of Imperial policy to render it possible to comply with the desire expressed by the address of the Senate that legislation should be obtained during the then present session of Parliament.