

sovereignty, has the right to legislate for Canada in this regard, but the policy of the Mother Country has undergone a marked change of recent years. Heretofore the question of the effect of an international arrangement upon the welfare of the colony has received scant consideration at the hands of the Home authorities, the results being that the rights of the colony have been bartered away in a manner little short of criminal. A wiser policy now obtains, however, and, so far as Canada is concerned, her consent is sought ere she is bound by anything in an international way that may affect her interests.

In copyright matters, the arrangement that, at present, governs is that known as the Berne Convention, entered into on the 9th of September, 1886. Canada gave her consent to be bound by its provisions upon the express understanding that, upon giving a year's notice, she should be entitled to withdraw from the arrangement (s).

The Canadian Government afterwards formally and emphatically requested Her Majesty's Government to give notice of the withdrawal of Canada, but without effect; and England, by her conduct, has left herself open to the imputation of bad faith and of having inveigled Canada into becoming a party to the Convention upon the misrepresentation that she might withdraw in the manner above mentioned. Up to the present the demand that England give the required notice has been deliberately slighted, and, notwithstanding the statement that Canada has consented not to press her request in this connection (t), the material available fails to disclose any ground for supposing that that consent would be or has been given. On the contrary, the constant reiteration by the Minister of Justice for Canada of the desire of his Government to be freed from the burdensome provisions of the Berne Convention, leads to the belief that nothing but compliance with the request will satisfy the Canadian Government.

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(s) Report of Sir John S. D. Thompson—Hodgins' Dominion and Provincial Legislation, p. 1303.

(t) Professor Mavor in January number, 1901, of Toronto University Monthly, p. 172.

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