

Mr. JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON.—I am prepared to say a few words as regards the Canadian Copyright Association, but I have no desire to intrude at this stage.

Mr. F. R. DALDY.—I think it would be better that Mr. Robertson should proceed, and then I would ask to be allowed to make a few remarks.

Mr. JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON.—Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity of saying a few words on behalf of the Canadian Copyright Association. Our mission in the past has generally been to discuss the difficulties of the copyright situation, but on this occasion, fortunately, so far as our association is concerned, the conference we have had with Mr. Hall Caine has removed those difficulties. And the difficulties being removed there is nothing left to discuss, and any extended remarks I might make would only sound in your ears like an obituary on a dead difficulty.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—At any rate, it is important to confirm the statement made by Mr. Hall Caine, to the effect that this was a real compromise.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—The address of Mr. Caine has so thoroughly covered the principal features of the bill that if I were to cover the same ground I should be only repeating what Mr. Caine so admirably said. In the conclusions arrived at we have endeavoured, and we believe successfully, to deal fairly and honourably with all parties interested whether they be authors or publishers, and whether they be British, Canadian or foreign. So far as the Canadian author is concerned, we have not only not deprived him of any rights he has hitherto possessed, but we have materially increased his facilities of production.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—I hope you do not object to interruptions.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Not at all.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—Would you kindly explain that last remark more in detail.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Practically we are in the Berne Convention.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—But as to the additional facilities for production?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Under the facilities afforded by this Act, the Canadian authors will have a larger number of publishers to select from and will be able to engage the services of a publisher in this country at a moderate price. Men who, before, never thought of publishing will take advantage of the provisions of this Act. As Mr. Caine has said there have been mutual concessions. I do not pretend that the Canadian Copyright Association have got all they asked for or all they were entitled to. I am sure the Canadian Copyright Association could not be called unreasonable, and in speaking thus I do not pretend that Mr. Caine did not do all he possibly could to meet our views without endangering the interests he represents. I admit that the draft submitted will not be satisfactory to extremists; but I think there is one proof of its fairness. We believe that if a new Act is passed drawn upon the lines laid down in this draft, it will not only solve the problem that has hampered the Canadian publishing and printing interest in the past, but will also encourage the production by our own presses of books from the pens of British, Canadian and foreign authors who, under the provisions now respectfully submitted to the members of the Government for consideration, will receive full remuneration for their work.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—One question, please, before you sit down. From a cursory glance over this draft bill, I gather that it is proposed to exclude, in case license is taken out, all editions of the work published in other places. For instance, the cheap colonial editions published in England, I take it, would be excluded.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Yes.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—Then in cases where license was taken out, the Canadian reader would be restricted to the Canadian edition?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Of course he would be entitled to import two copies.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—But not for sale?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Not for sale.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—So that the sale, to that extent, would be restricted?