

perhaps advisable to make an addition to show British authors how little benefit they receive from the present mode of collecting duty on American reprints of their works coming into Canada. I would therefore propose to add to the words of my motion as printed: "Also a return showing the amount of duty collected upon copies of British copyright works imported into the Dominion from the United States during the fiscal year 1870-71, as well as the amount of such duties as have been paid to the author or authors of such works." It now just comes to my recollection that a voluminous correspondence on the subject of copyright appeared in the *London Times*, not many months ago, and amongst many authors, who then made known their complaints, the Archbishop of Dublin wrote a letter in which he complained of the very small return received from Canada, and rather reflected upon the management of our Customs in collecting the duty for the benefit of British authors. I think he said that although one of his works was widely circulated in Canada, yet all he received was something like six shillings and eight pence, or some such trivial sum. There is no doubt whatever that large numbers of such works are smuggled into this country from the United States, but in addition to this many pass the Custom House, because of the absence of timely returns from the proper authorities in England. I have no doubt, knowing as I do something of the slowness with which public departments move, that returns of copyright works only come out some time after they have appeared in England, and have been copied in the United States, and consequently are not in the possession of our Customs officers, as soon as the American reprints are sent in. The officer looks at his lists, and not seeing the work mentioned in them, allows the books to pass free. Under such circumstances it will be easy to explain why such a small amount is collected on American reprints for the benefit of authors. As a forcible illustration of the position in which our publishers are now placed, I may mention that a well known gentleman in Montreal—I refer to the compiler and publisher of the Dominion Directory—who has labored long and earnestly in this matter, has been forced to establish a printing office at Rouses' Point, across the frontier, in order that he may be in a position to compete with American publishers. I do not attempt to justify or offer an opinion on this proceeding; I give it simply as an example of the effect of the present system upon our

printing industry. We should certainly endeavour to encourage Canadian publishers and keep them in the country, instead of forcing them across the border. In my motion, I refer to correspondence with "person or persons," as well as with the Government for I understand that a correspondence has been going on with influential individuals on this question, and a letter has been written by a distinguished gentleman, Sir Charles Trevelyan, approving of the action and demands of the Canadian Government on the subject. I believe such correspondence should encourage our Government to prosecute this object with vigor, and use every effort to obtain the very desirable boon we have so long been asking.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL replied: I may say at once, I believe there is no official correspondence after that to which my hon. friend has referred—the report of two members of the Government on the subject, which was sent to England. There has been, however, some unofficial correspondence, and the hon. gentleman is right in mentioning the name of Sir Charles Trevelyan, but I do not know if it can be brought down. I would suggest to my hon. friend that he also add to his motion a request for a return which will show the dates at which the copyright lists come out to this country; and then the whole case will be laid before the public. My hon. friend deserves to succeed—he has persevered, session after session, since Confederation, and I may add that his efforts have not been confined to this House, but have been exerted, with the same object in view, during the vacation, both in this country and in England. The Government are entirely in accord with the hon. gentleman on the question, and hope that now, since there is no prospect of an International Copyright Treaty, they will be able to come to some satisfactory arrangement with the British authorities.

In accordance with the suggestion of

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL,

Mr. RYAN added the following words to his motion:

"And further a return stating at what dates and periods with reference to the dates of publication, lists of works which are copyrights are transmitted from the proper department in London to the proper department for collecting the duties on copies of such copyright works in this country."

Hon. Mr. BUREAU made a few remarks, but they were not audible to the reporter.

The motion, as amended, then passed.