

Enclosure 3 in No. 105.

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DEAR SIR,

Toronto, April 1895.

I HAVE just read your excellent letter in the "Times" bearing on the question of Copyright, and I take the liberty of enclosing you a copy of the "Mail and Empire" of April 6th last, containing, on page 11, a copy of letter written by me on the subject from the authors and artists' standpoint, and from the standpoint of the interests of this country. It is only lately that I have taken this matter up, as I began to fear that this iniquitous Act of 1889 might become law. I trust that no effort will be spared to prevent the mother country from giving assent to this Act, which is far reaching in its evil effects.

I am surprised to find how dense is the ignorance on the matter in this country. Not a lawyer or a politician that I have yet spoken to either understands the matter, or, I believe, has taken the trouble to read the Act. Neither they, nor the authors, know anything about the Berne Convention, nor the rights which are being frittered away to pander to the greed of a few publishers in this country.

The fact is, that the late Sir John Thompson and his Government were held completely by the throat by a few publishers, a part of the press, and some tricky politicians or wire-pullers. The whole issue, in the usual manner of such controversy, is completely ignored by the publishers, and a howl is raised about not permitting Canada to pass Copyright laws of its own, and about flooding our market with American prints of English books. There is no other argument in favour of this Copyright Bill for publishers. A Copyright Act in the interests of printers is somewhat novel.

I propose to see different city members and to write further to the press and try and get up an opposition to the schemes of these publishers during the coming session of the House of Commons here which meets on the 8th of April next.

Yours, &c.

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Enclosure 4 in No. 105.

DEAR SIR,

Toronto, May 2, 1895.

I AM in receipt of yours of the 23rd ultimo, and enclose you a speech of Senator Boulton's made a few days ago in our Senate. I had written to him before his speech and interested him in this matter. Although he is not quite correct in his statement, he is on the right line. I find that those Members of Parliament whom I have spoken to are absolutely ignorant of the whole matter, or the effect of the Copyright Amendment Act of 1889, and apparently take very little interest in it. I have also spoken to some of our leading lawyers and find that they know nothing about this Act of 1889, and that their attention has never been drawn to it. Two out of our three city members with whom I have spoken certainly know nothing whatever about the subject beyond that British authors' works may be printed in America and sent into Canada, which they think a hardship. As for any provisions of the Berne Convention in the interests of Canadian authors and artists, they know nothing about it.

I find on inquiry through a disgruntled member of the Canadian Copyright Association that the total number of members is about 25. It appears that more than one-half of these are not active members, and it may be safely said that there are less than half-a-dozen publishers who are creating the whole disturbance from deputations, from trades' and labour councils, &c. gathered from their own establishments, which we know are very easy to get up. Some of the members of the Canadian Copyright Association are neither printers, publishers, nor binders, and some of the principal firms in this city are either not members at all or inactive members of the Canadian Copyright Association. When it is considered that there are about 346 printing and publishing establishments throughout the Dominion and that there are less than half-a-dozen who are actively engaged in pushing this Act of 1889, the whole thing is really a farce about which the public here are not particularly concerned; but a few publishers have used the cry of Canada first, and the feeling of jealousy which arises from American houses sending British authors' works into Canada, to keep up a sort of spurious excitement.