

coming into force, the Canadian Government passed a special enactment allowing plates for books to be imported into Canada free of duty. The concession was made thinking that it would be appreciated, but those opposing the Act seem determined to ignore the concession. Yet the concession is there, and it proves that Canada grants British authors copyright in Canada on far more liberal terms than they can secure copyright in the United States, and that Canada grants United States authors copyright in Canada on far easier terms than Canadians are granted copyright in the United States.

Canada has not only lost the printing of works by foreign authors, but is fast losing the printing of works by Canadian authors, not because the books can be printed cheaper or better abroad, but because they have to be manufactured in the United States in order to secure copyright there. When that is done there is no necessity for issuing a Canadian edition, as the Canadian market can be supplied by the United States edition. Injustice to important Canadian interests.

Under the present law the Canadian reading public are ignored, and the works of both British and United States authors must be imported into Canada, and, moreover, these editions are, in many cases, published at such prices as to put them beyond the reach of the great majority of Canadian readers. Reading public inconvenienced.

British authors are now able to secure copyright in the United States, and United States authors are now able to secure copyright in Great Britain (which covers Canada). Therefore the copyright owners now refuse to print in Canada. They supply this market with editions printed either in the United States or Great Britain. This is considered a great injury to the printing, paper, and allied industries in Canada. It is, moreover, a source of trouble and annoyance to the people of Canada, as the British market is so far away, that after the supply on hand of a book is exhausted some weeks must elapse before a new supply can be procured.

A circular, containing objections to the Canadian Act, has been recently issued in England. These objections should not prevail. Objections refuted.

The circular states that Canada has asked the British Government to sanction arrangements to take copyright in Canada away from all British authors except such as are Canadians. Such is not the case. Canada does not propose to take away copyright in Canada from British authors. The British author and the United States author may, under the Canadian Act, secure copyright in Canada on exactly the same terms as the Canadian author.

It is objected that the Canadian Act will injure the value of the British edition, because the Canadian edition could be imported into the United Kingdom and the other Colonies, and compete with it. But from the report of Lord Knutsford's Copyright Commission of 1892, it appears that, at the instance of the British copyright owners, the law of Great Britain was framed so that the importation of Canadian reprints of British works into Great Britain is prohibited.

It is objected that the Canadian Act is at variance with the Free Trade principles of the United Kingdom. That may be. The Canadian Tariff Act is also avowedly at variance with the Free Trade principles of the United Kingdom, yet the British Government would not propose to interfere with it.

It is objected that the Canadian Act will destroy the British author's present means of securing copyright in the United States of America. That is only an opinion. Are not the British publishers themselves alone responsible for the agitation against allowing British authors to hold copyright in the United States? The action of the British Music Publishers' Association in contesting what is known as the "manufacturing" clause in the United States Act has done British authors incalculable harm in the United States; and if the British music publishers will not accept that manufacturing clause (as British book publishers have very wisely done), British authors may yet find themselves deprived of the benefit of copyright in the United States.

As to the Berne Convention, it should be understood that the Canadian Parliament never adopted or agreed to the Berne Convention. On the contrary, the Canadian Parliament has twice asked that notice be given of Canada's desire that the Convention be denounced.

Most of the other objections are based on the supposition that the author loses control over his work under the Canadian Act. Nothing could be further from the fact, since, by complying with the terms of the Act, authors and copyright owners retain entire control of their works, and may suppress old editions, or issue new ones as desired.

Canadians insist on the full right of the Parliament of Canada to pass and enact legislation on copyright as desired from time to time; the same as they enjoy on the other subjects entrusted to that Parliament under the B.N.A. Act of 1867. Canadians stand by the Act of 1867.