

made to this Parliament or by Royal Proclamation or otherwise, that the Royal assent to this bill had been obtained. The effect of no Royal Proclamation issuing, or any Government announcement of the bills having received the Royal assent being made before the 14th June next, will be that this Act will fall as a dead letter, will be inoperative, and no longer of any value or avail. I think it, therefore, most incumbent upon the Government, whose leader in this House, when in opposition, sanctioned and assisted in passing this bill—to bestir themselves, and ascertain before the 14th of June has been reached, whether Her Majesty's Imperial Government may not be induced without further delay to consider this measure in the interest of Canada, that it may receive the Royal assent before the expiration of the period required by law. The bill is very short, but it amply provides for the wants which the printing industry of Canada feels it is necessary to supply. It gives our own printers under certain conditions and restrictions, and with certain provisions, saving the interests of authors, publishers, and copyright holders, in Great Britain and Ireland, the same privileges enjoyed by printers on the other side of the line. It places the Canadian printer, subject to those conditions, in the same position as the American, with regard to the printing of British copyrights. Any hon. gentleman can see from the bill, a copy of which I hold in my hand, that it provides amply and carefully for the remuneration of copyright holders or authors; that it precludes the printers of this country from republishing works of British copyright without a license from Government, and subject to paying certain amounts stipulated in the bill, which conditions would have been perfectly satisfactory to the great majority of British authors. But unfortunately the question has been opposed by a powerful interest, an influential association of publishers in England. I discriminate between publishers and authors. A very powerful combination of publishers in England have exercised the influence which they probably most deservedly possess, with the Imperial Government, to oppose our bill, and the consequence is that if the Royal sanction is withheld for two months longer the bill will fall a dead letter, and thus after six years of hard work to get the grievance this bill deals with remedied, we shall find ourselves no further advanced than at the outset of our labours, and the American publishers can continue to send

in works without any, or small remuneration to British authors, and can put upon the Canadian market articles which our own people are prevented from producing. There is one feature in this matter which I can not help referring to. Formerly we had the assistance of a very able agent in London, who went heart and soul into the views of this House, the House of Commons and the country, exerted himself to promote the passing of this bill, or to procure the adoption of some other measure by the Imperial Government which would have reached the same end, if not in so satisfactory a manner, yet in a manner at least approximately satisfactory to Canada. But, I am sorry to say, I believe we shall lose the advantage of that advocacy now, in London and that the gentleman who has lately been appointed as Agent-General for Canada is, if I am rightly informed, adverse to the objects of this bill—(Hear, hear and a laugh)—and adverse, in this particular, to promoting the interests of the printers and publishers of the Dominion, which he now represents in England. Without further trespassing upon the time of the House, I shall make the enquiry standing on the orders of the day.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The bill has not been sanctioned. I believe I am safe in saying that one of the reasons was the intention of the Imperial Government to introduce a new bill, which it is desired to bring all the Colonies under. Whether such a bill can be framed—one that would satisfy the authors as regards this country and the other colonies, I am unable to say. I have listened with a good deal of interest to the historical sketch, which my hon. friend has given, of the difficulties of putting on the Statute book the measure of 1872; but I heard with some degree of regret the strictures on the new Agent of the Dominion in London. I was not aware he could be quoted in any way inimical to the interests of the country, or of Canadian publishers.

Hon. Mr. RYAN—I have my information from a gentleman who heard the objections stated by Mr. Jenkins to this particular bill, and to the concessions it asks for Canada.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—He had nothing to do with the refusal of the royal assent to the bill.

Hon. Mr. RYAN—I never attributed this to him. I merely stated he was adverse to it. Sir John Rose, who preceded him, according to the general understanding, had advocated a measure of arrangement on this subject, very warmly and strongly; and I was sorry to hear, from a gentleman who said he had it from