

mentioned. The object of the Address which was presented to His Excellency at that time was to remove this grievance by giving the same right to our printers and publishers of printing British copyrights as was accorded, and still is accorded, to American publishers on the other side of the line. Our capabilities for printing such works cheaply were as great then as those possessed by the Americans—perhaps more so; and we appealed on the subject to the British Government through His Excellency the Governor General, and that Address was followed by despatches from the Government, which were brought down to this House on our motion in due course. The representation was made to the British Government that, as soon as ever measures were taken for the protection of the interests of the British authors in the shape of an excise, permission should be given for the reprinting of British copyrights in Canada. I need not go through the various negotiations which have passed since 1868 between our Government and that of Great Britain. You will recollect perhaps one important fact which I mentioned last year, and that was, that the prospect of an International Copyright Treaty with the United States was the chief impediment to having our wishes complied with. Great hopes were held out that that Treaty would be accomplished, but it fell to the ground, and there is no appearance at present that such a measure will be carried out. We are therefore precisely in the same position that we were in 1868 on this subject with this exception, that negotiations have been going on at different times between the Government here and the Imperial Government. In return to the address presented last year a new paper was sent down, and which has not yet been specially brought to the notice of the House though it is amongst the papers which were printed. In the Sessional Papers, No. 43. I find a report from the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture to the Governor General and Privy Council. They say: "What the undersigned would venture to suggest is that the duty on the re-prints of books first published, either in Great Britain or its dependencies, when imported from foreign countries, should be materially increased."

The object evidently of this suggestion was to put an end to importations from the United States but it is obvious that to do away with the power of importing these works would, of course, increase the cost of literature in this country unless we are allowed to reprint them our-

selves. We are yet, perhaps, too poor a country to pay European prices for the literature which we require. The report goes on to say: "And that it should be levied in all cases for the benefit of the author or owner of the copyright, should such exist." Every gentleman will be prepared to join in the justice of that recommendation, that whilst we ask privileges of this sort we should certainly make provision for the benefit of the author whose work we should publish in this country. The object we have in view is to benefit the British author as well as the Canadian publisher whose interests are identical. The only interest that would be injuriously affected would be the British publishers, and they have, I believe, thrown many impediments in the way of our acquiring the privilege which we ask for. "And to prevent evasion of the law, a declaration should be requested from importers that any works which they may claim to import free of such duty have never been published either in Great Britain or in British dependencies; that foreign reprints of works published in Canada should be wholly prohibited; that any author publishing in Canada should be, as at present, protected in his copyright, but that, unless British copyright works should be published concurrently in Canada, licensed Canadian publishers should be allowed to publish, paying for the benefit of the author or owner of the English copyright an excise duty which could be collected by means of stamps as easily as other duties of a similar kind. The undersigned have no doubt that such a scheme as that which they have suggested could be carried into practical effect with great advantage to the English authors, who, as a rule, would sell their copyrights for Canada to Canadian publishers. It is true that British publishers would not gain that colonial circulation which they have long tried to obtain without success; but it is vain to expect that the expensive editions published in England can meet a sale in any part of the American continent." Since these communications have passed between the two Governments, others, no doubt have, followed, and I hope that there will be no objection to showing the position of these further negotiations with as little delay as possible. Although it may appear to some that the subject has been followed up, perhaps too persistently, yet, I believe, nothing but persistence and energy in urging this matter on the Imperial Government will bring it to a successful issue. Since I gave notice of my motion I have thought that it would be