

AMENDMENT TO COPYRIGHT ACT.

A useful and practical amendment of the Copyright Act, introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. A. O. Macdonell, K.C., became law on March 17th. Under the old section, which has been in force for many years, the notice for copyright was in the following words:—"Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada in the year 1908, by A. B., at the Department of Agriculture." This form, while comparatively unobjectionable in books, was cumbersome and disfiguring on engravings, photographs, and art postcards. The new wording is very simple, viz:—"Copyright, Canada, 1908, by A. B.," and indicates sufficiently the fact of copyright, the country, the date, and the owner of the copyright. Publishers and others will appreciate Mr. Macdonell's amendment.

VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES.

When the property of a public service company is taken by a state or municipality under condemnation proceedings, *Matter of Brooklyn* (1894), 143 N.Y. 596, or under contract leaving the purchase price to be subsequently determined, *Matter of Water Com'rs.* (N.Y. 1902), 71 App. Div. 544, the problem of ascertaining the fair and just compensation has proven to be most vexatious and one upon which the Courts have shewn no little divergence of opinion. Several theories, none of them exclusive, have been advanced: first, the original cost of the plant to the company; *Montgomery County v. Schuylkill Bridge Co.* (1885), 110 Pa. St. 64; *West Chester, etc., Co. v. Chester County* (1897), 182 Pa. St. 40, second, the present cost of reproduction; *Brunswick, etc., Water Dist. v. Maine Water Co.* (1904), 99 Me. 371, 382; *Matter of Water Com'rs.*, supra; third, the capitalized value of its net income; *Nat'l Water Works Co. v. Kansas City* (1894), 62 Fed. 853; and fourth, the market value of its stock. *Mifflin Bridge Co. v. Juniata County* (1891), 144 Pa. St. 365; *Montgomery County v. Schuylkill Bridge Co.*, supra. The first consideration—that of original cost—has received considerable attention from the Courts. In order, however, for it