

expense in advertising and popularizing his purchase, yet, before his books could be placed on the counters of Canadian retail dealers, he, as a rule, found in the market the cheap Colonial Edition imported to compete with and undersell his own even although he had contracted as effectually as he could with the English author and publisher for the Canadian market."

The Fisher Act of 1900 has remedied the evil under which publishers laboured at the time the Hall Caine Bill was first under discussion, and of which Mr. Rose and Mr. Irving justly complained.

It is clear that any legislation establishing a licensing system cannot be distinguished from the licensing provisions of the Canadian Act of 1889, which as stated by Sir John Thompson was inconsistent with the Berne Convention, and that Canada's withdrawal from the Convention is a necessary precedent condition to such legislation becoming law.

I believe it is almost universally admitted that the withdrawal or exclusion of Canada from the Copyright Union created by the Berne Convention would be lamentable so far as the interests of Canadian publishers and authors are concerned, and it is for this reason principally that I so strongly opposed the ill-considered action of the Board of Trade in advocating the adoption of the legislation which is now proposed by that body.

In conclusion, I desire to refer to another matter. It is continually being asserted that the custom still exists under which "in the arrangement by authors with United States