

resolution was unanimously adopted: "The Council having had under consideration the report of the Committee on Postage of the Booksellers' and Stationers' Association of Ontario, expresses its approval of the same, and will unite with the Association in sending a memorial to the Government that Canadian booksellers and stationers be placed on equal terms with foreign competitors."

You will please advise me what further action your Committee desire to take in the matter, and I shall be only too pleased to render all the assistance in my power.

I am, dear sir, yours truly.

EDGAR A. WILLS,
Secretary.

TORONTO, March 5th, 1887.

DEAR SIR.—As promised last month, we write our final reply to Mr. Suckling's letter published in the January number of *BOOKS AND NOTIONS*.

There is a principle in law that is recognized by civilized and many barbarous communities, to wit: That undisputed possession for a limited term of years gives undisputed ownership, and all the rights that the term implies. The original owner, by failing to assert his rights, after a time loses them, and cannot again get possession. This is precisely the case with the owners of English copyright music, who never enforced their rights to any extent on the music trade of Canada until about three years ago. American non-copyright editions were continually imported in unlimited quantities for years without any restriction whatever, until the trade were thoroughly accustomed to handle little else. Of this state of affairs the English publishers must have had full knowledge, and, having full knowledge, they allowed it to continue without protest.

Very suddenly, about three years ago, the English publishers commenced to enforce their copyright privileges in Canada on a large number of pieces—among which were compositions that the trade in this country had handled for 25 or 30 years, almost nothing else but American non-copyright editions. Among the latter are the old songs and pieces: "Her Bright Smile," "Shells of Ocean," "What are the Wild Waves Saying?" "Warblings at Eve," and many of Pape's, Sydney Smith's and Smallwood's compositions. Many in the trade were prosecuted and mulcted in heavy damages for doing what they had done for years, and all have been annoyed by repeated threats to prosecute.

All this has tended to unsettle the trade in Canada so much that dealers have become thoroughly confused as to what is safe to handle and what is not. Is it not clear who the real sufferers are in this copyright matter? Will anyone say it is the English publisher?

If the two firms in Canada who represent the English copyright owners had confined themselves to enforcing their rights on new publications, no one could have found fault, the trade would have become less agitated, and business would have run more smoothly.

Yours, etc.,
STRANGE & CO.

The question that agitates the trade: Will the Government help us to compete with the United States dealers by giving us lower postage rates?

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With the view of opening up a channel of communication among members of the Trade, we will insert for **10 Cents a Line**, a list of such books as they wish to dispose of. It will be useless to advertise them unless prepared to take very much below the price.

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