

10 per cent., and I do not see any reference to sheets.

The Finance Minister said he thought books in sheets would come in under the 20 per cent. rate.

Mr. Robertson said he was glad to hear that, as the Toronto Customs officials were ruling that the sheets only paid 10 per cent. If the latter view prevailed, the rate, under the preferential tariff, would only be 7½ per cent.; the old duty of 6c. per lb. had been equal to about 25 per cent. If unbound sheets were to come in at 10 per cent. Canadian publishers would do their printing in the States.

The Minister promised that the clause would be so worded as to make the sheets pay 20 per cent. As to copyright, the Minister agreed with Mr. Robertson that it was a complicated question. "The Government have had it under consideration recently, and I am inclined to think that it is one of the subjects which will receive attention during the visit of the Prime Minister to England. Without giving positive assurance, I hope and expect that before the next meeting of Parliament we may have a clear understanding in the direction the hon. gentleman suggests."

#### IMPORTING U.S. REPRINTS.

Mr. Robertson: "I am advised that no objection has been raised in England, because the Act assented to by Mr. Hall Caine and Mr. Daldy is in the Department of Justice, and all that we are waiting for now is that it be put in proper form and placed before Parliament. I would like to ask the Hon. Controller of Customs what will be the position of the book trade to-day in reference to importations. Foreign reprints are allowed to be imported without the payment of 12½ per cent. royalty. Of course, that is a violation of the Act of 1842. I think the position taken by the Government is the correct one; but the importers in this country are under the impression that when the Government collects the ad valorem duty the importation is legalized."

The Minister of Finance—"We do not collect the 12½ per cent. for the benefit of the author, as in former times; we simply collect it for the benefit of the Canadian Treasury; and if that impression exists in the mind of the Canadian importer, perhaps this discussion will remove it from his mind. We simply leave the copyright question where it is at present, until we can look more fully into it. In the meantime, if the importers subject themselves to penalties, they will be penalties under the Imperial Act, and, while it is open to others to impose the penalties, we do not make the Customs Department the instrument of im-

posing them. The matter still remains in the position in which we found it."

Sir Charles Tupper—"I think you go further than that. By collecting a duty on the importation of an article into the country, you legalize the importation."

The Minister of Finance—"I do not think we exactly legalize it. We preclude ourselves from prosecuting for violation of the Copyright Act, but I fancy it is open to others to prosecute."

Mr. Powell raised the question of exactly what paper-covered books would come in under the 20 per cent. rate. He pointed out that the Franklin Square library contained scientific and historical works as well as fiction. Mr. Robertson showed that paper-covered books, as a rule, meant novels, and that it was better they should all come under 20 per cent.

Mr. Martin said he considered that Mr. Robertson, the member for East Toronto, had done a great service in bringing this matter so prominently forward. "This country has been flooded with novels of a not very high character from the country to the south of us. We find that the American newspapers offer books of this class as bonuses to the subscribers, and the result is we are flooded with a cheap, worthless class of American newspapers and novels. I would like very much to see the duty on

those trashy novels increased at least to the old rate, more especially because the American newspapers are offering such books as gifts to promote subscription. I think if we were to go back to the old duty of 6 cents a pound we would be doing a very good thing."

#### THE CLAUSES AS AMENDED.

The item as amended and agreed to reads:

Novels or works of fiction or literature of a similar character, unbound or paper bound, or in sheets, including freight rates for railways and telegraph rates, bound in book or pamphlet form, but not to include Christmas annuals or publications commonly known as juvenile and toy books, 20 per cent. ad valorem. The second part of the item was amended thus: Books, printed, periodicals, and pamphlets or parts thereof, *namely*, not to include blank account books, copybooks or books to be written or drawn upon, 10 per cent. ad valorem. The words "or parts thereof" constitute the amendment.

#### A LITERARY RENDEZVOUS.

The family of Julian Hawthorne have left Jamaica where they had an orange ranch, and are living in New Rochelle, a suburb of New York. New Rochelle is a favorite living place for Americanized Englishmen. Mr. Cunliffe-Owen, the son of the late Sir Cunliffe-Owen, who writes for The New York Tribune over the pen name of "Ex-Attache," lives there, as does Mr. Maurice Kingsley, the son of the author of "Westward Ho." Mr. Kingsley is an occasional contributor to the magazines.

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