

They will continue, and England will most justly say to us—you cannot fairly expect us to imperil our European and American rights of copyright which we have gained after so many years, and which we are so enormously valuable. What, then, shall we Canadians gain. We can pass what laws we like as to our domestic copyright, but no laws we can pass can force outsiders to give them validity outside of our boundaries. We can forbid British or foreign authors from getting copyright here except on our own terms—nobody doubts that—but they can do the same thing.

If the Canadian publishers think they can, with advantage, reprint English books for the Canadian market, they must not be allowed to do what the Americans did so long—steal them. They must pay for the right to reprint. They offer now ten per cent. on the retail price. The English authors think it too little, and we must say we think they are right. We have the constitutional right to say further, just as the Americans do, that, as a necessary preliminary for obtaining a Canadian copyright, an English author must reprint here. There is no serious constitutional argument against this view. But is it likely that for many years, with a population of five millions, two millions of whom are French, the Canadian publishing trade for books written in English is going to be a serious matter? It is not worth an author's while to reprint valuable books specially for Canada. The market is too small. If there is really any danger that insisting on our right to republish for Canadian territory English books on our own terms is going to imperil our advantages under the Berne Convention and the Chase Act, a quietus cannot be too soon given to this agitation. What is wanted is the right to republish for Canada English books on fair terms to English authors as far as relates to paying them a percentage is concerned. If reprinting in Canada is to be made a condition precedent to obtaining copyright in Canada, our people should understand clearly the risk they run before they insist on it. The English people will not refuse to give way to our wishes if we insist on it. But if they do accede to our demands, we cannot blame them in the least if they look after themselves in the same way.

The reason why allowing us our request will endanger the Berne Convention and the Chase Act, is this:—The other members of the Convention and the United States will say to England: "When we came to this agreement with you we understood we were going to have copyright all through the British Empire. If Canada is allowed to pass this legislation, other Colonies may do so also. We object." What can England say? She must lose the enormous market secured to her by the Convention and the Act, and bring back the old unsatisfactory state of affairs, or say "We cannot interfere with Canada." Then the alternative will be: "Very well. Rule Canada out of the Convention. Let her make her copyright laws as she pleases, but let her also be no sharer in the benefits of the Convention or Act."

We must look at these questions in a fair spirit. The writing on the Canadian side has been done chiefly by some of the publishers who are interested in getting the right to reprint. The Canadian authors, of whom there are too few, and the Canadian public have not been informed of both sides of the case fairly. We have tried to present the issue exactly as it is. The Canadian people will have to judge what they want, and when they do so England will not refuse their decided request. But we ourselves must take the consequences of our own action, and we feel honestly bound to say that we think the agitation is being overdone. We think we have gained by the Convention and Act too much to take any chances of losing it, and that if we insist on our claims, as represented by the Dominion Act of 1889, we will imperil those advantages very seriously.

To enable our readers to understand the Canadian law we publish the statute of 1875 and the proposed amendment of 1889 in parallel columns, omitting useless verbiage and tautologies.

REVISED STATUTES CANADA c. 62.

AMENDMENT 1889.

(Passed 1875.)

Passed by Dominion but not in force.—Royal assent as yet withheld (52 Vict. c. 29)

1. Any person domiciled in Canada or in any part of the British possessions or any citizen of any country which has an international copyright with the United Kingdom who is an author shall have the sole and exclusive right and liberty of copyright for twenty-eight years.

1. Any person domiciled in Canada or in any part of the British possessions or any citizen of any country which has an international treaty with the United Kingdom, in which Canada is included, who is an author, shall have sole and exclusive right and liberty of copyright for twenty-eight years.

2. The condition for obtaining such copyright shall be that the work shall be printed and published or reprinted and republished in Canada whether for the first time or contemporaneously with or subsequently to publication elsewhere, but in no case shall copyright continue to exist after it has expired elsewhere.

2. The conditions for obtaining such copyright shall be that the work before publication or production elsewhere or simultaneously with production or publication elsewhere be registered at Ottawa, and further, that such work be printed and published or reprinted and republished or reproduced in Canada within one month after publication. In no case shall the copyright exist in Canada longer than the copyright of origin.

3. Every work of which the copyright has been granted and is subsisting in the United Kingdom and copyright of which is not secured in Canada, shall, when printed and published or reprinted and republished in Canada, be entitled to Copyright in Canada. Any book lawfully printed in the United Kingdom may be imported into Canada.

3. Clause 3, in opposite column, is repealed except the last clause which remains.

4. If any copyright work is reprinted here subsequently to its publication in the United Kingdom any person who has imported any reprints of such work may dispose of them.

4. Answers to 4 in opposite column—same provision.

5. Contracts existing at passage of Act may be completed.

6. If a person entitled to copyright fails to take advantage of the Act then any person domiciled in Canada may obtain a license to print the work, but such license is not exclusive. The licensee must give security to pay the author ten per cent of retail price of each copy.

Further Requisites under the original Act and not affected by amendment:—To obtain the benefit of the Act two copies must be deposited at Ottawa. Notice of the copyright must appear on the work.

* * *

The Late Professor Williamson.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON.

SELDOM, indeed, does it happen that an educational institution, especially in such a new country as Canada, can retain the services of one of its teachers for over half a century. By the death of Rev. Dr. Williamson, which took place at Kingston on Thursday night last, 26th Sep., at the ripe age of 89, is severed a tie which has remained unbroken since 1842, the year after Queen's University came into existence, when he left his native land to take a chair, which he has occupied ever since. The story of Dr. Williamson's life, since he came to Canada, is the history of Queen's. Every student who has ever entered the Arts classes in that University has been more or less intimately associated with the genial old man, whose pleasant smile and cheering words will be no more seen or heard.

Rev. James Williamson, M.A., LL.D., was born in Edinburgh in 1806. He was educated at the high school in his native city, and at Edinburgh University, from which he graduated in 1827. Choosing the ministry for his profession, he was licensed by the Church of Scotland in 1831, and settled at Kilsyth, a mining district, but subsequently became assistant at Drumelzier. In 1842, while engaged in parish work at the latter place, he was induced to remove to Canada, and take the Chair of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Queen's College, which had been founded the previous year. To this the teaching of logic was subsequently added, and when the medical faculty was established in 1854 he taught chemistry for some time. As new chairs were provided he fell back to his old work, and continued to give instruction in his first subjects till he was relieved of mathematics by the appointment of Prof. Dupuis in 1880, and of physics by the appointment of Prof. Marshall in 1882. He was then made Professor of Astronomy, a chair which he continued to hold till his death.

Dr. Williamson's scholarship covered a very wide range. It was said of him that he was capable of filling any chair in the University, and as a fact he did at one time or other teach almost every subject on the curriculum. He would have preferred Classics, but that chair being occupied when