

Hodges that the effect of the act of 1889 may be to "abolish copyright altogether, unless the person entitled thereto reprints or republishes in Canada." The act merely deals with the subject of the reprinting of copyrighted works, under license, and will not be found, on careful perusal, the undersigned believes, to affect the rights of the holders of copyright in any other particular. Besides this, section six preserves the rights of those who may have a copyright, when the act shall come into force, from being affected even to this extent.

On the points mentioned in the letters of Mr. Hodges, there can be no disagreement between your excellency's government and the society which that gentleman represents as to the recognition of the rights of the holders of copyright and as to the necessity for making the act effective.

The undersigned recommends that a copy of this report, if approved, be transmitted to her majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonies.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. S. D. THOMPSON,
Minister of Justice.

Lord Knutsford to Lord Stanley of Preston.

DOWNING STREET, 18th March, 1891.

The Governor General
, &c, &c. &c.

MY LORD,—With reference to your despatch no. 237 of the 20th December, 1890, I have to acquaint you that the whole subject of Canadian copyright has been under consideration, but that her majesty's government thought that it would, on the whole, be desirable to delay replying to that despatch until it was seen how the copyright question would be finally dealt with in the United States.

Your ministers will doubtless also wish to consider the probable effects in Canada of that legislation.

I have, &c., &c.

KNUTSFORD.