

sideration. A joint meeting of the Executive Committee and that of the Toronto District Association was held, and Mr. Irving was appointed as a deputation to proceed to Ottawa to endeavor to have the matter settled. The result of that visit will also be made known at this meeting. No District Associations have been organized since last meeting. There was but one application made to organize such a body, which was made at a time when I could not comply with the request, nor have I since been able to fix a date. The payment of office rent by the Association is hardly warranted by the amount received for members' fees. It would be well to consider whether or not the expense (\$60 per annum) should be continued.

Messrs. R. T. Lancefield and J. B. McLean were elected members on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Mr. John Ross Robertson was introduced as a representative of the Copyright Association, and addressed the meeting on the Copyright question. He explained briefly the objects aimed at by that body and asked the Association to co-operate with them in bringing pressure upon Parliament to pass a Dominion Copyright Act which would afford sufficient protection to authors and owners and be at the same time advantageous to the publishing trade and people of Canada. Mr. Robertson also answered a number of questions relating to the matter.

Mr. Rothwell, on behalf of the committee appointed to consider the proposed bill, reported favorably. He thought it was time that they, as Booksellers, should unite to have a Copyright Bill. The one reported, he thought, was complete. It might be well for a committee of the Association to confer with the Copyright Association on several matters in the bill. He suggested that blank memorial sheets be sent to every Bookseller throughout the country to get the signatures of all in the book, stationery, printing, and allied trades. He was heartily in accord with the proposal. Some parts might affect retailers a little, but they would have to give way a little to the publishers. They should each give way on certain points to the other.

Mr. Murch was afraid that this Copyright Bill meant that the day for cheap books in Canada was passed, and that under it the publisher would have a finger in the pie but that the retailers would not.

Mr. Sharpe did not agree with this view.

Mr. Bryce remarked that it would not have that effect. If the proposed Copyright Union took place between Great Britain and the States, Canadians would never be in as satisfactory a position to get one.

Mr. Hutchison wanted time to consider the bill. It had been drawn up by publishers and they might quite unwittingly insert something that might be unfavorable to the retail Bookseller.

Mr. Irving agreed with him. They would each have to give and take.

Mr. Hutchison replied that, as a Bookseller, he would like to take all he could. (Laughter.)

Mr. Rothwell moved, seconded by Mr. Hutchison, "The committee appointed to enquire into the Copyright Bill having reported favorably to the meeting on the proposed bill, we, the Ontario Booksellers' Association assembled, heartily approve of the draft bill, and we pledge ourselves, as Booksellers, to render all assistance possible in our power to aid the Copyright Association to bring the matter properly before the Dominion Government."

The motion was carried.

• Mr. Sharpe suggested the formation of a committee carefully selected and not identified with the Copyright Association, to meet that Association to discuss a few minor points not quite clear in the proposed bill.

Mr. Hutchison moved, seconded by Mr. Irving, and it was agreed to, "That the president of this Association name and appoint a committee of Booksellers of this city to confer with the committee of the Copyright Association, and to co-operate with them in setting the matter before the trade generally."

The President appointed the following gentlemen: Messrs. H. Hutchison, S. R. Hart, and H. L. Thompson.

Mr. Irving gave an account of his efforts to have the duty removed from foreign periodicals. He had several conferences with the Minister of Customs and the Commissioner. The Commissioner agreed that if the plates were bound in they would come in free. He had that done, but that was not sufficient, for he was called upon to pay duty because they were not paged. They made him pay duty one day and the next they returned it to him and then made him pay it back the third. The department now held the money. However, the Minister had promised him that at the next session of Parliament he would have the matter fixed in a way that would be satisfactory to the trade. They would now have to use their influence on the Postmaster-General to reduce the postal rates on periodicals and books.

Mr. Wilson said something should be done regarding the reduction of postage. He suggested that petitions be sent round to Booksellers to have signed for presentation to the Postmaster-General.

Mr. Rothwell thought the old committee should be appointed to work upon the new Postmaster-General. He believed that the old rate of three per cent. on the sale of stamps could be returned.

It was decided on motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Middleton, that the Executive Committee take immediate steps to acquaint the Postmaster-General of the injustice the Canadian book and news trade are suffering through the facility afforded by the United States postal law for supplying our customers with English and American periodicals and paper-covered books. That petitions be prepared and sent to all the trade throughout the country for signature, asking for a uniform rate of one cent per lb. on this class of matter.

Mr. Dyas reported that the office of the Association was not patronized to the extent that it should be, and he suggested that it be done away with. It would save a rental of \$60 per year. This was agreed to on motion of Mr. Tait, seconded by Mr. G. Warwick.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. Mr. Sharpe, who was nominated for the presidency, said he did not care to accept it as there were other men who, he thought, could fill the position better than he. The Association, however, would not hear of it, and he was unanimously re-elected amid much applause. The other offices were filled as follows:—Vice-presidents, B. A. Rothwell, W. Middleton; secretary-treasurer, J. J. Dyas; executive committee, Messrs. Watson, Tait, Wilson, Cloke, and Bain.

Several members present reported upon the work done by their local Associations.

Mr. Wilson spoke for Middlesex. There had been a little trouble in Strathroy but that had been satisfactorily settled. In London an outside store had cut