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time for which copyright may be granted ; but with that, as it is a matter of detail only, and not of principle, so far as Canadian rights are concerned, we need now say nothing.

We now come to what may be termed the Colonial clauses of the Act. Here an attempt is made to conciliate Colonial interests. The Act provides in substance—

"Where a local law in any British possession provides for registration (as in Canada), such registration shall secure copyright under this (Imperial) law. Such Colonial registers shall be returned to the Home Registrar, and he shall also supply to the Colonial Government returns of copyrights registered in Canada or other British possessions."

That is to say—as we understand it—that a Canadian author taking out a copyright under the Canadian law, thereby, *ipso facto*, secures copyright throughout the British dominions. So far so good. But then we come to the following proviso :—

"Where a book is first published in a British possession, and not published in the United Kingdom, in number and manner suitable for general circulation therein, after one month from first publication any person may apply to Her Majesty in Council for a judicial license to publish the same which may be granted upon such conditions as seem just; and if any book is not so published within six months after first publication, any person may apply to Her Majesty in Council to be allowed to import foreign reprints of the book."

That is to say, if a Canadian author does not incline to publish an edition of his work precisely suitable for the British market, then, some Imperial official being judge of the *stability* of the original work for the said British market or otherwise, a license to publish on conditions, or to import foreign reprints, will be granted to any applicant. Then comes a clause which we assume to be intended as compensatory or giving reciprocal privileges for the foregoing one. It reads in effect as follows :—

"Where any British possession has made effectual and reasonable provision for ends similar to those of this Act, including the collection of percentage on books *reprinted* or *imported* under license, Her Majesty may direct, as regards that possession, in the case of a book first published out of that possession, and entitled to copyright therein, that within a reasonable time and under similar conditions as above, any person may apply to a Court to be designated in the possession for a similar license to publish, the orders of such Court being subject to

"Her Majesty in Council, (or the Governor in Council). If the book is not published in that possession within six months from first publication, any person may apply to such Court for a license to import."

Now, we first notice here that Canada has no power to legislate for the collection of a percentage on works republished in Canada. Her powers go no further, unless this Act confers them by implication, than to collect a percentage on foreign reprints *imported*. But that is probably a mere oversight. What we have, however, to complain of in this apparently liberal feature in the Act is, that what may be done in Canada, by Canadian publishers and under the sanction of Canadian Courts, is to be decided by a British Act of Parliament in the passing of which Canadians have no voice, instead of Canada being granted those rights to which, as a self-governing community, she is entitled, and possesses in connection with every other feature of domestic legislation. Another clause reads, in substance, as follows :—

"Where it appears to Her Majesty in Council that, having regard to the position, size, or the circumstances of any British possession, foreign reprints ought to be admitted at once, Her Majesty in Council may direct, under conditions similar to above, that any person may import copies of foreign reprints of any book."

We do not suppose that this clause would ever be put in force as regards Canada. It is rather, probably, intended to meet the case of certain other smaller colonies; but that such a clause should, by any possibility, be made to affect a colony governed as Canada is, is another reason why Canada should claim to be emancipated from the thralldom of Imperial copyright legislation. Whether we will admit foreign reprints at all, or whether we will exclude them, is a purely domestic question Canada should be left to decide for herself. While thus referring to this measure as a bad precedent, and highly objectionable in several respects, we have no doubt it has been prepared with exceedingly good intentions, and a desire to act equitably towards the people of Britain's colonial possessions. But, as regards Canada, the attempt to legislate at all is radically wrong, except it be to give her what can only be withheld by injustice—namely, control of her own copyright laws. It is true that Canadian interests were supposed to be represented on the late Royal Commission, but we never heard that either the authors or publishers of the Dominion, or any one representing them, were asked to give evidence before the Commissioners.