

parties suffering. Those rights were like any other kind of property, entitled to respect and protection. He thought, therefore, there was only one course open to the Imperial Government, namely, to give notice to authors that after a certain time the law should be amended, and their claims fairly considered. The Imperial Parliament could not legislate on this subject unless they settled the question of property, and defined authors' rights. He believed we could never obtain legislation on this subject until this important preliminary was disposed of. The only way was for the Government to put itself in communication with the authors, and obtain their consent. He believed that if the Colonial Minister wished to give us what the hon. mover (Mr. Ryan) desired, the matter could, in such a way, be easily arranged, and with benefit to authors themselves. We should thus enjoy more fully the advantages of English literature, which was better and purer than that of some other countries. It would be very useful to Canada to have this proposed copyright system, which would encourage our printing trade, and employ a larger number of workers. He was happy to support this address, which was a step in the right direction. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. KEESOR said this was a question of great importance, and the member for Victoria (Hon. Mr. Ryan) deserved the thanks not only of the Senate, but the whole country, for his efforts in regard to it. Not only was it important that a large firm was leaving Montreal for the States, and that many Canadians were going thither from other cities also, but that manufacturing industries of this kind should be protected, to attract strangers, as well as retain our own people. The policy of the British publishers seemed to be a dog-in-the-manger one. They did not prevent, to the extent of a single copy, the reprint of their works, which was effected in the United States; the circulated throughout Canada, to as great an extent as though our own people reprinted them. What was asked was to place us in this country on the same footing as the people of the United States, and that after the lapse of a certain length of time, if nothing could be accomplished towards a mutual agreement, that we exercise the power now desired, and let the Imperial Government act afterwards. It was now five years since the hon. gentleman first brought the subject before the Senate, and on every occasion since, as well as then, he had been sustained. He (Hon. Mr. Reesor)

thought, therefore, it was high time some report appeared, particularly as on every occasion, the proposals had received the sanction of the Government. Yet, since the passing of the bill, we had not received a word of correspondence on the subject. The Government did seem to have been somewhat remiss in the matter. The bill, being of much importance, he hoped something would at once be done to bring it into effect.

Hon. Mr. CARROLL did not think there was any use in saying much on the subject, since the Postmaster General had told the House he was anxious the bill should come into effect. He must express his admiration, however, of the pluck and pertinacity with which the hon. mover had stuck to his theme. It was true he had a grievance that affected the whole Dominion, and, equally, true, he had never relaxed his hold on the Government, and never failed to spur them on to action in this matter. No doubt the English publishers were log-rolling, and trying to prevent us from obtaining this privilege. They could ill-treat authors as well as American publishers. He remembered Bret Harte saying while here, that it was a most difficult thing to get on in England. He always thought American publishers stole literary matter, but found Englishmen stole too, and reprinted foreign works in their country. With regard to this address, he did not think the Government had pressed this matter with due earnestness and zeal. He would not say they were guilty of supineness or not, till the correspondence was published, but he thought more might have been done to attain the end in view. (Hear, hear.)

Motion for the address carried.

#### PRINTING.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON submitted the fifth report of the Joint Committee on Printing, and explained its character. He stated the case of Mr. Taylor had been duly considered, and only such an increase of the rates for printing allowed him as was thought reasonable. It would have been highly injudicious to have broken with him in the middle of a session, as the country would have had to pay far more for the execution of the remaining work. His original tenders were very low, but when the price of labor and material rose one-third, it became impossible for him to go on with his contract. He would move the report be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—What has been the effect of the transfer of the contract from