

Kingdom of copies of any work lawfully printed there." British copyright works not copyrighted in Canada are admitted by the terms of the Canadian law to be imported, and large numbers of such reprints are in consequence imported from the United States. The reciprocal clauses of the Canadian Act are in terms the provisions on which the Berne Convention is based. The importation of American reprints of English copyrighted works was expressly sanctioned by Imperial legislation, and such importations, in virtue of the provisions of the Copyright Act and the Customs Act, were subjected to a duty of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to be collected for the benefit of British authors ; such collection being made under the provisions of Chapter 10 of the Consolidated Orders-in-Council of Canada. The collection of this duty for authors, however, came to a close within the present year. Literary, scientific and artistic works or compositions, including music, are the subject of copyright. The Canadian Copyright law now being administered was amended by the Copyright Act of 1889, which, however, by the terms of Section 7, does not come into effect until proclaimed by the Governor General-in-Council, and it was explained by the Minister of Justice in the House of Commons, in charge of the Bill, that this proclamation would be subject to agreement with the Imperial authorities. Such agreement has not yet been obtained, objection being taken by English authorities and copyright holders to certain of its provisions. This Act was passed for the protection of Canadian printing interests and it contains a provision that if a British author does not register in Canada his work within one month after publication in the country of origin, that then the Minister of Agriculture may grant a license to any printer in Canada to reproduce the same on the condition of the payment of 10 per cent on the retail price of each copy of the work so reproduced, this royalty to be collected in the form of an excise duty by the Inland Revenue Department. Without entering into the controversy which has arisen on this question, and which has been long and vexed, it may be briefly stated that the Canadian printing interests contend that unless such an advantage is given them they will continue to be excluded from their own market, which has been for many years swamped with United States reprints and which have been allowed to come in in virtue of Imperial legislation on payment of the royalty duty of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On the other hand the British copyright owner contends that his copyright is an absolute possession, an absolute property right, of which he cannot and ought not to be deprived in any part of the British possessions without his consent. In consequence of the passing of the Canadian Act of 1889 notice was given by Order-in-Council to the British Government to denounce the Berne Convention in so far as the Dominion of Canada was concerned, such Act practically limiting the reciprocity clauses to a period of one month after first publication in the United Kingdom or the country of origin having an "International Copyright Treaty with the United Kingdom."