

Copyrights.—The first Act of the Province of Canada relating to copyright was passed in 1841 (4-5 Vict., c. 61), allowing copyright to any resident of the Province on depositing with the Provincial Registrar a copy of the work and printing in the work a notice of the entry. In 1842 an Imperial Act (5-6 Vict., c. 45) gave to a work first published in the United Kingdom protection throughout the Empire. As at that time the United States had no agreement with the United Kingdom as to copyrights, United States publishers reprinted in cheap editions books copyrighted in the United Kingdom and many such books naturally found their way into Canada. By the Foreign Reprints Act of 1847 (10-11 Vict., c. 95), the Imperial Government made it possible for Canadians to secure these cheap editions on making provisions safeguarding the rights of the British authors. This was done by Canada in 1850 by an "Act to impose a Duty on Foreign Reprints of British Copyright Works" (13-14 Vict., c. 6) and the duty so imposed was continued by the first Dominion Act of 1868 (31 Vict., chaps. 54 and 56), the latter Act authorizing the Governor-in-Council to impose a duty not exceeding 20 p.c. *ad valorem* on such reprints and to distribute the proceeds among the owners of the copyrights.

By the B.N.A. Act exclusive legislative authority in matters of copyright was assigned to the Dominion Parliament. In 1875 an Act was passed (38 Vict., c. 88) allowing a copyright for 28 years to persons domiciled in Canada or in any British Possession, or who, being citizens of any country having an international copyright agreement with the United Kingdom, had registered their claim and complied with the usual conditions.

In 1886 an International Copyright Act (49-50 Vict., c. 33) was passed by the Imperial Parliament, giving to Queen Victoria the right to accede to the Berne Convention. As Canada thus became a member of the Berne Convention with the privilege of withdrawal, books published in Canada by Canadians secured the same privileges as books published first in the United Kingdom, an author of any country subscribing to the Convention obtaining in any other country in the union the same rights as an author of that country. An Imperial Act of 1911 set forth general copyright regulations for the Empire, but did not extend to any self-governing Dominion unless declared by the Dominion Parliament to be in force therein. No such declaration has been made by the Parliament of Canada.

At the present time copyright protection in Canada and throughout the British Empire in a literary or dramatic work may subsist by virtue of the British Copyright Statutes of 1842 and 1886, on condition that the work is first published within the Empire. The term of this copyright is the life of the author and 7 years after his death or 42 years from the date of first publication, whichever period is the longer.

A copyright restricted to Canada may subsist under the Canadian Copyright Act (R.S.C., 1906, c. 70). The work must be printed or produced and published in Canada and registered before publication. The term of copyright is 28 years, with a renewal period of 14 years in favour of the author if living or of his widow and children if he is dead.