



Toronto, March 12th, 1920.

Sir Geo. A. Foster,
Minister of Trade & Commerce,
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:-

I am informed that the basis of the new Copyright Act for 1920, will soon be printed and trust it will meet the approval of all concerned.

For a number of years, I have been a song writer, and in 1915, I composed a patriotic song entitled - "Good Luck To The Boys of the Allies" which, as we term in song-land, was a tremendous hit. This song became extremely popular amongst both the Soldiers and Citizens throughout the Dominion of Canada and also England, was very soon reproduced upon phonograph records and piano player rolls in Canada and the United States without my knowledge or consent.

I wrote several other successful songs which, like my famous "Good Luck To The Boys of the Allies", were also reproduced in the same manner.

Upon looking into the matter, I found, owing to the Copyright Law here in Canada I was unable to share in the profits of these records, and being a Britisher, writing and composing in Canada, was also unable to share in the profits of mechanical records reproduced of my compositions in the U.S.

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Sir, you no doubt know the U.S. Copyright says: "we will do for other countries what they will do for us," and as they share no profits from mechanical records of their compositions reproduced in Canada, naturally give us no protection in the U.S. and for the above reason they do not care to accept and publish our musical compositions. Consequently, if the new Copyright Act here is not brought up to date regarding this, it will be practically impossible to gain a livelihood from writing and composing, in Canada.

Sir, in conclusion, I might say to my way of thinking a country is not complete without Authors and Composers. I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Thomas Manley

1045 College St.,
Toronto, Canada.

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