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THIS is a heavy year of expense for the newspapers, especially the dailies. In addition to the increased cost of production, such as higher paper and higher wages, there has been the cost of war news, which, with all the principal papers, has consumed quite a lot of money. It is probable that in some cases \$10,000 or \$15,000 would not cover the special outlay on war account. On top of this comes the general elections, which for dailies means a great deal of extra cost in the way of reporting and telegraphing. Of course, more circulation is got, but that is about the only return which the dailies receive for the outlay.

There will be much sympathy felt on account of the financial difficulties of Mr. Hewitt Bostock, M. P., who originally started The Province when it was a weekly journal, and continues to be a shareholder in the present excellent daily which grew out of the weekly. Personally, Mr. Bostock is known as a manly, honorable Englishman, whose large means were understood to be used for good purposes, both in political and journalistic life. There is every hope that the embarrassment is only a temporary one, and that he will be soon restored to his former position of affluence. Meantime, of course, he retires from Parliament, and his resolution to do so is a loss to that body. Fortunately, The Vancouver Province will not be in the least affected by Mr. Bostock's financial difficulties.

There can be little doubt that the election campaign, which is now in full swing, will be brought to a head by a dissolution of Parliament in a very short time. The political newspapers, of course, will continue to say pretty hard things about their adversaries, but, in the main, people on both sides will continue as before to mix socially and to have warm friendships with their opponents. It is generally

supposed that the politicians like to have the newspapers angry with one another, so that they can pose as "good fellows," who would be even better if it were not for "those bitter newspapers, you know." It would, indeed, be a pity to disappoint them. The Toronto Globe gives fair reports of both Grit and Tory meetings, and thereby sets a good example, which it will pay other papers to follow.

As time goes on there is a distinct improvement in the Canadian press in the matter of acknowledging items from contemporaries. Several newspapers make a point of acknowledging the special cablegrams sent to The Toronto Evening Telegram, and so, some time it has been the usual custom for the contemporaries of The Montreal Star to acknowledge its special cables. As a matter of courtesy, this is the proper course, and, as a matter of business also, it is hard to see who loses by the acknowledgement.

If the war has cost the dailies a lot of money, it has undoubtedly increased their subscription lists considerably. A canvasser who has lately been through the country districts of Ontario says that he never knew a time when so many people in the rural districts were taking a daily paper. Their doing so often leads them to decline to subscribe to other publications, the reason given being that they cannot afford to take any more journals, as they felt obliged to subscribe for a daily while the war was going on. The chances are that families which have begun to take a daily in the country will keep it up.

Most of the newspapermen who were members of, or candidate for, the House of Commons at the last election will be again in the field. Mr. W. F. Maclean, of The Toronto World, is again the Conservative candidate in East York. Mr. Richardson, of The Winnipeg Tribune, is also running in Lisgar. Mr. John Ross Robertson, of The Toronto Telegram, wishes to retire from the representation of East Toronto, but if the Conservatives and Independents of that division are wise they will insist on his running again. They could not have a better man in the House of Commons.

At one or two points in his tour Mr. Hugh John Macdonald made a rather curious reference to The Winnipeg Telegram and its articles on the French Canadians. The first report of what he said made it appear as if he had arbitrarily gone to the editor and forced him to stop writing anti-French articles for political reasons. A later report makes his position clearer, and a much more reasonable one. It appears that Mr. Macdonald is one of a number of Conservatives who are financially responsible for The Telegram, and, as one of those legally interested in it as a publication, he undertook to prescribe what its political course should be. This is a different thing from a politician, however eminent, walking into the editor's office and threatening to turn him out if he did not write according to order.