

promptly send back to the office any paper that may have been addressed to him without orders. It is also natural for a man unacquainted with the law to get disgusted after returning two or three copies and say, 'well, if they want to send it, they may, but I'll be blanked if I'll pay for it.' These unfair methods on the part of some publishers injure every man in the business, and should be stopped. A circulation gained in such a way is almost worthless, because people seldom read what they do not want."

PRINTING HALF-TONES WELL.

Those who are getting out special numbers will be interested in a letter of W. O. Greene, of The Monroe County (N.Y.) Mail, in a recent issue of *Newspaperdom* on the quality of half-tones, for printing which the paper has a name: "As one of our correspondents requests that we give explicit directions as to how we handle the press work, would say, first, it is absolutely necessary to have good rollers. These should be 'set' so as not to ride the form too heavily, as that will tend to fill up the cuts. The rollers and press should be washed clean and fresh ink distributed. A fairly hard, firm packing should be used on the cylinder. With these precautions, and with cuts made on a coarse screen and deeply etched, it does not make much difference as to quality of paper and ink—the cuts will 'print.' After that result has been accomplished, a little better quality of paper and ink will add greatly to the artistic effect.

"The Mail uses a two-cent paper and six-cent ink, and gets fairly good results from half-tones; but frequently, to satisfy our pride, we use a ten-cent ink, especially if we are working cuts made with a fine screen.

"It has been our experience that cuts made with a coarse screen, say, 100 lines to the inch, work no better, unless deeply etched, than cuts made with a fine screen. Several times we have used cuts made for job work, from fine screens, and for which a good price had been paid, and found that they worked no better than the coarse-screen cuts made for newspaper work, and sold at a low price.

"To close, we would say, do not set a boy apprentice at printing half-tones, and expect the best grade of work. Put your best pressman at it, and let him keep at it until he gets some experience along that line; and if he has any ability as a printer, he will soon be able to do the work in a satisfactory manner."

JUDGE WURTELE ON THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

THE celebrated libel case brought by Hon. J. I. Tarte, Minister of Public Works, against W. A. Grenier, editor of *La Libre Parole*, was concluded on Thursday, Oct. 14, when Judge Wurtele passed sentence on Grenier, who had been found guilty by the jury. The sentence was six months in jail, without hard labor, and at the end of that time Grenier is to be bound over to keep the peace in a bond of \$500 and two sureties of \$250 each. In case these are not forthcoming the prisoner will have to serve another year in jail.

An interesting part of the judge's address was that referring to the liberty of the press. He said:

"In the course of your defence you have invoked the privilege of the liberty of the press. I hope that in a free country like ours this liberty of the press will always exist. This liberty constitutes one of the safeguards of public liberty. The liberty of the press contributes to the main-

tenance of public liberty. But this liberty of the press must not degenerate into licence. Public journals must remember that they have a right to criticise public men only in so far as regards their public acts, and that they must not attack the men personally. Untrammelled discussion of public acts is permitted, but beyond that the liberty of the press is only licence.

"With a newspaper or magazine more harm can be done than can be done by criminals brought before the courts of justice. Libel is worse than theft. The thief steals the purse; the libeller steals the man's good name, attacks his honor, tarnishes his reputation, destroys the happiness of his home, clouds the lives of his children."

THE BRITISH JOURNALISTS AND CANADA.

AT the meeting of the British Institute of Journalists in Cardiff, Wales, last month, J. B. MacLean, president of the Canadian Press Association, and J. S. Willison, editor of *The Toronto Globe*, were cordially greeted by the members, especially by the president of the institute, J. M. Maclean, M.P. At the closing meeting the president said that Mr. J. B. MacLean had suggested to him that the institute might follow the example of the British Association and hold a future meeting in Canada. The banquet, which concluded the proceedings, was remarkable for a toast to the members of the press from the colonies and India. As Mr. Willison had left for London, the response fell to the president of the Canadian Association. In replying, as reported in the journal of the institute, Mr. MacLean said: "A suggestion had been made that some of the future meetings of the institute might be held in Canada, and he believed that from the enthusiastic reception of the idea it might be carried out. (Hear, hear.) He regretted that they had not been able to offer the invitation for next year, but perhaps the delay would be advantageous by giving them more time to consider what should be done to entertain them. (Applause.) He suggested that their council should send the president of the institute to the meeting of the Canadian Association in February next." (Applause.)

PRINTER AND PUBLISHER has not had any communication with the president in connection with this matter, and does not, therefore, know what chance there is of a visit from the British newspaper men. But, as the journal of the institute only prints Mr. MacLean's speech at the banquet and none of the others, it would look as if the officers wished to circulate the idea of a trip to Canada to see how members would take it.

BIDDING ON COUNTY PRINTING.

A silly and demoralizing practice is that of bidding for the county printing. The county publishers themselves are often responsible for this practice. In order to keep the other fellow from getting the work, they offer to do it for less than the legal rate. If rates can be thus cut once, the officers argue, they can be cut again, and each time thereafter bids are asked. If bids are asked on doing certain printing, why should they not be asked for holding office? Let the law be amended to permit the Governor to advertise each year for persons to fill the various offices of the state. Let the job of office-holding to the lowest bidder. Such a plan would be as sensible as the common custom of asking bids on publishing county work. The proper thing for newspaper publishers to do is to decline all temptations to cut the rate.—Walter Williams.