

I thought I did, but the fellows who controlled the city dailies really edited my paper. The positions they took on all public questions found a reflex in my paper. They did my thinking in that way. I had the readers in the county, but they really controlled them by controlling my mind—or lack of mind. More people read the country press to-day than read the metropolitan press, but because the country bumpkin never reads books, never investigates for himself, has no convictions that he is afraid will hurt the party, he is merely a tool in the hands of the cunning few who control the city press. The country editor has the power and in the local field does the work that makes the President, senators, congressmen, legislators, and county officers, and then is afraid of these creatures he has made. He works harder than most anybody for all he ever gets out of the public crib, while those he pushes into power gobble thousands, and even millions. He is afraid that if he takes a position not in harmony with these fleecers, they will take away a little work from him that he earns in the public service. The country editor seldom reads books. All his ideas come from the papers he reads, and, as every one of these, like himself, has an axe to grind, they are continually deceiving themselves. Here and there you will find one who is more of a power than the others. They are the men who do not crouch to the official creatures they have made. The unread fellow does not know that the other gets his power from book study, but recognizes the superior influence. The difference between men is the difference mostly in what the mind reads. The country editor will humble himself before the congressman or other "superior," hoping to get a little office. Were he wise, he would make the officer humble himself, for the editor really has in his hands the political power. Any editor with ordinary natural ability, by reading books on political economy, both sides, can make himself felt all over his State, even with a small country paper.

As a general rule, a matter of some local importance is the best news in the paper. Lately, the Elevator Commission sat in Regina, and The West gave a column and a half to the evidence. It was worth every line of that, and perhaps more.

The Barrie Advance contained two sticks of an interesting paragraph about the new company formed to manufacture wicker-work. As the industry is in actual operation, and samples of the work done are on exhibition, it is probable that a write-up of the processes of manufacture, where the material comes from, etc., would interest every reader in the community.

The following is an extract from the report of the commission appointed by the Canadian Publishers' Congress to find out how the circulation of the average country weekly newspaper could be materially increased:

The commission met in Toronto at 11 a.m., November 17, Jas. A. R.— in the chair.

Thomas Ironhead, hardware merchant, Barrie, Ont., sworn:

Question.—Does the average editor of a country weekly keep posted on the price of hardware? Answer.—He may, but if he does he rarely tells his readers.

Q.—Are many changes of price made? A.—There are some every week.

Q.—Are they of sufficient importance to be of interest to the general reader? A.—Many of them are decidedly so.

Q.—Have any changes been made recently? A.—Within the past week brooms, matches, washboards, butter-tubs, pails, etc., have advanced 15 to 20 per cent.; linseed oil has risen 2c. and turpentine 3c., shot is 20 per cent. dearer, and minor changes have been made. In addition to this the Winter freight rates came in force last Tuesday. This is likely to affect the price of heavy materials, as the special rates for these goods have been abolished.

Q.—Will these changes affect your customers? A.—Most assuredly. I have heard the editors love their work so well they do it for love and glory, but we hardware dealers are in business for money. We will charge our customers the advances we have to pay. This will affect some of them considerably. (Here a commissioner interposed the remark that he wished he had secured the shot he intended to use on a prospective hunting excursion before prices went up.)

Q.—How do hardware prices compare thereof with a year ago? A.—Generally speaking, from 25 to 75 per cent. higher.

Q.—Can you give instances of such advances? A.—Yes, sir. Cut nails have advanced 85c. per keg. Barbed wire is \$1.60 to \$1.70 per keg dearer. Horseshoes have risen 80c. per keg.

Q.—That will do. What has caused these advances? A.—The increase in the value of metals, which is primarily due to the enlarged consumption of pig iron, pig tin, copper, etc. Pig iron was quoted at \$14 per ton in Toronto a year ago. This year it is quoted at \$24. Ingot copper was worth 13 to 13½c. last year at this time. Now it is firm at 20 to 21c. Pig tin was 20½ to 21c. a year ago. Now it is quoted at 36c.

Q.—Would the readers of country weeklies be benefited by hearing such news? A.—Yes; if they were posted they would not lose so much time wondering why they have to pay the high prices ruling this year, and they would not worry the hardware advertiser in these papers about his enormous (?) profits.

Q.—Would the paper benefit by publishing such news? A.—It should. It would be a good turn to both advertiser and reader.

Q.—How can such information be secured? A.—Any hardware dealer would gladly give such information.

The witness was dismissed, and Frederick Cancorn, grocer, was sworn. But, before the first query was put to him, a worthy commissioner complained of hunger, and, on inquiry, it was found that it was 12.30 p.m., so the commission rose for lunch.

The rise in the price of paper stock will have more effect on cheap papers, which are composed largely of wood, than on high-grade papers. It is not likely that such papers as the Century Linen and Japan Linen Bond will be advanced.