TO THE PUBLIC.

The proprietors of *The Weekly Mail* beg to announce that on and after the first of January the annual subscription price will be one dollar and a half.

When the publication of *The Weekly Mail* was commenced, the price was fixed at one dollar, with a view of introducing he paper to as wide a circle of readers, and in a limited period of time, as possible. The objects sought were attained, for the incredible success of *The Weekly Mail*, followed with great rapidity, until now the number of its readers is counted at fifty thousand. At the same time the proprietors assumed the burden of gratuitously supplying the subscribers to the *Weekly Telegraph*, which was about ceasing to exist, with *The Mail* which should be at once a fit substitute for and an improvement upon the paper to which they had paid their subscription. The obligation thus assumed has been fully discharged, and every subscriber to the *Weekly Telegraph* has received *The Weekly Mail* up to the close of his subscription to the former.

A very large, handsome, and carefully prepared journal, such as *The Weekly Mail* is, could not be produced without incurring a heavy expenditure both in money and labor; in point of fact, the material used absorbs nearly the whole of the subscription price. The proprietors were prepared, however, to publish *The Weekly Mail* without pecuniary profit until their engagement with the subscribers to the *Telegraph* had been fully and faithfully performed. They feel that this time has now elapsed, and that the time has come when they should seek to place the paper upon a paying basis. The annual subscription will therefore be raised as above stated, one of the first consequences of which will be a marked improvement in the paper, which even at present probably has been proved to be the most popular weekly circulated in this Dominion.

It is hoped and believed that the friends and patrons of the paper will recognize the propriety of the above course, and will redouble their exertions to extend the circulation and strengthen the influence of *The Weekly Mail*.

TO AGENTS.

The terms to Agents and Clubs will be raised pro rata in conformity with the change in price as above announced.

The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

NOTICE.

Subscribers are reminded that the coloured address-label of each paper sent to them, shows a figure which indicates that return number of the paper to which their subscription has been paid, serving, in fact, as a date. The current weekly number of the paper is always that next after that on the address-label, and the volume to which the number printed on the title page.

We are informed that a person representing himself as a travelling agent of the journal is collecting subscriptions for the *Weekly Mail*, throughout the townships of West Gwillimbury and Tecumseth. We have no travelling agent. Numerous frauds are being attempted, both in organizing local clubs, and otherwise aiming to furthering the circulation of the *Weekly Mail*. We say, of course, absolutely well-known in the locality where they are canvassing or accredited by this office.

THE WEEKLY MAIL.

The attention of our readers is directed to an advertisement on another page, from which will be seen the inducements held out to persons buying time or indulgence to form Clubs for the circulation of *The Weekly Mail*; a paper specially suited for readers at a distance from Toronto, whether residing in the country parts of Canada, in Great Britain, and United States, or other foreign countries. For cheapness, in comparison with the wealth of information to be gleaned from it, *The Weekly Mail* is in advance of its competitors for popular favour, while the unparalleled success which has followed it since its first publication, is a gratifying evidence of the usefulness of its columns to the tastes of the reading public. No doubt, much of the extraordinary rapidity with which *The Weekly Mail* obtained its immense circulation was that numbers of the Great Liberal-Conservative Party, having at least the furtherance of the cause of Union and Progress at once bespoke it a favourable reception in the country constituencies. Members of Parliament as well as intending candidates for Parliamentary honours, have not been slow to see that a riding was best represented, or stood in the interest of their Party, by the circulation of *The Weekly Mail* among the intelligent voters. Consequently, as a cheap and effective co-operator in the political education of the masses, unusual efforts have been made by influential Liberal-Conservative Members of Parliament to have the paper introduced into the hands of the electors. The how and why of this is what we would consider, with without the hope that Mr. Cartwright would be even now elaborating the many process of thought, we trust to the advantage of the country and himself in the future. Mr. Blake on first mistake, we take it, was his entering the Ontario House. He resigned the position on a question of principle, but as a lawyer. Recognizing the power of Ontario in the Confederation, he entered at once on the task of defeating the Sandfield Macdonald Government, not on the broad questions of the merits and demerits of their policy, but by the same tricks that a clever but unscrupulous lawyer would look to win a case at the Assizes, namely, raising the hollow mockery of a mere cry about the murdered Scott, he succeeded in materially weakening the Government in the election of 1871; and then on the opening of the session with eight seats secured, he succeeded to put his nice prize theory into practice. The result we all know; we need not again rehearse the old tale. The Government was defeated; but their railroad policy—not in fact because that policy was condemned on its merits, but in most truth, through a desire to get rid of Blake in the House were bitterly disappointed with the jealous care with which the public chest was guarded, and it was more than whipped through the House that if Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie succeeded in defeating the Government the railroad man should have far better terms. And, as a matter of fact, better terms have been made with a vengance under the new regime. The Orders in Council granting aid to railways were to be submitted to the Legislature for its approval, the Ministry by this means evading their proper responsibility. The Orders in Council were indeed submitted to the House, but only just at the close of the session, and rushed through in forty-eight hours before the representatives of the people had even time to read through the papers; thus was the well-known million and a half disposed of. But this was not enough. Then followed a grant of $400,000 more; then another two millions, cunningly anticipating and disposing of our revenues for the next twenty years, so that these pure gentlemen might, in a measure, allay the grasping greed of the Railway King. Then, with the Grit majority well assured, under a Coalition Government of which a Blake was nominally a member, Mr. Blake, the Dual Representation Bill was carried, Mr. Blake demonstrating with more zeal than he evinced for the cause of fat things for the Grit Party began. Scorr got his Normal School at Ottawa; Row got the Chairmanship of Agricultural Farm removed to Guelph; fresh offices were created; salaries were doubled; the great timber sale job was consummated; the country was robbed of $645,000 as a bonus to a road twenty-eight miles long, Mr. Blake, for his friends, preparing the case to be submitted to the Court on behalf of the country, and then Mr. Blake arguing it before the Court on behalf of the road. For all these acts Mr. Blake is directly responsible, and there is little cause to wonder that the opposition of Bruce received him not as of-yore, but with frowns, suspicion, and distrust. That Mr. Blake is responsible for the ruin of the Ontario Legislature has been very damaging to his reputation as a statesman for will be inclined to deny. But the men are reckoned by thousands in Canada who, treasuring his actions in connection with Ontario legislation as the rich errors of a young politician over greedy of power, were prepared to condone all this had he shown an abandonment of his tricky style of policy and displayed greater and broader views. But the same wire-all hazards policy seems to have pervaded his mind in a larger and more prominent sphere of action. The Pacific scandal was a question connected with the Scorr murder case up, was the first act that brought chaos to the chaos of his friends, when he crawled out of the House so as to avoid being forced to take any action in the matter. He had declared, ever and strongly against Coalitions, yet formed one with Sir John Macdonald, and what is far worse, as far as political morality is concerned, with several men who forty-eight hours before were the supporters of Sir John Macdonald. He had inveighed with bitter scorn against the necessity for a Coalition, yet formed a Government consisting of fifteen. He denounced in language of more than ordinary power the evils of placemen, yet filled himself at the first opportunity the situation he had condemned.

We mention these things plainly, but without any bitterness towards Mr. Blake. With others, we regard his career as a mistake, but deplore their prostitution to ignoble ends. He is still a young man, and may yet repair his mistake will; and we are the more moved to express more than now. For while her destinies are under the guidance of the bold, unscrupulous, unscrupulous men who now control the Government, a growing fear is rising in the minds of the people that our country may have been or is to be sacrificed in the interests of the American Ring who control the Northern Pacific Line, which Blake for years was so strenuous—and it is at least suspicious that Mr. Senator Howe, the Dictator of the Cabinet, hurries off to Washington at a time when a meeting of the Northern Pacific Directors is about to be held. Mr. Blake has written to Mr. Howe, will he has done if he will stand by the country now and denounce this base scheme, even though he thereby lose a seat in the Senate; for the time will come, and soon, if he takes this course, when he will find as his back a strong phalanx composed of those from all parties who believe in the watchword, "Country before Party."

GOVERNMENT SPIES.

It is now several weeks since the rumour began to go round that officials in the employ of the Government were being unfriendly to the late Government were being systematically watched by spies, with the view of finding occasion for their dismissal. Whether the most of these spies were acting under instructions from the Government, at the instance of Grit partisans and office-seekers in their respective localities, or "on their own hook," and on the chance of what might turn up, it might be easy to tell; but the chances are that in each and every one of these three different ways the spy system has been, and continues to be, pursued. In the case of the recent change a vast amount of dirty work had to be done; telegraph wires had to be tapped; it is to be sincerely believed—private correspondence had to be treacherously taken from, or copied and surreptitiously copied, and even that patriotically strong British superstition as to the sanctity of the Post Office had to be set at defiance. The Grits have boasted loudly of their superior organization, and it is to be feared, on this side, that the notorious Mason was found in the late election contest—no doubt he felt it his duty to assist in organizing a company; and we are still prepared to believe that the Party that employed Mr. Mason and his company to do any amount of work to do for any number of informers.

Forty years ago President Jackson proclaimed the doctrine that "to the victors belong the spoils," and inaugurated in the United States the system of wholesale dismissals upon every change of the national Executive from one Party to the other. This pernicious system, inaugurated by Jackson and his Democratic Party, has been kept up ever since, to the unspeakable degradation of the American civil service, until at least every office of importance or emolument to office has become the serious business of both Senators and Congressmen, legislation being secondary or secondary or subsidiary part of their duty. The introduction by Jackson of this evil marks a turning point in American history; before that there were Statesmen of the calibre of Jefferson, Hamilton, and the Adamses; but afterwards the degeneration was rapid, and the era of Websters, Clays, Calhouns, "of poor "Prince" came in. Whether Mr. Mackenzie be or be not himself desirous of introducing this system into Canada we do not say at present; but that he is terribly crowded and pressed by a swarm of hungry and expectant followers is not in the least doubtful. Six years second him and urge him from place and power, and he should be, already he, and his colleagues feel, along with the "average Conservative," whose rhinoceros-like hide some of our American contemporaries so vigorously belabour; without his shield he is very much, that really appointing to office is the great business of a Statesman, and that everything else is of little account in comparison.

Already there are efforts made of breaking ground, with a view to future operations. The other day the Hamilton Scan of the correspondence-stealers made a significant appearance in the paper, coming out with the complaint that "the members of the present Government have been so shamefully used as some system of espionage ever since they entered on office." Exactly the whole Civil Service of Ontario, it is said, has been appointed under Sir John Macdonald's rule, and its members, it is added, still serve him as their political chief. The private acts of the present Ministers have been betrayed to their enemies. There comes a crushing proof of the iniquity perpetrated, while "Sir John's principal organ, the Mail, was the first to be able to announce the dissolution of the House." Here, indeed, is confirmation strong as proofs of holy writ. Sir John and his friends fear the Legislature