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THE WEEKLY PRESS.

THE NEWS FIRST OF ALL.

SPECIAL features are attractive, but if the expense of getting them is likely to curtail the news service they ought to be abandoned. The big dailies have spent much these last five years upon Saturday editions, but there is at present a distinct tendency to curtail and put the money into something else. In the weekly field, as far as one can judge, special editions have paid for themselves and do not cramp other necessary departments. This is wise, since news is the basis of the paper's success. Down in New Brunswick there has been a dreadful murder, a woman charged with poisoning her sister, through jealousy of the latter's intimacy with her husband. The St. John papers have given full reports, but The Woodstock Dispatch gives the evidence at the preliminary hearing verbatim. That meets the demand for the facts, and seems warranted by the popular horror aroused over the revelation of social and moral degradation involved. The Dispatch may be crowding out or condensing other matter to publish the trial in full. But the policy pursued is correct. The home paper should have the news, and no one should be forced to go to the city press for it.

WHERE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TELLS.

There is a bright paragraph in The Georgetown Herald about Mr. Dan. Mann, who, with Mackenzie of the Toronto street railway, is the successful contractor for the new Canadian Yukon railway. We are told that Mann used to plough fields along the Acton cross-road like the rest of the boys, and that his success has been remarkable. A good deal more of the same kind might have been written without exhausting the interest in Mann. It is in cases of this kind that local knowledge creates news. A few local people may think the career of

such an individual too well known in the district for any extended notice in the local press. But that is a mistake. Many things perfectly obvious to the editor and some of his friends are actual news to the people at large, and an episode like the Mackenzie-Mann contract is worth all the space which original information about the man can fill.

HELPING THE MERCHANT.

The Wallaceburgh News has grasped the idea of the local paper keeping close in touch with the local merchants. It printed during January a pointed hint to the people to pay up their small stock debts. "The merchants," it said, "do not get their goods for nothing, they are not doing business for the love of it, and when they are kind enough to oblige a friend by giving him his goods that person should make it a point to pay for all the goods that he got, not wait until he is dunned and dunned and dunned, then to pay the account, give impertinence, and say mean things." The merchants would appreciate a word of warning like this, since they couldn't gracefully say it for themselves.

DOING PRINTING TOO LOW.

A paragraph in The Carleton Place Central Canadian called public attention to the evil of awarding contracts for local work at starvation rates to outside offices. It appears that two concerns, that afterwards failed, invaded Lanark county and sought to get the work of a township council and of two churches. The consequence was that some municipal authorities and clergymen think they paid too high prices before. In such a case there is every excuse for the publisher airing his grievance so that the public may know of it. In fact, a good strong article pointing out to business men the unfairness of applying to the printing trade a system of competition they object to in their own, is quite in order. Men do not see the most obvious things unless you keep hammering away at them.

A POLITICAL EPISODE.

When you want to corner Brother Donly, of The Simcoe Reformer, in politics, you must get up early in the morning, and even then be prepared to find him up before you. A political discussion on the price of Ontario schoolbooks broke out in Simcoe—as in other places. The Conservative paper, The Simcoe Canadian, showed the nature of the burden which is alleged to be breaking our backs. Mr. Donly walked over to the book store of his journalistic contemporary, Mr. W. Y. Wallace, compared the prices of novels found there with the school-