

than paying expenses at two dollars, and they could not afford to reduce the price. He then succeeded in organizing a company to do so, explaining that there would be big dividends but that anything over six per cent. was to go to missions. In due time the dollar paper appeared. They tried to get the General Assembly to take it up, promising help to missions by excess dividends. It ran for some years, then, funds giving out, a bright idea struck some one on the Board, that the establishment of a retail book store would be a profitable venture and help to carry on the paper. By this means they received another large sum of money. In all they seem to have got about \$40,000 from the Presbyterians, who were too easily imposed upon. The store did not pay, in fact, it ran the paper and itself further into debt, and with quarreling with various managers and making various charges, the company squandered all they got, and the shareholders found themselves in debt many thousand more. This is why it was sold. It was stated that the reverend gentleman who was so enthusiastic in the establishing of it took good care not to carry any stock in it himself. It has been purchased by Thomas Clougher, who was for many years with the Presbyterian Printing Co. The paper was fairly well edited, and, being strongly pushed, obtained quite a fair circulation. But at \$1 it was found that it did not pay, and about five years ago the price was increased to \$1.50. At this figure experience shows that it was not profitable. It is likely it will be increased to \$2.

The Canada Presbyterian remained at \$2 and lost very few subscribers, and continued to gain, so that its circulation to day is greater than it has ever been. Is this not an argument for country publishers to endeavor to get \$2 for their weekly? What a miserable pittance many of them make at \$1 year.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING.

NOTWITHSTANDING the strong theoretical arguments put forward by Nationalists and others of that ilk, Government printing offices are not proving such a practical success as their promoters would seem to claim for them. Recent news from Australia conveys the information that many of the employees of the Government printing office at Sydney have been discharged and that the major part of the Government work is now being done by private firms. This will be another blow to the theorists.

In Canada the Federal Government printing office has never been a success financially, and a note in another column shows that at present there is a difficulty over the fact that slack work has caused the temporary laying off of forty or fifty printers. The trouble is due to the fact that at some seasons there is more work than at others, and during the slack period the printers must be paid for doing nothing or discharged with a risk of not being able to get good men when the rush comes. Both plans cause a loss; the first one in paying more wages than are earned and the second one in securing inferior workmen at high wages, and also in an unnecessary delay of work.

Private printing offices are more economically managed than governmental printing offices. This is an acknowledged fact, and as such needs no reasons to support it, although these are numerous. A private establishment drawing its work from many sources and is not liable to the delays and slack periods mentioned above. Its plant is never lying idle, and its investment

is always earning money; hence it can give cheaper prices. Its supervisors have a personal interest in its economical progress, and those of a government printing office have not.

There are inherent defects in the governmental system of doing work, especially when party politics prevail, and on account of such defects the Government's employment of labor should be minimized in democratic countries. Private firms can do the work at a less cost to the Government and still make a profit for themselves. In giving out the work, of course, the system of tendering must be a good one, and carefully and thoroughly managed by men who are above favoritism and speculation.

THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

EVERY Canadian printer and publisher who desires to go to Chicago in the special car, which will convey the Typothetae delegates from Toronto, should send his name to A. F. Rutter, the captain of the Toronto delegation. They will thus be enabled to participate in the cheap fare which will be given to the delegates, and all the extra privileges which are accorded to a party of this kind. The date of the opening of the convention is September 19th.

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The Entertainment Committee of the Chicago Typothetae has sent out a circular, dated August 21st, which tells of the arrangements for the convention. The delegates are recommended to engage rooms at The Hampden, corner Thirty-ninth Street and Langley Avenue, or The Cambridge, corner Thirty-ninth Street and Ellis Avenue. The former is the hotel headquarters of the Entertainment Committee, and within easy reach of the Fair Grounds. The price at the Hampden is \$1.50 each for one in a room, and \$1.00 each per day for two in a room—meals extra. The meetings will be held in Assembly Hall, at the intersection of the Colonnade, south-east corner of the Agricultural Building, World's Fair Grounds. This building will be the headquarters. A drive will take place at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 19th, in six horse Columbian coaches holding forty persons each, ending at Assembly Hall. On Wednesday there will be a sail on the Christopher Columbus, ending at the Fair Grounds at 11 a.m. Thursday and Friday are devoted to the convention and inspection of machinery and appliances pertaining to printing and binding, and the paper and stationery exhibits. On Friday at 8 p.m., there will be a banquet in the beautiful New York State Building.

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The arrangements are perfect, and the Committee have shown admirable taste and good judgment. The chairman, C. H. Blakely, and his numerous colleagues are to be congratulated on their careful preparations, and as they are men whose hospitality is unsurpassed, the delegates are assured of a pleasant time. The Canadian printers and publishers who will visit Chicago at this period promise to be very numerous, and they are wise in taking the opportunity of meeting the great printers and publishers of America, albeit they are not able to obtain all the privileges which the Typothetae delegates will have.

The British postoffice authorities have at length decided that communications printed in typewriting type may henceforth be sent at the printed matter rates. No less than twenty copies may be posted at the same time.