

papers, but periodicals, books, and even trade catalogues, it is the writer's purpose to show, from the recent history of the press in Canada, that the Mother Country is in effect maintaining, in the form of postal restriction, a tariff wall against its own trade throughout the English-speaking world. And the same restrictions that are suffocating trade between the Mother Country and some of her most important daughter-nations is also beginning to stifle that free interchange of thought and sentiment which is the life of an Empire separated by the seven seas. The postal relations of Canada and the United States afford a striking example of the commercial benefits of an unhampered interchange of the products of the press, and the fact should warn the people of Great Britain against continuing a policy that chokes off a million pounds' worth of trade for the sake of a thousand pounds in newspaper postage.

Profit has never been an object in the postal service of either the United States or Canada, and, more than once, laws have been in force giving free transportation to newspapers from the offices of publication, on the ground that the small loss in public revenue involved was more than recompensed by the educative influence of cheap newspapers among the people. This liberal view obtained in Canada as far back as 1851, an Act having been passed in that year and remaining in force till 1855, by which papers and periodicals devoted to education, science, agriculture, temperance and other special subjects, were carried free if published within the then Province of Canada. From 1859 to 1882 the charges on newspapers from publication offices varied from a small fraction of a cent. per copy (the papers being graded according to frequency of issue) up to one cent. a pound, but in the latter year all newspapers and periodicals from offices of publication became free, and remained so till 1898, except that free delivery was not accorded within the city or town where a paper was published. In 1898, to make up for the loss of postal revenue immediately incident to the introduction of the Imperial penny postage scheme (in which it will be remembered Canada led the way), newspaper publishers were assessed in postage at the rate of a quarter of a cent a pound, the rate being increased on July 1, 1900, to half a cent (one farthing) a pound. Even then free postage was not altogether done away with, as papers were allowed free to points within a zone of forty miles from the office of publication—though this is, it must be confessed, a rather illogical and certainly inequitable proviso, borrowed from United States legislation, by which it was intended that the rural newspapers should be "helped along" with a form of Government charity. . . . In such a large field for literary enterprise, and under such generous treatment, United States newspapers and the trade and technical publications are not only crowding British publications out of Canada, but have been for years rapidly gaining ground in South Africa, Australia, and, in fact, wherever the English language is the medium of printed thought; and everywhere they are heralding the introduction of American machinery and manufactures. With such a large home market for profitable subscriptions, the United States

publisher can well afford to lose something on foreign subscriptions, if need be; though even here the loss is more than made up by the increased prestige he gets by bringing in foreign trade to his enterprising advertisers. The large circulation which United States technical and trade publications have obtained in recent years in Great Britain and her Colonies, is, in fact, one explanation of the great foothold American manufacturers are obtaining in the markets of British Dominions. This was exemplified strikingly in South Africa in such centres as Johannesburg, where skilful advertising, joined to the efforts of active agents, developed such a large trade in electrical, mining, and other machinery and manufactures up to the outbreak of the war, and again since the war closed . . .

Now, the effect of these cheap postage rates between Canada and the States is this: that a single mail train will sometimes bring into the Union Station at Toronto one hundred sacks of United States papers, or more than the total sacks of British mail matter (books, papers, and letters) passing through the same distributing centre in a whole week. Old post office employees can remember when the amount of British mail matter was at least equal to that coming in from the States . . . As a rule, the religious, educational, and technical papers and the higher class of literary papers of the United States are admirably conducted; but unfortunately, the United States papers having the largest circulation in this country are the "yellow" journals and equally "yellow" cheap magazines, that are most harmful to Canadian youth, and if Canadian public men do not see the baneful effects of this turbid tide in the present generation, they assuredly will in the one now growing into manhood and womanhood. Here and there, it is true, a British periodical still maintains a hold, but, as a rule, their Canadian circulations have declined almost in proportion as United States publications have increased. How could it be otherwise, with free trade in literature between Canada and the United States and on the other hand the enormous tax of eight cents (4d.) per pound on papers, etc., between this country and Great Britain?

Then, as to the commercial aspect of the question—not only have we this great circulation of the United States literature, but United States manufacturers also advertise largely in Canadian papers, and the result is seen in the remarkable circumstance that to-day, in spite of the fact that since 1898 British goods have entered Canada at a rate of duty 25 per cent. less than those from the United States, and 33½ per cent. less since 1900, United States trade with Canada is still gaining. That trade follows the press and not the flag, between countries with a common language, is clear from the postal history of these three countries, for not even the geographical contiguity of Canada and the United States can explain away the fact that, against tariff conditions adverse to the extent of one-third, the United States has increased her exports—chiefly manufactured goods—to Canada from \$53,685,657 in 1891 to \$110,485,008 in 1901, while Great Britain's exports here, which were \$42,047,526 in 1891, stood at only \$43,018,164 in 1901