

# Printer AND Publisher.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE files of this journal are becoming more and more valuable, and this issue is well worthy of preservation. It contains full information of the inroads of the machines into Canada, and if these machines continue to improve, it will be necessary for every publisher in Canada to be fully informed thereon. The information collected here can be found in no other place, and is published for the first and last time. Life is too short to go over the same ground more than once, hence we advise our readers to carefully preserve this number. There are many printers who have every copy of this journal published, and they find it a useful compendium. It costs nothing to preserve the copies in a drawer or on file, and yet the file will be found most valuable at all times.

The annual report of the Canadian Press Association has been issued within a month after the date of the meeting. This speaks plainly for the energy and enterprise of the president. Mr. Preston, who had the matter in charge. As a contributor mentions in another column, the report could be improved upon, but we are not willing to go the same length in criticism. Considering the difficulties which lay in Mr. Preston's way, we believe that he made an admirable success of it by following the principle on which he runs the *Expositor*—to publish news before it becomes stale. The snap which Mr. Preston has shown so far in the management of the affairs of the association augurs a most important and successful year. The matter of the Libel amendments in the Ontario Legislature has been well managed, and if no direct results obtain, it is not for lack of strong pressure on the Government.

"The Fourth Estate" is a new weekly for the education of the American journalistic profession. It is published by Ernest F. Birmingham, New York, at one dollar a year. The first number is crisp and newsy, and will no doubt make a favorable impression. It is ably edited.

The "Critic," published at Halifax, N.S., has changed its name to "The Canadian Colliery Guardian, Critic and Journal of the Iron and Steel Trades." The journal would be inexcusable did it not contain prominent advertisements saying that "K.D.C. cures Dyspepsia." A reader trying to digest a title of that length would surely need K.D.C., or some kindred cure. Such titles are out of date. The papers of the day must have short titles. People haven't the time to spit out a long title

like that when they want to quote. The *Critic* is a good paper, exceedingly well edited, always bright and sparkling, and hence one hates to know that the old brief title has disappeared under a new verbiage.

St. John's is not St. John. The former is a town in Quebec, and the latter a town in New Brunswick. But they have had similar experience. The *St. John's News* is published by L. R. Smith & Son, and they recently were called upon to pay damages in a libel suit brought against them by Hon. L. G. Marchand. Subsequently its political friends in the Eastern Townships took up a subscription and sent the publishers a round sum to help defray the expenses of the suit. The Ellis case in St. John, N.B., is still fresh in the memory of all journalists. These precedents should be put in black faced, double leaded type, at the head of the editorial column of every newspaper in Canada, so that whenever a libel suit is lost its friends will know exactly what is required of them by the "conventions" which govern such cases.

Religious views differ in this country and as long as these views do not come within the ordinary business purview, they are usually left to their holders' consciences and their spiritual confessors or advisers. But when the Archbishop of Montreal descends into the business arena and forbids Honore Beaugrand, of the *Montreal La Patrie*, to publish Dumas' "The Three Guardsmen" he lays himself open to public criticism. As to whether the Archbishop allows *Le Monde* privileges not accorded to *La Patrie*, because the former is of the stripe of politics more preferable to him, is a political question, and hence one which a trade journal must have no views upon. But as to the broad principle of interference by the clergy, Roman Catholic or Protestant, in what a newspaper shall or shall not publish, we have something to say. The air of freedom which we find on this continent resents every kind of interference with personal, business and religious liberty, and the sooner that the clergy of all denominations recognize this, the better for themselves. Unfortunately the Catholic clergy of Montreal have during the past few months done several things which a Protestant paper would reject as insults, and which the Catholic papers have, in some instances, treated in a like manner. The Canadian press desires no censor, needs no censor, and will tolerate no censor. The few papers who do tolerate the dictation of a government or a clergyman are unworthy of their positions as dispensers of news and guardians of public opinion. To