



A JOURNAL FOR PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS

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WHY WE ARE HERE

AT the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Press Association the members decided that the publication of a paper devoted to printing and publishing was necessary for their welfare. Subsequently the Executive Committee at a special meeting urged by resolution The J. B. McLean Co. to establish such an organ and pledged their hearty support and co-operation. Members of the Employing Printers' Association have also been agitating for some time in the same direction.

These are surely sufficient reasons why the PRINTER AND PUBLISHER is here.

The chief aim of this paper will be to more thoroughly unite the Printers and Publishers of Canada, and through such united effort to increase the diminishing revenues of the printing office. It is estimated that these can be made 25 to 50 per cent. greater than they are now. At present it is impossible to get combined support for anything. Is it not a fact that we are all too busy looking after the interests of everyone but the printer to think of ourselves? To illustrate. At the meeting of the Press Association a letter was read from Ex-President Somerville, now the American representative of several Canadian papers, to the effect that the recent increase in the duty on baking powders had practically shut out American manufacturers. For years these people had been worth from \$10 to \$1,500 annually to nearly every paper in Canada. The increased duty gave enormous profits to the Canadian manufacturers who, becoming independent, did not find

it necessary to advertise. Mr. Somerville suggested that the Association should use its influence with the Government to reduce the duty to a figure that would permit the importation of foreign baking powders. It was a case of self-interest. Whether should the publishers or the manufacturers make the money? The way in which such a pronounced free trader as Mr. Pense of the Kingston *Whig* moved practically that such action on the part of the Association would be dishonorable, would have surprised Mr. Somerville. He would have been more surprised had he seen the unanimous support given Mr. Pense. But after the meeting, when the little knots of members had time to thoroughly consider the proposition, the conclusion was just as emphatic that Mr. Somerville was right in his ideas, and that publishers should call a halt in looking at matters of this kind from everyone else's standpoint but their own. By united influence publishers could bring about a reduction in the duty on these and similar goods, and again be in receipt of the thousands of dollars which recent increases in duty have cut off.

Printers and Publishers paid last year \$11,375 on printing presses imported. Why should we do this? Not one of these presses can be made in Canada, nor are they likely to be for some time. There is therefore no Canadian industry to protect. By united effort these duties could be removed without difficulty, judging from the experience of the Canadian Packers' Association. There were only three or four Packers, but they were strong enough to have the duty on tin plates removed entirely. Surely the 3,000 and odd Employing Printers in the Dominion have sufficient influence to secure the free admission of printing presses and machinery.

There are other points which need not be referred to. Suffice it to say that publishers will have to be more alive to their own interests if they wish to secure the amendments to the law of criminal libel and other rights and privileges from the Government. The power of the press is universally acknowledged. Why then not exercise it in obtaining for ourselves what we are so ready and willing to obtain for others?

While the editorial columns will advocate the best interests of the craft, the remaining columns will be utilized to keep our readers abreast of the times in the various departments of printing and publishing, special attention being given to the composing and press rooms, the bindery and advertising.

We need offer no apology for this, the first issue, as those who have had experience in starting a paper know that it is not to be taken as a type of the future. We will only say that nothing will be wanting on our part to make the PRINTER AND PUBLISHER worthy of the craft, and to express the hope that we will always meet with support commensurate with our efforts.