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TOPICS OF THE MONTH.

THE daily papers of Monday, September 9, were filled with London cable letters to the New York Sunday papers, dealing with two Canadian matters in a decidedly anti-Canadian spirit. About copyright, the cables intimated that Deputy-Minister Newcome was being sent back to Canada with a modified Act which, if satisfactory to the States, might be allowed to pass, but concluding with the stale old allegation that Canada only wanted her Act to flood the United States market with cheap reprints. The other piece of cable fiction was that a new fast Atlantic service, with vessels running to New York, was one of Mr. Chamberlain's possibilities. Canada has not voted any subsidy for a line to foreign ports. Why do our dailies allow themselves to be filled up with such offensive rubbish as many of these New York cables are? Why don't they combine to get a good Canadian cable service, instead of accepting the warmed-over viands from Uncle Sam's pantry?

Mr. Harper's remarks in this issue on the financial helplessness of working journalists appeal particularly to the editors and reporters who have no money interest in the concerns they toil for. In the matter of short engagements they are especially at the mercy of the fates. With few exceptions the best newspaper men we have can get their walking ticket at a week's notice. It is noteworthy, however, that the appointment this month of Mr. Dafoe to The Montreal Star staff is sealed by a five years' engagement, which lends a permanency to the arrangement that must be satisfactory to both sides.

That was a rather painful break of The Montreal Herald in publishing the sea serpent yarn along with a cut of the serpent.

The fraud was so elaborately worked up by the perpetrators that deception was not unnatural. The Herald did the very best thing in the circumstances: It gave equal prominence to the exposure, and denounced the fakirs who were taking the people's money to see the stuffed-with-sawdust wonder.

Newspaper men will relish the latest story of Hon. A. S. Hardy, Ontario's Minister of Crown Lands, told by Mr. Lee, of Parry Sound. Mr. Hardy has just returned from a trip up north. While there he went fishing one day, and proudly displayed a long string of fish (with many bass) on returning to Parry Sound. But the local inspector, on inspecting the string, saw that the worthy Minister had taken more than the legal allowance of bass, so he was asked to step before the magistrate and pay a fine of \$10, which he did!

Poor Mr. Hardy is very unfortunate. Last summer he innocently went for a walk on a fine Sunday morning up in the northern districts where there was no church to attend, and, more innocently still, carried a fishing rod for company. The minion of the law perceived him on that occasion also, and he had to appear before the authorities and explain. We would advise the Minister to swear off fishing. Fate seems to pursue him.

The complaint recorded in the letter from Mr. Cooper, secretary of the Canadian Press Association, appearing elsewhere, is a serious one. A member of the association has been refused by one of the railways a ticket at the special rate agreed upon with both railway companies. This was done at a minor station and the action may be disavowed by those in authority. At the same time it is a very annoying thing, and the member thus inconvenienced will have the support of the association in settling the dispute. The certificates of the association are recognized at all the principal stations of the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific without question or delay, and why this rule does not prevail everywhere is just what publishers wish to know. If the head of some local railway magnate is getting too big for his hat this is a good time to bring the ambitious one to the notice of Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, who will, no doubt, be glad to retire in his favor. There's always room at the top.

In announcing its excellent weekly, The London Advertiser asks this pointed question. "What is a good newspaper but a