

Printer AND Publisher.

VOL. IX—No. 5.

TORONTO, MAY, 1900.

\$2.00 PER YEAR

The Newspaper Situation in Canada

AS AFFECTED BY SHORTAGE OF PAPER, HIGH PRICES AND POSTAGE DUES.

DURING the past month the newspaper situation in Canada has been one of the leading topics for discussion. The formation of a Paper Association, the destruction of paper mills by fire, the scarcity of pulp and the high prices prevailing abroad for paper have all combined to make the present paper market a matter of great concern to the publishers of Canada. Then, the operation of the postage law, which is found very onerous by all the larger newspapers in the country, has also been up for consideration both in the press and in Parliament.

Many publishers were disposed to murmur when the Canadian paper manufacturers formed an association and prices became subject to a fixed schedule. On the heels of this came the unfortunate burning of the Eddy mills at Ottawa. As these mills supplied a number of the larger daily newspapers in Canada, as well as a great number of weeklies, the demand for paper immediately became very strong. After some negotiation the Laurentide Pulp and Paper Co., of Grand Mere, Que., which has been exporting news print to the British market during the last two or three years, but which has not sought to market its product in Canada, undertook to supply the principal papers which the Eddy Co. had formerly supplied. These included *The Toronto Globe*, *World*, and *Star*, the *Ottawa Citizen*, and *La Presse*, and *La Patrie*, of Montreal. It is supposed that these immense mills at Grand Mere have a capacity of from 80 to 100 tons, and that they only had to cancel one of their large English orders to supply the Canadian papers with what was needed. But, by an unfortunate fire on May 6, their old mechanical pulp building was destroyed, and,

although the paper machines were not injured, there has been a stoppage of them owing to the destruction of the supply of pulp. It is believed at date of writing (May 18) that the mill will be able to resume making paper at once and thus relieve a very awkward situation.

But the position of affairs has been so serious that a number of meetings have been held by those interested in the publishing business to see what relief could be obtained. One proposition made to the Government was to pass an Act taking power to suspend the duty on paper for a term sufficiently long to enable newspaper publishers to lay in stock a supply of paper at the market rates abroad, the belief being that, owing to the Canadian duty of 25 per cent. and the formation of the association, Canadian paper manufacturers were asking more than they should. A discussion took place in the House of Commons on May 8, in which Mr. W. F. Maclean, of *The Toronto World*, and Mr. R. L. Richardson, of *The Winnipeg Tribune*, voiced the views of the publishing interests. The latter read to the House the article in the last issue of *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER* referring to the formation of the Paper Association. The debate drew public attention to the matter but action did not stop here. There was a large meeting of publishers in Toronto, and a deputation consisting of Messrs. W. J. Douglas, of *The Mail and Empire*; J. A. Cooper, of *The Canadian Magazine*; and D. T. McAinsh, of *The Westminster*, were sent as a deputation to interview the Government. Messrs. Berthiaume and Dansereau, of *La Presse*, Montreal, also went to Ottawa to see the Government on this matter. The questions of suspending the duty on paper and of knocking off the postage on newspapers became mixed up, and it seems probable that the Government will endeavor to solve the difficulty by relieving the newspapers of one-half the