

POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS.

MOST politicians realize their obligations to newspaper men, and grasp with tolerable insight the immense value of keeping on good terms with the press. A good many, however, consider a newspaper man merely a person to be made use of, and one whose feelings do not need to be considered. Serious mistakes have been made in this way. Once let a journalist become aware by unfair treatment that a politician is either a knave or a fool, or a mixture of both, and the chances are ten to one that the politician will suffer from the suspicion and distrust he has aroused. When the newspaper man is a strong party adherent himself, he often overlooks the faults of his party leaders. He will be apt to lull his criticisms to sleep. But if his critical faculties are once challenged, they will naturally exert themselves, and the result is bad for the politician. The journalist who thus "finds out" a man has a hundred perfectly legitimate means of checkmating an antagonist. He can prevent his advancement in the party, can communicate his knowledge to others, and, if honestly convinced that a certain man's success would be inimical to a political cause or the public interest, he has resources unlimited to effect the end. The moves are all quietly made. They will be continued over a long period. The "freemasonry" among newspaper men is extensive, and a case is known to *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER* where a politician has been materially checked in his success by a silent opponent of this kind. A well-informed newspaper man can do much to spread information. If he keeps on good terms with his brethren of the press—as he usually does—he can often throw light on a politician's actions that might escape the ordinary observer. A journalistic antagonist of this kind does not use any paper he may write for to air his personal views. Any animus is apparent at a glance, and would consequently be heavily discounted. But where the politician is wrong, and the journalist is on the right tack, the former has everything to lose by not mending his ways and conciliating his adversary. If he adopts Mr. Vanderbilt's motto and says: "The newspapers be damned," he lives to regret it. A Toronto politician's favorite sneer for years was that the newspapers were all corrupt. He is now in exile, with an accusation of hoodling to clear away from his reputation. It pays to treat newspaper men fairly and squarely.

SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS.

The other day, in the Dominion Parliament, Mr. Charlton's proposed amendment to the Criminal Code, whereby the publication and sale of Sunday newspapers would be prohibited, was discussed. Sir Charles H. Tupper stated that, while he sympathized with the hon. gentleman's motives, he would prefer that the subject should be dealt with by the Local Legislatures, and not incorporated into the criminal laws of the country. He was one of those who believed they should hesitate and carefully consider before they dragged into the Dominion, subjects which properly came within the scope of the Local Legislatures, simply by making them crimes. Mr. Hazen agreed in the view that the subject of Sunday observance might fairly be left to the Legislatures of the different provinces, in view of the different elements composing the people, and the fact that in every province the same religion did not predominate. Mr. Charlton said there was not a Sunday newspaper in the United States that was not a bad paper. Canada had seen nothing of the evil so

aggravated in the United States. Several other members expressed their views, after which, on a vote, the proposal was voted down. Thus the regulation or prohibition of Sunday newspapers is left to the tender care of the various provincial legislatures.

RETIRING FROM BUSINESS.

John Smith, the well-known bookseller and stationer of Guelph, Ont., and an honorary member of the Canadian Press Association, is giving up business. His son, W. G. Smith, sole proprietor of W. G. Smith & Co., druggists, of the same place, will take over the business and conduct it in connection with his drug trade.

Mr John Smith has well earned the right to rest during the latter part of his life. As early as 1833 he learned the book and printing business in Leicestershire, Eng., and in 1845 he came to Canada to enter journalism. He founded *The Guelph Advertiser*, and conducted it successfully for 12 years, when he went into land speculation in the county of Perth, and dropped most of his wealth in the disastrous summer of 1857. In 1865 he published *The Oil Springs Chronicle*, and a few years later *The Elora Observer*. Twenty years ago he returned to Guelph, during the last six of which he has conducted the business which he is now giving up.

HOW IT WILL AFFECT US.

Speculation is rife concerning the effect that the Cabinet changes in Great Britain will have upon Canadian copyright legislation. According to reports to hand, the appointment of Mr. Chamberlain to the Colonial Secretaryship has met with general approval in colonial circles in London. Mr. Chamberlain is a Unionist, and a great furtherer of all means whereby the several sections of the Empire may be drawn closer together. As *The Canadian Gazette* says, the new Secretary will hardly refuse to grant Canada self-government, and in the matter of copyright he will surely keep a close watch upon colonial interests in which the United States is concerned. He is possessed of great personal vigor, and his is altogether one of the most striking personalities in British politics. His influence in the Cabinet will be great, and should the Salisbury Government be returned at the head of the polls in the pending contest, another step will have been taken towards the ratification by royalty of the Canadian Act of 1889.

The only difficulty is that some delay will now occur before a decision can be arrived at, for the whole matter will have to be laid before the new Colonial Secretary, just as it has already been explained to Lord Ripon. This new condition of affairs affords additional justification of the despatch to England of a specially authorized agent, like Mr. Newcombe, to plead Canada's cause.

The Canadian Copyright Association should now consult together and discuss the advisability of sending a representative to England at once. Many favor the selection of Mr. John Ross Robertson, A. F. Rutter, or some other influential member of the trade, to back up the appeal being made to the Imperial authorities by the Deputy Minister of Justice. No time should be lost. The British publishers are not ceasing agitation in their own interest. Neither should we.