

THE TARIFF AND THE PRINTING BUSINESS.

IN a few days the tariff, in its finally revised shape, will be up in Parliament, and the printers will then know whether their recent representations to the Government have been successful. Possibly without deliberately intending to do so, the tariff, as announced at first, struck a severe blow at the job printing houses of Canada. The item chiefly affecting the trade was :

123. Advertising pamphlets, pictorial show cards, illustrated advertising periodicals, illustrated price lists, advertising calendars and almanacs, circulars, tailors' and mantle-makers' fashion plates, and all chromos, chromotypes, oleographs, or artistic work of like kind produced by any process other than hand painting or drawing, whether for business or advertising work purposes or not, printed or stamped on paper, cardboard or other material, n.o.p.; labels for fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, confectionery and other goods, shipping price or other tags or tickets, also tickets, posters, advertising bills and folders, whether lithographed or printed or partly printed, n.e.s., 35 per cent.

The old duty was 15c. per lb. and 20 on labels, and 6c. per lb. and 20 per cent. on the other articles.

This change to a 35 per cent. ad valorem duty would undoubtedly do our printing offices out of a great deal of work. In the United States, printing concerns turn out immense quantities of a line, having large orders for a market of sixty-five millions to figure. Where we print thousands they print millions. Therefore, they would quote a rate of cost which would enable large consignments to come in here under an ad valorem duty, the basis for estimating the duty being away below the current rates in this country. The printing offices here, which have gone to great expense in fitting up their establishments, in providing the latest appliances, inventions and machinery, and are turning out first-class work, would find a large slice of the only market open to them taken away. This could hardly have been intended by the framers of the tariff. The difficulty of fixing market values on which to collect ad valorem duties in general is sufficiently great to puzzle the Customs officials. But on printed matter the rates quoted by United States houses would be exceptionally low, so that our printers would find themselves cut out of their own market, and the tendency to do printing work in the States, starting on large jobs, would end in a large proportion of our work going to a foreign country. And yet the duties on printers' supplies remain : 25 p. c. on paper, 35 p. c. on coated paper, 20 p. c. on type, 20 p. c. on ink, and other duties ranging from 20 to 30 p. c. Thus handicapped our offices could hardly hope to hold their present business.

The claim advanced by the printers is also made stronger by the fact that it is not a mere selfish demand for a protected industry desiring to charge the great body of consumers higher rates. A lot of this matter is advertising circulars, pamphlets, patent medicine "literature," etc., which are distributed free. The public pay not one cent. It is simply a question whether the printing shall be done here or in a foreign country. Many of the concerns using this printed matter operate from abroad anyway, and when their printing is done here it is just so much gain to the country. It seems to us that the country publisher, whose job work may not immediately suffer, should have something to say about this.

Changes in other duties affect other establishments, such as

bookbinders, manufacturers of account books, ledgers, etc. The duty on strawboard is higher, and, not being made in Canada, this strikes the users of it. But, in the main, no vital blow at these interests is struck by the new tariff. The preferential tariff of 2½ per cent. in favor of England is not so important, because the duty drops on the raw material as well as the made article. Thus, in the case of books in which English paper is used, the duty being lower on the books is also lower on the paper used in them.

It is instructive to observe the policy pursued towards the United States printers in the Dingley bill. We have just received a copy of the bill as amended by the Senate Committee. Paragraph 395a reads as follows :

- 395a. Lithographic prints from stone, zinc, aluminum, or other material, bound or unbound (except cigar labels and bands, music, and illustrations when forming part of a periodical or newspaper and accompanying the same, or if bound in or forming part of printed books, not specially provided for in this Act), on paper or other material not exceeding 8-1000 of an inch in thickness, 25c. per pound ; on paper or other material exceeding 8-1000 of an inch and not exceeding 20-1000 of an inch in thickness, and exceeding 35 square inches cutting size in dimensions, 12c. per pound ; prints exceeding 8-1000 of an inch and not exceeding 20-1000 of an inch in thickness, and not exceeding 35 square inches cutting size in dimensions, 10c. per pound ; lithographic prints from stone, zinc, aluminum, or other material on cardboard or other material exceeding 20-1000 of an inch in thickness, 9c. per pound ; lithographic cigar labels, flaps, and bands, lettered or otherwise, printed from stone, zinc, aluminum, or other material, if printed in less than ten colors, but not including labels printed in whole or in part in bronze or metal leaf, 20c. per pound ; if printed in ten or more colors, and including labels printed in whole or in part in bronze, but not including labels printed in whole or in part in metal leaf, 25c. per pound ; if printed in whole or in part in metal leaf, 35c. per pound. Books, booklets and periodicals of paper or other material of which lithographic prints are the component part of chief value, 8c. per pound and 15 per cent. ad valorem.

DOUBLE-THREE-SIDED CUTTER.

The attention of up-to-date offices is drawn to the Double-Three-Sided Paper Cutter, rendering exactly the same service as two three-sided machines for cutting, the first needing only one person to work, whereas two persons are necessary to work with two three-sided machines. Furthermore, in using the Double-Three-Sided Paper Cutter there are only necessary one strap, one placement, and one power. Whilst with the three-sided machines for cutting each push must be pressed in by hand and the pillar after each cut must be turned by hand, the Double-Three-Sided Paper Cutter is arranged with a mechanical device for the pressing, and the turning of the pillar after each cut is being done entirely automatically.

The advantages of the Double-Three-Sided Paper Cutter point to this labor-saving machine surely finding its way into all paper and printing offices, etc., where great quantities of papers or books are to be cut. Exact information about this machine, its price, etc., may be had of Karl Krause, Leipzig, and his representatives.