

owes grateful thanks for the benefit advertisements bring him. They are a convenient directory to whatever line of inquiry he desires to pursue. The reader of a newspaper who skips the "ads" has not properly learned how to read a newspaper. To every reader there is news in one or another line.

#### AFFAIRS IN MONTREAL

**T**HE month has not developed anything strikingly new in the printing business in Montreal, or in the branch of trade to which it is related. The larger printing establishments, especially those which are allied with one or the other of the city newspapers, report a business fully up to the average, but in the case of some of the smaller establishments, of which the number is great, the competition for trade must be pretty keen if a leading type-founder is to be believed, and he certainly ought to know. The work turned out has been of the sort usually characteristic of the season, calendars, almanacs, etc., constituting the bulk of it. Some of the productions are rather above the average, notably the calendars of several of the insurance companies, the typographical work of which is perfect, while the lithographic and wood cut designs are really artistic. This is a step in advance for formerly it has been notorious that Montreal was behind the procession when it came to high class lithographic and color work, which had to be executed somewhere else where the facilities were more advanced.

The paper market has not exhibited any further change since our last report. There is still talk of the combine, but the paper manufacturers here to whom your correspondent has spoken are put out with this title, which they hold creates an erroneous impression, and one not in accord with the actual facts of the case. Their customers hear of the combine and think that prices have been advanced, for the term combine usually tends to create the belief that prices are to be advanced. Now, the paper makers claim that they have not, but that rates on the various descriptions of paper have simply been equalized, and that as an actual matter of fact buyers are now getting some lines of paper cheaper than what they paid for them previous to the agreement and in fact they hold that the much talked of agreement, persistently miscalled a combine, is simply an understanding by which the makers agree to try and prevent cutting and underselling. That the paper trade have been successful in this seems certain, for one of the smaller firms, who from their position would be certain to hear of any cutting, stated that the agreement was working perfectly, and that the complaints since its inception, two months ago, had been few and unimportant. Of course some of their

customers had tried the usual "bluff" act, for investigation proved that it was bluff and nothing else. As a matter of fact buyers had really nothing to complain of, as the only lines of paper that were any higher were cheap printing paper, and brown wrapping paper, and now, to anyone well acquainted with the paper trade it was notorious that money had never been made on any of these lines previously and even now the margin was not unreasonable by any means, and with regard to the higher grades of paper there had really been no advances, in fact in some cases, as mentioned above, values were really lower. It may be said that several buyers who were interviewed admitted that the above about represented the position of affairs at present, but they still persist in maintaining their belief that a combine was either formed or in process of formation.

As to the volume of trade in paper during the month, the dimensions of business have been moderate. This is due partly to the fact that some buyers are uncertain how to act, while most of the large purchasers have contracted a considerable way ahead, and are out of the market at present.

As to the type-founders and printing ink dealers, they do not report much activity and there is no special feature to note in their case. In fact one of the leading type-founders complained that business was dull.

The condemnation of the *Canada Revue*, a periodical with strong radical, in fact atheistical, leanings, by the Roman Catholic bishops, has been one of the live topics in the newspaper world here. After the celebrated scandal which arose out of the relations between the wife of a leading French-Canadian lawyer and a priest who afterwards skipped to France, the journal named opened a vigorous campaign against what it termed the evil lives of the French Canadian priests. A warning issued by the Bishops was ignored entirely and the articles kept up and finally the faithful throughout the Province were prohibited by their various clergy from buying, reading, or even naming the offending paper. In response to this interdiction the paper came out with the statement that the condemnation was undeserved. It holds that it has asked the Bishops to point out the articles which they condemn and then goes on to repeat its demand that those whose presence is a blemish to the clergy be expelled from it. It is needless to say that the Bishops also ignore the request, and now the speculation among the fraternity of the pencil is whether the *Revue* will be able to live under such a handicap as this. It certainly has shown a fighting spirit, and seems to think that its accusations are well founded.

In the matter of the Burland Lithographic Co. in liquidation Mr. Duff proposed a final dividend sheet