

**THE PRESS ON THE POSTAGE QUESTION.**

OTTAWA FREE PRESS.

The opinion expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House yesterday, that the reduced postage on newspapers should not be governed by Provincial boundaries, was very sound and just. It is obvious that the circulation of a paper may not be limited to one Province. To an Ottawa paper, like The Free Press, circulating largely in the neighboring Quebec counties, such an arrangement has its disadvantages. A juster plan would be that advocated by the Premier—a geographical system based on mileage. But better still would be a much more considerable reduction of rates.

ST. THOMAS JOURNAL.

The proposed amendment to the law relating to the postage on newspapers, reducing the rate from half a cent per pound to one-eighth of a cent upon the circulation in the Province where the paper is published, all outside of that to pay half a cent, is open to the same objection that the present law is which exempts a zone on weekly papers. There is no more reason for charging different rates on newspapers carried outside the Province in which they are published than there is for charging different rates on letters carried different distances. It is quite possible for a newspaper published in a city on the boundary of two Provinces to have a larger circulation in the adjoining Province than in its own. The effect of the proposed change will be to restrict such circulation, or to tax the publisher unfairly.

BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR.

The Dominion Senate has thrown out Mr. Mulock's Postage Bill, and the proposition to reduce the rate of newspaper postage from one-half to one-eighth of a cent within the Province of publication, is consequently defeated. Objection is made, and reasonably, we think, to the extension of the zone system which now exists, even when Provincial in its character. There should be a fixed rate of postage for all newspapers, regardless of the frequency of publication, the extent of their circulation, or of Provincial lines. The Expositor may be talking against its own interests in advocating such a uniform rate, but we believe the system that is in vogue, and the one lately proposed by Mr. Mulock, to be alike objectionable, and the sooner the same principle is adopted for newspapers as is now applied to letter postage the better.

**NEW OFFICES AND SAMPLE-ROOM.**

The premises occupied by Buntin, Gillies & Co., Hamilton, have recently been enlarged and improved, the ever-growing business of this firm demanding greater accommodation and convenience for its transaction. Their new offices and sample-room, which have just been remodelled, are finished in the finest style in quarter-cut oak throughout, and present an extremely handsome appearance. Nothing which will aid in the rapid and careful transaction of business has been overlooked.

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**STANDARDS OF STYLE AND SPELLING**

In the annual report of Dr. S. E. Dawson, Queen's Printer at Ottawa, this year there is a good deal of information about paper, ink, and processes of interest to newspapermen. As a copy of the report is sent to nearly all newspaper offices it is not necessary to reproduce here any portion of its contents. One point, however, which is of passing concern is the discussion on "style." The American "style" is almost universal in Canada, but, as far as the official documents at Ottawa are concerned, a different system has been adopted. In 1890, on the report of Sir John Macdonald, the English style in spelling such words as "labour, favour, honourable," etc., was adopted for the printing bureau.

In connection with such features as capitalization, italics, hyphens and punctuation, it has been ordered by the Joint Committee on Printing of Parliament that the style shall be according to that used by the Clarendon Press of the University of Oxford.

As for the dictionary in use the Imperial Dictionary is regarded as the authority. In connection with this, Canadian editors would do well to note that the Government appointed a Geographic Board several years ago. This board is fixing the spelling of geographical names in Canada. It has issued one report already and the results are being embodied in all maps and other official documents. These matters, while of secondary importance in newspaper work, are of sufficient interest to demand some attention.

Mr. John W. Eedy, having started a daily edition of The St. Marys Journal, is conducting it with the ability and thoroughness which marks all his publishing work. The new daily should make a place for itself in so prosperous a centre as St. Marys.