

poses and quarter of 1 per cent. for schools. The latter portion is handed over to School Commissioners for educational purposes, and the city receives not a dollar from this fund for the ordinary civic services. Many cities in Canada impose a real estate tax of 2 per cent., while our total civic taxation, including water-rates, school tax, is a little over 2.25 per cent., that is 2 per cent. for all strictly municipal services and $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per cent. for schools.

An organized effort is alleged to be in progress to have the postage on Class publications increased to 1 cent for each 2 or 4 ounces. The "influential dailies" are said to be behind this movement. Why any of our daily contemporaries should desire to see such journals as this still more heavily handicapped by additional postage we do not understand. To put high class weeklies under heavier postal burdens would not lighten the expenses of any daily paper or increase its revenue. Despite apparent antagonisms, there is a solidarity and mutuality in the interests of the press, so that whatever tax policy is adopted that bleeds one class of publication is certain, sooner or later, directly or indirectly, to be the instrument for phlebotomizing other classes.

The postage on newspapers is now excessive, is oppressive, it is utterly contrary to the spirit of the age and antagonistic to the principles which lay at the root of popular government and educational progress. For the government of a democratic country like Canada, where newspapers are necessities of life, to restrain the circulation of journals by oppressive postage is a startling anomaly which can only be explained by there being some influence at work which is a recrudescence of prejudices against the press that were entertained a century ago, and such as are kept up in half civilized countries like Russia.

Postal burdens on newspapers are like a tax on free speech. A burden put on weekly journals is "a tax on knowledge;" it is obstructive of educational progress, for the weekly paper, with a few exceptions, is a powerful and most effective educational agency.

The strike of the anthracite coal miners continues. The leader, who is doubtless feathering his nest out of the unfortunate colliers, as has been done by leaders in other strikes, says: "The men will win if they can hold out a few weeks longer." That will bring the time to the early part of October, when the demand for coal becomes pressing, as furnaces, and stoves generally, require hard coal. Ten more weeks of strike means, at least, \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 more being wasted over this insane

struggle, which already has cost \$400 for every man engaged in it; that is, every miner has caused a sacrifice to the extent of an entire year's income, the loss of which will fall largely upon storekeepers, though thousands of families will have been impoverished, and hundreds ruined in health as well as purse. Most lamentable, too, is the demoralization now going on of the strikers, hundreds of whom have committed criminal acts such as indicate the arousement of those violent passions which ordinarily require the restraint of a jail. The miners must be most illiterate, weak minded, or they would long since have asserted their manhood by acting on their individual initiative, independently of the professional agitators who live by labour disturbances. The rioting of last few days has put the men wholly outside sympathy. Were justice done, the leaders who instigated such strikes as tend to bloodshed, deserve the gallows.

A trial suit to test whether those who paid for platform seats to see the Coronation procession are legally entitled to a return of their money, owing to the ceremony being postponed, has resulted in a verdict against the claimants for a refund. This seems hard, but equitable. The builder of a platform on the line of the proposed procession only guaranteed the right to occupy a certain seat on a certain day or days; he did not contract that a procession should pass by, for how could he? Thus the builder stood ready to carry out his contract. Under such circumstances no claim could be justly made on him for money paid to see a show over which he was known to have no control. He sold the right to a seat, and there his contract ended.

A British Columbia journalist has been committed to gaol for nine months as a punishment for publishing a virulent attack on the judges sitting in a Provincial Court of Justice. The man was most blamable; no doubt he deserved a sharp lesson; the cause of justice demanded his punishment as a warning. But the sentence imposed seems much too severe; it will probably ruin the prisoner, though public sympathy with him is being more generally expressed than it is desirable to elicit by any show of unduly hard treatment. The British Columbia judges would show wisdom by securing the early release of their slanderer. Nine months for contempt of Court is too much.

Since peace was announced the values of securities dealt in on the London Stock Exchange have increased over \$150,000,000. Since the end of 1901, when peace rumours began to circulate and appear truthful, there has been an advance in the total value of securities to extent of over \$500,000,000.