

base its prices on any scientific data, and even that one is compelled at times to submit to large reductions rather than lose an advertisement. On several occasions newspaper proprietors in Halifax have attempted to combine for the protection of their mutual interests in these respects, but these combinations have been half-hearted and weak, and have soon fallen through.

The oldest daily in that city—the paper that has always been looked up to by its contemporaries of all shades of politics as a pattern to follow in business matters—is to-day suffering heavily from the cut-throat style of competition alluded to above. An instance of how this unfair, illegitimate competition, together with incompetent management, works, may be cited in the case of a paper which recently expired in Halifax. Two short years after its founder transferred its management to others, sufficed to melt away the entire affair—business, plant, building, good will, etc., were completely wiped out of existence. The demise of this paper was followed by the appearance of a spirited and well-conducted cent daily, but ruinous competition killed it within four months.

Another very serious detriment to the legitimate prosecution of the business has been a looking for and dependence on Government "pap." Not a paper there to-day would be in existence had it not been largely subsidized by Government at different times in the past. It is true that this evil has, to a great extent, become a thing of the past; but its effects remain, and are plainly discernible at the present day. Papers that were long nourished with Government pap became careless how they conducted their business with the public, and felt too big to enter into a combination with their less favored brethren to keep prices up to a fair standard.

The most sensible course for the Halifax press to adopt is to cease their present foolish and ruinous competition. Form a basis for prices of advertising, calculated from cost and value, and refuse to deviate from it in any case. In this way, and only in this way, can the lost position be recovered, and their managers be enabled to pay decent prices for the literary and other work necessary for the production of their papers.

A Toronto paper states that "a public meeting will endeavor to set the *Evening Post*, of Montreal, on its feet." That's kind.

The Publishers and Booksellers of Toronto Dissatisfied.

The publishers and booksellers of Toronto held a meeting on February 24th, at which it was resolved that the Government be asked to substitute an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent., as an equivalent instead of the present specific duty of six cents per pound; also, that the attention of the Government be called to the fact, that at present magazines and books coming from without the limits of Canada, by post to booksellers, are subject to duty, while the same goods coming to private individuals, direct from the office of publication, or from any foreign bookseller or newsdealer, are admitted free of duty; also, that as binders' cloth, mill and straw board (for binding purposes), and bookbinders' machinery are not at present manufactured in the Dominion, and that the duty as at present imposed discriminates in favor of the foreign manufacturer, the Government be requested to place the above-named articles on the free list. Messrs. W. C. Campbell, W. J. Gage, A. S. Irving, G. M. Rose, and S. R. Hart were named a committee to prepare a memorial embodying the above resolutions to be laid before the Government.

A STRIKE AMONG PUBLISHERS.—The practice of selling books at less than their published price, having originated in England, has taken root in almost every European country; and that, too, to such an extent as to play sad havoc with the trade. To remedy this state of things, some 600 of the principal publishing houses in Germany and Austria have entered into a combination. From the first day of January, in the present year, they refuse to have any dealings with booksellers who give any reductions from the published prices.

"THE WORST MAN IN AMERICA."—John Crozier, the absconding treasurer of Toronto Typographical Union, of whom mention was made in the last number of the *Miscellany*, recently returned to that city and made overtures to the Union, through an outside friend, to be taken into the society again, and the \$115 which he had taken would be returned. The members of the Union would not entertain the proposition, and Crozier immediately took his departure for the United States.

The "Owen Sound Tribune Printing Company" offer their establishment for sale.