

Court judges in Ottawa on Nov. 14 and 15. Most of the reports were garbled and very one-sided. They left out salient facts. They were printed under headlines calculated to mislead their readers and to prejudge the case. Some of the newspapers, furthermore, undertook to indulge in editorial comment upon the hearing, despite the fact that the newsprint controversy has reached the stage of a judicial proceeding. The *Journal* of St. Catharines, Ont., in making such comment, after quoting figures read by Mr. W. N. Tilley, K.C., as representing the earnings of certain of the companies producing newsprint, said:

"In view of these figures is there any wonder that newspaper publishers feel that they are being bled white? Through a combination of the paper manufacturers the price of white paper used by newspapers has been forced up almost double. The cost, indeed, has become out of all proportion to the element of fairness in business, and yet all the protests of the publishers before the Commissioner have been of little avail. Reasonable profits are justified, and no sound paper would offer any criticism so long as they are reasonable, but when they run into such figures as Mr. Tilley has produced, and when the charges are ruinous to newspapers, publishers would be indifferent, to be sure, if they did not object.

"The publishers feel it is about time for the Dominion Government to tell these paper makers that they are squeezing a good thing too hard. So far as Commissioner Pringle is concerned, many publishers have lost confidence in him."

The *Standard* of St. John, N.B., said, among other things:

"Yesterday's opening hearing of Canadian publishers' appeal from the decision of the Paper Controller brought out many interesting facts in respect to profits made by Canadian manufacturers during recent years. As a result of the decision of Mr. R. A. Pringle, K.C., in greatly increasing the price of newsprint a few months ago, publishers appealed on the ground that such an increase as had been made was not justified by the facts brought out in evidence, in connection with the operation of the industry.

"It is the newspapers of Canada that have kept this country in its present condition of prosperity by maintaining a hopeful sentiment, by encouraging cheerfulness, devoting their time, space and material to every project calculated to advance the interests of the people. They have contributed to the welfare of their country as no others in any line of business have done. It has been at a loss to themselves, in many cases at the cost of bankruptcy, but they have gone under rather than fail in what they considered their duty.

"It is not at all an exaggeration to say that the relations existing between newspaper publishers and newsprint manufacturers are strained.