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COMMENT.

INSANITY seems to be a rather common complaint amongst newspaper men. To be sure it is a mild form, but nevertheless it is a clear case of weak-mindedness. It does not show itself in the buying of type or paper, nor in the hiring of help; it shows itself but very little in the acceptance of advertising contracts, and not much more in the news columns. It is in the editorial pages that the insanity exhibits itself. The editor shouts himself hoarse for his party, raises political hysterics and thinks that people believe him. Why, the people are laughing at the whole thing! Outside of the *Montreal Gazette* and the *Toronto Globe*, it is doubtful if there is a sane-minded daily paper in Canada. There are some that approach more nearly to it than others, but most of them are hysterical parrots.

When in Winnipeg recently I had a talk with Mr. A. J. Magurn of the *Free Press* on this subject, and I asked him why he took his politics so seriously. He replied that he believed in fighting hard or not at all. Apparently the men who edit the other howling political sheets agree with Mr. Magurn. To my mind it is a decidedly poor reason.

The only people who enjoy the slang-whanging that goes on every day is the party hack—the man who could not make a living if we took our politics reasonably. These are men whose business it is to fan party prejudice, to encourage party strife and profit by party battles. And the editors of this country—with few exceptions—help these bats and leeches to drink the life-blood of the nation.

Party government is a part of the system under which we are governed—perhaps an unnecessary part, but still a part. This, however, is no justification for the extreme party journal. An editor should be as fair in his paper as he is in private life. There isn't an editor in Canada of my acquaintance and I have met them nearly all of whom I should be afraid to ask a favor or before whom I should fear for judgment in matters of private business. But if the subject is political, I would not look for justice.

What is worse, party politics weaken a paper. The people of to-day, the younger people of Canada, do not like party strife. They are reasonable partisans, and they abhor fanatical partisans. Party politics are injurious to the best interests of the business end of the papers that indulge in them. Let us be cured of our insanity and give the business end a decent chance.

During the past three or four years there have been several concerns organized to sell proprietary articles, the advertising of which has been paid for with stock in the company manufacturing the article. Most of these have been failures. Not many weeks ago, a firm in Ottawa tried this game. A circular was sent to five hundred newspapers and over one hundred took the bait. What a funny experience the promoter of the company must have had, and what a splendid opinion he must have of Canadian newspaperdom!

For the past ten years, the price of news print has been steadily declining. As a consequence publishers found it unprofitable to make long contracts with the paper-makers. Just now it would seem likely that prices may rise a little, and longer contracts are permissible. The prices of wood pulp and wood fibre have advanced, and though this affects book papers more than news print, it is not likely that the latter will be unaffected.

J. A. C.

PRESS ASSOCIATIONS.

THE Executive of the Canadian Press Association met in the Secretary's Office, Toronto, last week. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting in Toronto early in February with a banquet in the evening of the first day. It was reported that the general expenses of the excursion to the Coast were \$201.50, and the collections to defray the same \$180.00. The President was presented with a framed illuminated copy of the address given to him by the excursionists on Arrowhead Lake. Committees were appointed to make all arrangements for the annual meeting, and some twenty-five new members were admitted to the privileges of the Association.

The *Richmond Guardian* says: The annual meeting of the Eastern Townships Press Association was held in Sherbrooke on Monday, and there were present: Channell, *Record*, Jones, *Guardian*; Shurtleff, *Observer*; Belanger, *Progres*; Charbonnell, *Chronicle*; Morehouse & Stevens, *Examiner*; Genest, *Petite Presse*; Lance, *Times*; and Holland, *Journal*. Considerable business was transacted and the new officers elected, as follows: President, L. E. Charbonnell, Vice-Presidents, Holland, Genest and Channell; Sec.-Treas., E. S. Stevens (re-elected); Executive, Belanger, Morehouse, Lance,