

THE DAILY PRESS.

THERE was an excellent write-up of the new Victoria Bridge in *The Montreal Herald* recently. It was partly descriptive and partly historical. It is only mentioned here as an example of really useful, readable journalistic work. The news end of it lay in the forecast of the changes to be made to the famous bridge ; into this were weaved many interesting details of the first construction, etc. Articles of this class come under a somewhat neglected department of the modern newspaper, being crowded out by columns of small stuff, which, in his heart of hearts, the news editor knows to be trivial, but feels impelled to print. There is such a thing as living down to the level of street gossip and a list of names. Between that and the dull, heavy reporting, which is of no use except as a cure for insomnia, there must surely be a happy medium.

No one denies the vast interest of the "personal" column : it is one of the best in the paper. But hotel personals are notoriously the creation too often of his lordship, the hotel clerk, who sticks in the names of regular patrons of the hotel, rather than the people whose presence in town interests the public. Many people of importance come and go and their names never get into the papers at all. The science of interviewing is well understood and has been thoroughly exploited by city editors in all our large cities. But the efforts are spasmodic, and for weeks at a time you will see no interviews at all.

A telegraph editor, whose opinion we respect, complains that a suggestion in this column last month was impracticable. It related to the editing of the war news. "You seem to forget," he writes, "that a morning paper gets some of these despatches at 2 a.m. How can we summarize or edit to any extent at that hour? We are fortunate in being able to handle it at all." There is, of course, reason in this. But the late cables are the product of the unsatisfactory service from Europe which our dailies have borne with the patience of mules for many a long year.

Now, and for years back, the tendency to draft raw youths, University lads, and other untried material into the reporting staffs is a feature of the business. They cost little, and do pretty well even at first. But they are soon assigned to work which only a trained newspaper man can attend to properly. The paper suffers in this way, and they wonder why criticism of the press is so rampant. What is the use of sending to a hotel register, or after an interview, a man who does not know the prominent people of the country, and who is not posted on current events?

Mr. Andrew Pattullo, M.P.P., was in Toronto this week on his way home from Montreal and Ottawa. Mr. Pattullo, with the intelligent activity which characterizes him, is interested in libel laws, cables, and other subjects of current discussion in the newspaper world. He remains, one observes with satisfaction, a journalist first and a politician second.

In the heat of debate in the House of Commons Sir Charles Tupper questioned the fairness of the cables from Canada to The London Times relative to the new tariff. No competent authority—and a politician, however able, is not a fair judge of a journalist—will say, after perusal of them, that the cablegrams

in question are other than fair, accurate and impartial. Mr. Cook shows no political bias, and furnishes a very valuable service, infinitely superior to any previous one. This is said after a close and constant inspection of The Times' Canadian news during the last ten years.

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