

ECHOES OF THE PRESS.

THE VANCOUVER PROVINCE, which has been greatly enlarged and improved during the past few months, finds the new conditions under which it is published demand an increased price for the paper. Mr. Nichol has not hesitated, therefore, in a leading article, to draw public attention to higher prices of paper and the higher rates of wages, and to announce a slight increase in the subscription price. The only weak point in the article, to our mind, is that The Province promises, if the price of white paper goes down again, to drop the subscription to the former rates. There has been a great deal too much willingness to drop prices on the part of Canadian newspaper publishers. Years ago, when the Government, unasked, took the postage off newspapers, the publishers promptly gave away the saving to the public. As soon as machine composition was introduced and white paper went down, they put the saving into larger papers and a better service. The consequence is that every time a Canadian newspaper publisher gets his margin of profit enlarged he immediately casts about for an excuse to throw it away. If a subscription or advertising rate can be put up now, in the face of the existing competition, why cannot it be maintained later on in the face of the same competition?

* *

Some newspapers, notably The Hamilton Times, are concerned over the report that one of the clauses of the proposed Copyright Act to be laid before the House of Commons will be directed at the practice of one newspaper copying the despatches of another. This clause, as everyone knows, is said to give copyright for 18 hours to special despatches. There is no danger that the proposed change, if made, will restrict morning papers from condensing items from evening papers, and evening papers condensing from morning issues. It is more than probable that legal authorities would declare that you cannot copyright facts. But you can copyright the form in which one newspaper chooses to cast its statement of certain facts. This would do away with holus-bolus thieving. The value of the proposed clause is that when a newspaper has, at great expense, ordered a special from London, New York, Washington, or elsewhere, it shall have the exclusive right to print that despatch. When the Bill is discussed in the House it will be well to find out whether or not, if such a despatch were rewritten and condensed, it could be used by another paper.

* *

Says The St. Marys Argus: "In PRINTER AND PUBLISHER for April the proprietor of our local contemporary boasts that he never lowered his subscription rates, and that The St. Marys Journal has steadily refused to accept 99 cents. He will not be able to say this any more, for this week the rates were reduced. Why? The growing popularity and increasing circulation of The Argus account for it. Advertisers understand this, while the general public will readily draw their own conclusions."

The Guardian, Charlottetown, P.E.I., prints its daily, weekly and semi-weekly on a Cottrell press, with a latest improved Otto gas engine. It also has an Edison standard electric motor, ready for use in the event of accident to the engine. This enables the management to catch all mails with its early morning and weekly editions. Recently it has purchased a new dress of reading-matter type—a seven-point, fat face, Scotch type, leaded—which gives the paper a very handsome appearance. All The Guardian's type is on the point system. Last year, The Guardian spent a large amount of money on illustrations, and this new innovation is greatly appreciated by its readers. The Guardian's circulation has greatly increased during the past year. The weekly edition is now 4,000 copies, and increasing by leaps and bounds, from 15 to 25 new subscriptions being received daily, while the circulation of the daily has far exceeded the greatest anticipations of the proprietors.

* *

It is a year since H. A. Vandusen began to conduct The Tara Leader, and this little weekly has made such progress in that time, both in subscriptions and advertising, that the publisher feels warranted in enlarging it. He will add about five columns extra reading matter, and, therefore, be able to maintain his circulation of 1,000, which is a good figure to have reached after one year's work. The Leader is independent, but not neutral, and is a good representative country newspaper.

* *

Mr. Ireland, of the Parry Sound North Star, is going to indulge in a new office, and he has received the plans of a Toronto architect, which will provide for the erection of a 22 x 52 feet two-storey building and basement, and, no doubt, suitably embellished inside and out. Mr. Ireland hints in the politest manner to his readers that, with this expenditure before him, he expects to be paid every cent of arrears and to get all the assistance possible in the way of job printing.

* *

The Regina West attributes its success at the beginning of its second year to the fact that the aim of the publisher has been to give the public a good clean paper. No misrepresentation and no personal abuse are allowed, and, while the paper has to differ with other people, they do not abuse these people on that account. The other cause is that the office has made a special point of doing good job printing, and has earned a valuable reputation for that class of work.

* *

The new Hoe press which has been used by The Halifax Chronicle for some time has resulted in a great improvement in the appearance of that well-known journal. The Chronicle is one of the oldest newspapers in the Dominion of Canada. It was evolved out of The Nova Scotian, which was established in 1825 by a brother of the late Sir William Young. From him Joe Howe purchased it, and in 1841 it passed into the hands of William Annand, and it has, we believe, been in the control of the Annand family ever since. In 1844 The Chronicle first appeared as a tri-weekly, and in 1864 as a daily. Halifax has now the good fortune to possess in The Herald and The Chronicle two very excellent newspapers.