

the United States, indeed, even more than of Canada, because there the French language has no official recognition as it has with us. At first blush, it may appear that the publisher of a newspaper or a periodical or a book who wants to use the mails, should pay just as much postage as the manufacturer of boots and shoes or clothing, who wishes to send his goods through the mail. And yet when the question is examined somewhat more closely it will be seen that this contention will not hold good. Why is it that, as communities become enlightened, there has ever been a constant endeavor to sweep aside all impediments to a free press? Why is it that today, in every enlightened country, there are exceptionally cheap postage rates offered to newspapers and periodicals? Why were public schools instituted, and why is compulsory education a recognized platform of every progressive political party? Are not these questions answered by asserting that in the intelligence and enlightenment of the people lies the safety of the country? And where there is an intelligent and enlightened people, there will, as a necessary sequence, be a great reading community.

It is only necessary now to state a self-evident fact, namely, that the great newspapers can only be produced in the great centres of learning and population (for it can readily be seen that the London *Times* could not be published in Deal, nor could the Hamilton *Spectator* be published in Stony Creek), when the problem of how to place these journals in the hands of distant readers immediately presents itself. It would be most unfair to restrict the reading of leading journals to residents of the localities in which they are published, and yet that would be the practical effect if the ordinary postage rates were charged. Special concessions have therefore, from time to time, been offered to publishers, and the millions of papers carried daily through the mails is a practical demonstration of the enormous benefit these concessions have been to trade, while no man can estimate the value

of this factor in the education of the people.

While papers only are mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, the same remarks will apply, but with far more force, to magazines and periodicals; for while papers may live upon a local circulation, a national circulation is essential to the success of a magazine.

Just how far these special concessions to publishers should be carried, is a much-debated question. As a striking example of the vim and energy in our young yet great Dominion, it may be stated that the Canadian Government is in the front rank in this matter, having adopted the true principle of encouraging the dissemination of literature among the people by carrying all papers and magazines free, when mailed from the office of publication. This is said to have resulted in a deficit in the Post Office department, and in an endeavor to square receipts, the department at the last session of parliament proposed to impose a postage rate on monthlies. This was manifestly such an unfair discrimination against the monthlies that in response to a decided protest from interested parties, the idea was abandoned for the moment, although there is a very able-bodied suspicion abroad that the question is by no means settled. However, should any change be contemplated, it is to be hoped that the Postmaster-General will again look at the United States postal scale, which places a charge of one cent a pound on daily, weekly and monthly publications—all being placed (and quite correctly so) in the same class. And it pays in more ways than one to give monthlies a liberal postage rate. Take the *Century* or *Harper's Monthly*, for instance, and it will be readily seen that the enormous number printed gives work to paper-makers, printers, artists, and all kindred interests. The superiority of these American magazines is everywhere acknowledged; and only recently an English paper noted the fact that *Harper's* had a larger circulation in England than some of the best of the English magazines, and added that the reason for this could be