

THE CABLE NEWS SERVICE.

IT IS refreshing to hear that the desire for reform in the Canadian cable service is invading influential circles. For years I have bored worthy people about the matter until it became a question how long further badgering would be permitted without injury to life and limb. A cold shudder would creep over some prominent newspaper men when I ventured to point out the sins of omission and commission characteristic of the service via New York. They slunk round a corner if they saw me coming; when fairly caught they would rapidly begin talking about the weather or politics in order to head off a discussion on cables. Finally, one eminent person mopped the floor with me at a meeting of the Canadian Press Association and left me gasping for breath for several months. The by-standers simply sniggered.

The fate of the man who believes he has invented the perpetual movement motor, who has a new system of street cleaning, or is agitating for pure food, was mine. Publishers were out, editors were called to the telephone, and reporters with that honest candor that makes them a power in the land, would remark: "Don't be a blamed crank; give us a rest." But these were trifles light as air compared to the horrid suspicions that a mild agitation for a better cable service aroused. At first, the idea grew that it was a device of the jingoes to load up public opinion their way and dress us all in court costume. Again, they would say that it was a nefarious scheme to breed trouble for the good Uncle Sam on his north frontier by making us all so British that we would be forcing him to wear a necktie of the Union Jack pattern. One of my best friends printed a withering article in which he said European news with a Yankee flavor was an admirable diet, for it tended to keep us humble as a community, otherwise we would all want to be K.C.B.'s—or "something higher," G.C.M.G.'s—and loll about at Vice-Regal receptions.

I am not quite sure what has brought about a change, but rather suspect it was the Marlborough baby. The career of that youngster, from the hour it first drew breath, was followed with devoted care by the cable service. When the baby smiled, the announcement was flashed to this continent. When the baby cried, all Canada wept. We had to, because the details appeared in the papers every day. We wrapped little Marlborough in his first long clothes, we admired their old lace trimmings, we (and the Prince) attended the christening and gloated over daily enquiries from royalty as to how the baby had slept and whether its dear ma was able to take nourishment. And why did all Canada stop marketing wheat and buying mining shares in order to read daily bulletins about the Marlborough baby? Why? Because the little darling's mother was the daughter of a divorced New York couple who owned millions, and what interested the scandal-mongers and peer-worshippers of the Knickerbocker aristocracy was of absorbing interest also to Canadian men and women. I think little Johnny Churchill has done the business, and that Canadian editors are beginning to tire of the present system. C.

THE POPE TO BLESS NEWSPAPER MEN.

It is stated in ecclesiastical circles here, says Mr. Mosher, The Toronto World's Montreal correspondent, that Pope Leo XIII has signified his intention of issuing a brief to the journal-

ists of Montreal, expressing the thanks of His Holiness for the address which the Montreal press, irrespective of creed, presented to Mgr. Bruchest on the eve of His Grace's departure for Rome. This is perhaps the first time that such an event has taken place in America, although the thanks of the Papacy have on more than one occasion been tendered certain sections of the French and Italian press.

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN CHANGES HANDS.

The Messrs. Shannon have sold The Ottawa Citizen to a company, the controlling interest in which is owned by Messrs. Southam and Carey, of The Hamilton Spectator, who have a few Ottawa persons associated with them. Mr. Wilson M. Southam will be the manager and publisher, and Mr. Hugh Clark, late editor of The Kincardine Review, will be editor.

Before the new editor left Kincardine the leading men of the vicinity, headed by Mayor Macpherson, of Kincardine, presented him with an address and a purse of gold, and wished him god speed in his new field of labor. When Mr. Clark was in Toronto, November 9, on his way to Ottawa, a number of news paper men entertained him at supper. Among those who joined in a very jolly gathering of newspaper men were: J. S. Brierley, Montreal Herald (who happened to be in town); Arthur F. Wallis, Mail and Empire; John Lewis and John Ewan, Globe; J. T. Clark, Saturday Night; J. A. Cooper, Canadian Magazine; Fred. Campbell, of the Canada Paper Co., and others.

THE NEW JOURNALISM.

Sixty-nine pages of rubbish,
Twenty-two pages or rot,
Forty-six pages of scandal vile,
Served to us piping hot.
Seventeen hundred pictures—
Death, disease and despair—
Lies and fakes and fakes and lies
Stuck in 'most everywhere.
Thirty-four sad comic pages,
Printed in reds, greens and blues,
Thousands of items we don't care to read,
But only two columns of news.

—New York Life.

USEFUL HINTS TO PRINTERS.

To separate type that has been standing for a long time, pour glycerine over it and let it stand eight or ten hours. Then rinse with lye or soap water. A good method of getting rid of electricity is by saturating the fingers or sticks of the fly with glycerine and water. Apply when the press is idle until the wood is thoroughly saturated with it. Spirits of wine is recommended as excellent for cleansing rollers used with copying ink. It removes the ink instantly, evaporates at once and does not injure the rollers like water. Printers who suffer from sore or dry skin on their fingers will find the following mixture very beneficial and soothing: Glycerine, 1 ounce, rosewater, 3 ounces; carbolic acid, $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce. Before retiring at night wash the hands in warm water, then rub the lotion thoroughly into the skin. The carbolic acid is very healing, the rosewater is a good dilutant of the glycerine, and likewise tends to counteract the odor of the carbolic acid, which is unpleasant to many people.