

be on every man, but more peculiarly must it be part of the moral equipment of the newspaper writer. Even with it his work will be faulty, but, without it, it will be a menace to the community. Such sense of responsibility, there is good reason to believe, rests heavily on the men who are making the Canadian press.

It may be said, sense of responsibility, under the conditions mentioned, implies special sacrifices, special efforts, and special and exceptional rules of conduct—in fact, changes the status of the newspaper publisher from that of a controller of a commercial enterprise, governed by the laws of supply and demand, to that of a guardian of the public peace, of a moral policeman, governed by the Sermon on the Mount. Why should men who invest money in the newspaper business be expected to fill any such office? What right has the public to demand that these men's ideals shall be high, and that their business shall be conducted with a view to the interests of the state? Well, for one reason, because the press has voluntarily donned the garb of the public servant, and cannot complain if it be asked to sustain the character. But a higher reason is the vital one. To whom much is given, from him much is expected. We are our brothers' keepers. If wealth, authority and power are public trusts; if it be true that every unit in the great race-aggregate is under obligation to every other unit; if life carries in its train duties wider than personal concerns; if altruism has any basis in fact—and these propositions are not generally disputed—then the newspaper publisher, endowed temporarily, one might almost say accidentally, with power over the thoughts and lives of thousands, or tens of thousands, of his fellows, must accept his share, large though it be, of this communal duty. He cannot escape it. It is part and parcel of the enterprise he assumes when he buys his press and his type. He may do so unconsciously. He may imagine he is conducting the journal with an eye single to the main chance, and without regard to any particular moral principles or humanitarian duties. But every issue of his paper belies him, for even as vice pays tribute to virtue by assuming its garb, so every paper, be it never so vicious, makes constant pretence of striving after the public weal. Happily, this Pharisaism is the exception. The spirit of genuine devotion to the public service is animating, in ever-increasing numbers, the men who make the newspapers. The tradition that the press is the people's tribunal, the consciousness that the public relies on its vigilance and courage, the opportunities that offer for proving to the people that their confidence is not misplaced—all these have a tendency to cause the newspaper man to feel that there are rewards in life's game not to be measured in gold and silver. It may be true, as charged, that the men who make the papers are not always properly equipped for their work. All of them have not enjoyed the advantages of academical training, nor studied the mysteries of their calling at the feet of some Gamaliel of the press. But the atmosphere that surrounds the newspaper man provokes to high ideals and to consciousness of public duty. He comes to know men, to weigh them, and to judge them. He sees to the core of life. He learns a hearty contempt for cant, hypocrisy, and vanity. He grows to appreciate honesty and courage, and to base respect and honor on considerations higher than those of self or place. And so it may be that, after all, he is well equipped for the special work delegated to him.

Canadian journalism, then, is developing along safe and

honorable lines. Its sympathies are widening, its ideals rising, its moral tone strengthening. It is racy of the soil, and the constant efforts of its conductors should be to keep it so. Its individuality should be preserved. It must not be a feeble copy of United States journalism—sensational, superficial, unreliable—nor yet modelled after the British press, with pages devoted to scandal and crime, and all its news presented in the dullest of literary garb. The thoroughness and trustworthiness of the journalism of the British Isles, with the enterprise and brightness of that of the States, may well be grafted on the Canadian stock, but the stock itself must remain sturdily Canadian, with its roots sunk deep into our national life. There is a great work lying at the hand of the Canadian press. In this virgin land, crowded with infinite possibilities, is gathering a nation. What is to be writ large on the book of its history no man can foretell. But this we know, that if Canadians be but true to the glorious traditions of the races from which they sprung the record will not be one of shame. The book is already unfolding, and in the tale that must be written thereon the press has no unimportant part to play. It is for it to guide and counsel. From every side inspiration to high endeavor flows to it. It may lead the van of Canadian progress, and become a model to the mighty world. Within the hands of the men who control it lies the power of dedicating it to the service of the state, and of making the name of Canadian journalism a synonym throughout the world for courage, independence, and public spirit.

#### SEND FOR A BOOK.

Every Canadian printer should have a specimen book of the American Type Founders Co. Send to either the Dominion Type Founding Co., Montreal, or the Toronto Type Foundry, Toronto and Winnipeg, the agents for the big type company in Canada.

#### WANT A NEW DRESS.

It is understood that *Le Soir*, the new Montreal French evening paper, which has been using some of the old plant of *Le Monde*, is negotiating with several of the supply companies for an entirely new outfit. W. H. Welsh, the Boston agent of R. Hoe & Co., the celebrated printing-press manufacturers, is at present in Montreal in connection with the deal. He is registered at the St. Lawrence Hall.

#### MR. SCOTT'S NEW PAPER.

The first issues of *The Flag*, Mr. M. O. Scott's new weekly, published at Ottawa, for the dissemination of British news and British ideas in Canada, are highly creditable to the editor and publisher. It is a 16-page, 3-column paper, of *The Saturday Review* size, and has some illustrations, though the paper is almost wholly devoted to reading matter. There is nothing rabid in the tone or policy of the paper, and the first letter received after the issue of No. 1 was a year's subscription from Hon. Wilfrid Laurier. The editor appears to have no fads, and *The Flag* is presented in a light which will meet with approval from persons in both political parties. Mr. Scott shows sense in realizing early that the British cause in Canada is best promoted by unprejudiced and calm statements, whether of fact or argument. A great deal of conscientious work is put into each number of the new journal, and if its pecuniary resources are sufficient for the start, there is no reason why *The Flag* should not create for itself a prosperous constituency.