

and ask that section 18 of the Customs Tariff Act of 1897 be invoked for the purpose of ameliorating the existing conditions of the paper market. The exact wording of the motion was :

That the executive of the C. P. A. believe that a combine now exists among Canadian paper manufacturers, the effect of which is to unduly increase the price of news and printing paper, contrary to section 18 of the Customs Tariff Act of 1897. That this executive is prepared to submit witnesses and evidence in support of this statement, and we, therefore, respectfully ask that the Government order an investigation under section 18 and sub-sections of the Customs Tariff Act, 1897, with a view to ameliorating the existing condition.

It will be seen from this that the Canadian Press Association's executive have decided to challenge the question of the paper combine and leave the Government to apply the proper remedy. The paper manufacturers will, therefore, do well to dissolve their association and thus remove the ground of grievance. If, as is said on their behalf, that the association is not a combine for the purpose of unduly raising prices, and that in point of fact their schedule of prices is lower than some at which actual sales have been made, then they can remove all objection by dissolving. While PRINTER AND PUBLISHER does not favor the removal of a single article in the tariff in an arbitrary way, we must confess that when there is a shortage of any one article in the Canadian market, and the manufacturers of that article are found acting together in the closest fashion under an association, the feeling will naturally tend to make those affected impatient at the duty.

In order to maintain a protective tariff, it is necessary that there should be free internal competition, and anything that looks like restraint of competition will certainly beget hostility. If the papermakers do not look sharp there is going to be trouble.

A LOCAL GRIEVANCE.

The Chatham, N. B., World voices vigorously another grievance against the paper combine. It says they have "adopted a most unjust policy of discrimination against publishers in country towns. They agreed to pay freight on paper to St. John and Halifax, and not to pay it on paper to Chatham, Newcastle, Campbellton and other country towns, thus giving the city publisher an advantage of 32c. per 100 lb. over the country publisher. It makes no matter how large the quantity ordered by the country publisher, no matter whether it be a ton or a carload, he is discriminated against in this manner."

A PAPERMAN'S DEFENCE.

There appears in the The Globe's Montreal correspondence, May 18, an interview with "one of the largest manufacturers in the Dominion," who has been attending a meeting of papermakers for the purpose of increasing the prices of manila. He says the price of wood is the cause of the recent rise in prices. Low water has retarded operations in the forests, and the manufacturer now pays more for pulp wood, hemp, rags, machinery, etc., and very cheap paper cannot be expected again. This argument is inadequate. It is well-known that the largest Canadian paper manufacturers have made fortunes. By protection

the mills have held this market, and it is idle to talk as if we have been enjoying an era of "cheap paper," which must now pass away. Let there be free competition in this market, as far as paper is concerned, and we shall continue to pay reasonable prices.

EDUCATION IS NECESSARY.

THAT there will never be the money there ought to be in the printing business until the printer has been educated (by which we mean, taught to know the real value of the work he is turning out) is as true now as ever it was, says The Typothetæ and Platemaker. In fact, it is far more so, with the changed conditions in the trade that only exceptional printers have known how to meet. The great trouble with educating the printer who needs this process is that he does not know he needs it. If he did, his education would already have made considerable progress. But while he is stumbling along in darkness, cutting prices, taking away work from those who would charge a fair price for it, and turning it out for what is really about the cost, or perhaps a little less—while he is doing this, he is harming not only himself, but the trade generally, by making the customer think that work can be properly done at such prices. Hence the necessity of educating such printers without delay. As to the attainment of this desideratum, the present outlook would appear to be this :

1. There is a set of printers who will never learn, they will continue to underbid all competitors—do anything to "get the job"—until they have been closed out by the sheriff.
2. There is another set who are looking for a future, and who are anxious to learn exactly where they stand. If they will study good printing trade journals, and read the best books on economic and technical questions in their business, they will soon be in the front rank of printers who are working scientifically and who may hope to accumulate some money before they die.

3. Lastly, there are the young men who are now growing up in and learning the printing business. They will be the master printers of the immediate future.

Every employer should encourage those in his employ to read the trade journals, not begrudging the small price of a subscription, and to ask questions and learn something about the actual cost of the work he is handling. Then, when these young men cut loose from employment and start in business for themselves, their competition will not prove harmful. On the contrary, remembering the lessons that have taught them, they will help to be a bulwark and defense against the further spread of the price-cutting mania.

REMOVAL.

The Central Press Agency, Limited, have removed their headquarters from the World building, 83 Yonge street, to the new building of The Toronto Type Foundry Co., Limited, 72 York street, Toronto. They are now placing business in dailies for the Carling Brewing Co., Limited, the Dominion Radiator Co., Limited, the Gurney Foundry Co., Limited, and the Canada Cycle and Motor Co., Limited.