

A LECTURE ON JOURNALISM.

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IN the efficiency of its news service and the perfection of its mechanical equipment the press of Canada ranks with any press in the world. Perhaps few Canadians realize what an enormous field the chief Canadian papers cover, how heavy are the expenditures which rest particularly upon the morning journals, and how small and far-scattered is the population upon which they lean for support. We have in Canada a population of between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 of people. At least 1,500,000 of these are French, and furnish few subscribers to the journals that are printed in English. We are separated by vast distances from the eastern as well as from the western Provinces. We have to carry our despatches from the far Yukon goldfields, from the mining camps of British Columbia, from the cities on the Pacific and from the cities on the Atlantic—from all over a territory almost as vast as that of the United States, but with few great centres of population, and, therefore, with no hope that we can achieve the large circulations and earn the great revenues that are secured by the chief metropolitan journals of the Old World, or even of the more populous communities in the American Republic. We receive as much news by cable as the American journals, and we give more space than even the best of the British papers to events in the United States. If we profit somewhat through our connection with the American press agencies, we still enlarge our papers to find space for all this world news and meet the costs of editing, composition and distribution. Then the news tolls within our home field are heavy, for, as distances are great and population sparse, charges for services by wire are necessarily high, and we have also to maintain correspondents at important centres. To all this there is one other onerous burden to be added. While Ottawa has an excellent and enterprising local press, the population is much below that of Montreal or Toronto, and naturally, therefore, the chief newspapers of the country are not published at the Federal capital. We follow the British rather than the American system in our method of Parliamentary reporting, and hence the morning journals, and particularly those of Toronto, are under heavy expenditures during each session of Parliament. Some of these papers maintain a staff of four men at the capital during most of the time that Parliament is sitting, and, for four or five months of each year, send over the wires daily from 5,000 to 10,000 words of the proceedings of Parliament. On the delivery of an important budget statement, or in case of some other great debate of exceptional popular interest, there have come over the wires to each of the chief morning papers of Toronto as much as 20,000, or even 30,000, words of one day's debate in the House of Commons. Again, we follow closely on British lines in our system of reporting the speeches of political leaders when campaigning throughout the country; and here, also, charges that bulk high in a twelvemonth have to be met for telegraph tolls and for

traveling representatives of the various papers. Distances are so great and trains so few, comparatively, that we probably have to send a much greater proportion of our despatches by wire than is the case in England, for example, where probably the great dailies of Manchester and Birmingham are able to use the mails for the bulk of their London reports. In view of all these facts, it may fairly be said that the newspapers of Canada are discharging their important functions with exceptional enterprise and admirable public spirit, and we may safely conclude that it is not in journalism that the millionaires of Canada are made, and that it is not by journalists that the income tax is evaded. So far as I can learn, however, the salaries of Canadian journalists, when we consider the sparseness of our population and the very onerous conditions under which newspapers are published in this country, are fair, while wages paid in the mechanical departments compare very favorably with the wages paid in any other Canadian industry. There are no great financial places in the profession, as in banking or in the head offices of the great railway corporations, but there are at least a few places where the salaries reach in to the thousands, and, generally, the scale of remuneration tends upward, as there is a growing demand for men better equipped with the learning of the schools and better fitted for grappling with the world-problems that press for consideration and for solution here, as in all other free communities.

The useful qualifications for success in journalism are a steady courage, a sober common sense, hard study of social and economic conditions, a thorough grasp of the political issues of the time, particularly of one's own country, and a mastery of simple, easy, familiar English. The pioneer conditions under which so many of the active journalists of the country came from the printer's case are passing. Here, as elsewhere, the inexorable machine is developing a class of mechanical experts and altering the old relation between the mechanical and editorial departments. Then, social and material conditions grow always more complex, and the demand for specialists in journalism, as in all other modern enterprises, more imperative. We must look more and more to the universities, to the departments of English and the departments of political science, for the finished writers and trained thinkers who shall make the journalism of Canada a creditable literary product, and a sane, well-balanced, progressive force in public affairs. Nowhere can it be more true than in journalism that knowledge is power, and if the journalists of America had dipped deeper into history, into the science of practical economics, into the financial heresies of revolutionary France, into the strange and important social experiments of the second French Republic, into the restrictive social and economic legislation of early England, they would have a less profound faith in the omnipotence of Legislatures to give value to coin or direction to commerce, to determine the wages of labor or the profits of industry, to give divinity to human nature or create a Paradise by statute. One hears the fear expressed that the corporations and the capitalists are acquiring an undue control over the universities of the United States; but, however that may be, it is still true that the best economic work and the soundest economic thinking in that country are proceeding from the univer-