

# Newsprint Industry May Be In For Hot Controversy

By FORBES RHUDE  
Canadian Press Business Editor

The newsprint industry, subject of hot debate as it has been during the last 10 years, may be facing its biggest controversy. The argument was sparked by an announcement Oct. 18 by St. Lawrence Corporation, large Quebec producer, of a \$5 increase to \$131 a ton delivered in New York, effective Nov. 1.

Other producers as yet have announced no action. In the past a price change by one company has generally been followed by all. American and Canadian newspapers and newspaper organizations have voiced strong protests against any increase.

American publishers in 1954 bought 4,875,031 tons of Canada's total newsprint production of 5,984,207 tons and a general \$5 increase would increase total U.S. costs by more than \$24,000,000 on purchases in Canada. Canadian publishers in 1954 bought 420,896 tons and the increase would cost them more than \$2,000,000. This year's consumption is pointing higher.

SEE NO JUSTIFICATION

In the past Canadian publishers—though regretting increases—have shown sympathy with manufacturers' arguments that they needed money to meet higher costs and to rehabilitate the industry. They also tended to rally against what many considered "extravagant" charges directed at the producers from across the border.

This time, judging by comment to date, Canadian publishers do not seem to think the newsprint companies, with several prosperous years behind them, have made out a case for higher prices now.

St. Lawrence Corporation, in announcing its increase, said it has gone beyond its ability to absorb increasing costs and needs more money to increase production.

To this, Emil Castonguay of Quebec, president of the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association, replied that judging by the profit situation "there is no justification for increased newsprint prices at this time."

increases, but some concessions were won by Ontario and Quebec papers.

On June 5, 1951, with a \$10 increase pending, Premier Duplessis said Quebec newspapers as members of the public, and thus co-owners of Quebec forests, should have special price treatment. In what was interpreted as a threat of price control he added: "Control is best when it is self-control. When there is no self-control there may have to be another kind of control and I don't believe in that except when it is necessary."

The Ontario government, though it made no statement, also took a close interest.

**LOCAL PRICE CUTS**

The result was a new Quebec-Ontario formula, of chief practical value in Quebec, under which newspapers in newsprint-mill towns were given concessions of \$5 a ton and those outside mill towns were given decreasing concessions according to distance.

In mid-1952 another \$10 increase went into effect for United States newspapers, partly because of the decreased value of the American dollar, and later in 1952 announcements were made that a similar increase would be made in Canada.

Premier Duplessis again projected until after the federal government removed a 10-per-cent sales tax from newsprint in February, 1953. Savings from the sales tax about cancelled out the price increase.

Premier Duplessis said Thursday night that manufacturers and publishers "must reach some agreement and understand each other because justice and common sense have their rights everywhere."

"Newspapers are the canons of thought . . . and they must not be wrecked."

**CHARGE FOR DISTANCE**

Current newsprint price, disregarding the Nov. 1 St. Lawrence increase, is \$126 a ton delivered in New York.

Traditionally the Canadian base price, applicable in Quebec, Ontario and west to Winnipeg, is \$4 a ton below the New York figure, now \$122; and, since 1951, the Quebec-Ontario mill-town concession has been subtracted from this.

Atlantic provinces generally pay \$1 to \$2 more than the Winnipeg base price, and west of Winnipeg Pacific coast prices, based on a different set of economics, vary from eastern prices but become competitive with the eastern product at about Calgary and Edmonton.

All prices, however, are matters between individual companies and their customers and many variations are believed to exist.

**Murray River**

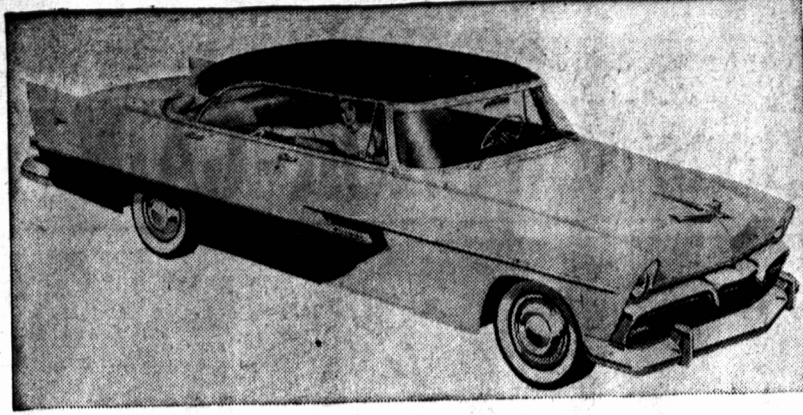
Mr. and Mrs. James MacDougall and son of Charlottetown were recent visitors to Murray River, guests of Mrs. MacDougall's sisters, Mrs. Carlette Beck and Mrs. Royal White.

Miss Florence MacLure, Charlottetown spent the holiday weekend in Dover, guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Palmace MacLure.

Friends of Miss Doris Lowe, are sorry to hear she is confined to her home. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lowe.

Mrs. Lilah Acorn, Mt. Herbert is spending her holidays at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred Rafuse and Mr. Rafuse, Murray River.

On Friday evening, Oct. 7, the congregation of Murray Harbour, Murray River and Little Sands United Churches, gathered in the Little Sands United Church, for the induction of their new minister, Rev. Mr. L. F. Wolfrey. Rev. Mr. Fraser of Montague opened the service and gave the charge to the pastor, Rev. Mr. MacKinnon of Valleyfield gave the charge to the people and Rev. Mr. Patterson of



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—Leading off the new line of Flight-styled Plymouth models for 1956 is the Plymouth Belvedere four-door hardtop shown here.

**Georgetown**

Jackie Publicover of the Canadian Army who is stationed at Utopia, N. B., was the weekend guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Publicover.

Dr. and Mrs. M. E. DeLory of Gotell, left last week for a Royal Canadian Air Force Training Center.

Mr. George Henry Saville of Fortune was a recent visitor to Georgetown.

Mr. Frank MacLean returned recently from Rustico, where he visited relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Morrissey, who have been honeymooning in the Province, left recently to return to Montreal.

Mr. John Hemphill, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, delivered the sermon. A social period was held in which all were given a chance to meet their new minister, his wife and young son. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the Little Sands congregation.

Available with Plymouth PowerFlite automatic transmission this year is Chrysler of Canada's new push-button control. Four selector buttons — Drive, Low, Neutral and Reverse

—are located to the left of the steering column and can be operated at the touch of a finger. A choice of two engines is offered . . . a six and a V-8.

Hemphill's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Hemphill.

Mr. Dominic Doiron of Rustico, is visiting in Georgetown, where he is the guest of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank MacLean.

Mr. Archie Lannigan of St. Mary's Road and Mr. Bernard Campbell of Gaspereaux were visitors to Georgetown on Tuesday.

L.S.A. Harold Dicks of the Royal Canadian Navy stationed at H. M. C. S. Stadacona in Halifax, N. S., is spending a month's leave in Georgetown as the guest of his parents, Captain and Mrs. Nelson Dicks.

Lt. Col. J. A. MacDonald returned to his home in Cardigan early in the week from a visit to Halifax, N. S.

**Freetown**

The members of the Freetown Branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union met at the home of Mrs. Eldon Drummond for their September meeting. The president, Mrs. Drummond, presided and besides members, several visitors were present. An interesting programme was presented. At the close of the business period films were shown. Lunch was served by the hostess. Next meeting to be with Mrs. George Jardine as hostess.

Miss Winnifred Burns has returned to Halifax N.S. after spending several days with relatives in Lower Freetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Burns and daughter Beverly left recently by car for Saskatchewan, where they will visit with Mr. Burns' sisters, Mrs. Cal Johnson and Mrs. Victor Simmonin. They plan to remain in the west for the month of October.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bagnall of Central Bedouque whose home was placed first in the Farm Home Improvement competition for Prince county. They received the Chief Justice Thane Campbell silver cup.

Friends regret to hear that Mrs. Emeline Hayes met with a severe accident recently when she fell at the home of her niece Mrs. Leslie Reeves, receiving a broken arm and other injuries. She was taken to Prince County Hospital where she received treatment. She is being cared for at the home of Mrs. Reeves.

Rev. G. A. Cowper-Smith of Bedouque was guest speaker at Freetown United Church on Sunday morning Oct. 16th. This was the

Thanksgiving service of the Women's Missionary society. The music was under the direction of Miss Mary I. Cairns, organist.

Mr. and Mrs. George Somers, formerly of Freetown, now of North Bay, Ontario, are spending a two weeks vacation with relatives in Freetown and Charlottetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Cairns had as their guests recently Mrs. Cairn's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Holmer of Brocton, Mass. Mrs. Holmer is the former Laura Burns of Lower Freetown.

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