

store for us is entirely problematical. At the best a slow and steady improvement is the most we can hope for. I am not sure that the time has not arrived for a general retrenchment in conducting business. During times of depression, within the memory of many members of this society, salaries and wages, without regard to position, have been reduced to meet emergencies. Without making any positive recommendations in this direction for the guidance of members of this body, it would be well to look the situation squarely in the face, compare notes, and, in the language of a modern statesman, see "where we are at."

The Pittsburg strike was practically ended at the time of our last meeting, though it is only a few weeks since the workmen, from sheer exhaustion, declared this memorable struggle at an end. To our Pittsburg members who ably and successfully resisted the unjust demand of the Union, we owe the congratulations of this body. The result was a foregone conclusion from the beginning. The great expense to the workmen, and the untold suffering and deprivation which attended this struggle, were spent and endured for naught. Peaceful means of adjusting differences between employes and workmen have always been more efficacious than force and arbitrary demands.

The question at issue before the courts of Pennsylvania was decided in favor of the Pittsburg Hypothec. The decision of the Supreme Court of that state was printed and distributed to the members of this body as a matter of information.

The special committee appointed by resolution, found on page 122 of the Journal, whose duty it is to devise ways and means to carry the legal questions involved in the Pittsburg strike to the highest courts, will make a report at this session. The committee reports that the money received has been ample for the purpose, leaving a balance on hand, though the burden has been carried by comparatively few local bodies. This is unjust to those who stepped forward so promptly. The case was decided while the subscriptions were in the course of collection. Many Hypothec did not subscribe, others subscribed and did not pay. I recommend that a special committee be appointed to consider this matter, and suggest as a good plan that they complete the subscription and ask from each local body its fair proportion, based on subscriptions already raised. These amounts can be added to the balance on hand, and the total sum placed in the hands of the executive committee, to be used as occasion may warrant.

There is a report due at this season from a special committee upon the apprentice system, composed of Messrs. Waddy, Donnelly and Bates. I trust the convention will arrive at some definite conclusion soon, as the matter has been discussed since the organization of the body. There appears to be a wide diversity of opinion upon the subject. It is held that the binding out of apprentices for a term of years is a relic of feudalism, and consequently a specie of servitude, and is entirely out of harmony with the broad liberality of American institutions. But the merits of this view cannot be touched upon in this report. When the question comes before the convention we will have to consider whether the system as practised in Europe is adapted to the prevailing ideas of this country, whether it can be carried out practically and beneficially, and, if decided in the affirmative, this body after such prolonged and intelligent consideration, should recommend its practice.

The committee on standard measurement of type will make a report during this session. This is a subject of great importance to the trade, and the committee has given it the care and

attention it deserves. It is conceded by all, workmen as well as master printers, that the present system is faulty and unjust to both. The plan which pays the workman so much money for a given number of types set and justified in his composing stick, whether lean or fat in body, is so manifestly right that it is surprising that any opposition is manifested on the part of either side. I trust this body will carefully consider the report, and, with the very intelligent handling of the subject at our last session, be amply prepared to take action on the proposed change.

My attention has been called to the consolidation of type foundry interests in this country during the past year or two, and at one time the situation appeared to be a menace to the interests of the trade. But the Conservative course lately pursued by the consolidated company, and the low rate on type and other material made by them, seem to indicate no immediate danger. The independent foundries are large and prosperous, and while they continue in this condition, there appears to be no cause for this body to take action in the premises.

On November 5th, last year, I was notified of the sudden death of Mr. Howard Lockwood, of New York, one of the pioneers of our organization, and a man whose personality is stamped in strong characteristics on its early history. Your chairman was closely associated with him at our first session in this city, and calls to mind his wise and conservative counsel in the primitive stages of the society.

The news of this sad event brought forth expressions of profound regret from our members, to whom the deceased had endeared himself by his social worth and his strong personal magnetism. Mr. Lockwood always impressed me as a man of rare ability, thoroughly a master of his business, and firm, but just, in dealing with those in his employ. At a suggestion of the chairman of the executive committee I appointed a committee to draft a suitable eulogy to the memory of our distinguished brother, to be submitted at this session.

A few weeks ago I received a communication from our Secretary, Mr. Wm. C. Rogers, of New York, resigning his official position in this organization, on account of business matters. I endeavored to persuade him to recall his decision, but was not successful. It is due to Mr. Rogers in this connection, to say that his motive in withdrawing from his official position, though not, in my opinion, at all imperative, was eminently creditable to him, and made solely in the interest of the association. As the time for the annual session was rapidly approaching, at the suggestion of Mr. Rogers, I wired Mr. Everett Wadley, of Richmond, asking if he would accept an emergency appointment as secretary for the unexpired term. I was pleased to receive a prompt and favorable response, and congratulate the convention on having again secured the services of our esteemed friend from Richmond, thus preventing the confusion which might have resulted if a less experienced hand had undertaken, at so late a day, to conduct this important office.

Membership in many of the local bodies have been extended to include paper dealers, type founders, supply houses, etc. While this latitude may be very pleasant in social meetings, and, in fact, it is both pleasant and profitable to cultivate the kindest feelings between the master printers and kindred branches, there should be a limit to this commingling where questions affecting the vital interests of the master printer are discussed and decided. I would recommend that subordinate bodies be requested to provide for two classes of members,