

one-half the work that is now done in printing offices is done, and must always be done, by thinking, trained, and intelligent men, who do not work by rote, as the machine does. Men of this class will always be in demand; will always be more efficient in their field than any machine. That these men will get better pay, more steady employment, and higher consideration, goes without saying, but these improvements of condition will not be made in a year, or even in a few years.

The improvements that are now temporarily damaging to the compositor have been felt, and are now felt in the same way, and often to a greater extent, by their employers. Three times within the last thirty-three years our house has had to turn out its machinery. Presses that cost \$3,000 were often sold for \$500. They were not worn out; they were still capable of doing good service, but they were too small and too slow for the altered conditions of business. No doubt, these changes will go on indefinitely. Content as we may be with the types and machinery that we now have, the time is coming, and is not far off, when most of our cylinders will have to be supplanted by those that are more efficient. It is even possible that on some forms of composition the art of typesetting will be practically abolished. It may be that in the coming century all our children will be taught shorthand along with the Roman alphabet. It may be that the authors of books, or editors of newspapers, instead of writing out their copy, may talk to the phonograph, and this phonograph may be transmuted by typewriters into a readable shorthand, and this shorthand may be photo-engraved and electrotyped and sent to press and printed without the use of a single type. Stranger things have happened. I can even imagine the possibility of the Web press and all forms of press-work being abolished, and the typewritten copy printed by some cheap and quick system of photography. When Mr. Bellamy's Paradise on earth is established, we surely shall have all the improvements. Perhaps the operators of typesetting machines and the compositors of the next century may join with their employers, and all go on a strike for the restoration of their discarded art. Perhaps they may petition the Legislature for a pension. I hope not, for I must continue to think that, under all circumstances, the man will be more than the machine, and will adapt himself to any emergency.

PRIVATE DISCUSSION.

It is suggested by a member of the Canadian Press Association that some provision should be made at the forthcoming meeting in Toronto for private discussion between publishers. It is quite clear that there are some matters that cannot be discussed with absolute frankness when the views a man utters are to go into print. He will not, he cannot, be frank, under these circumstances. That valuable body, the American Publishers' Association, invariably holds its meetings in camera, and, when the door is tiled, there is a freedom from restraint which brings out very valuable experiences from the members, who would not care to have their private business go on the record. Besides, there are some subjects which cannot be aired properly within earshot of the public. How can we discuss gravely the chances of getting more money out of the public when the public is looking on? There is the case of libel. Why should we give pointers to legal shysters on the weakness of the libel law? It is worth considering whether arrangements should be made at the forthcoming meeting of the Press Association for some private discussions.

MONTH'S NEWS IN BRIEF.

THE following have been elected officers and directors of the new company owning The Quebec Chronicle: Hon. John Sharples, president; J. T. Ross, vice-president; David Watson, secretary-treasurer; Horace Wallis, managing director. Directors: Hon. V. W. Larue, C. A. Pentland, Q.C., and J. Breaky.

J. K. Monro, late of The Toronto Telegram, is editing The St. Thomas Journal.

The libel suit of Nase vs. The St. John Progress, ended in a verdict of \$300 against the paper.

The libel suit against W. C. Nichol, of The Vancouver Province, has been adjourned, owing to the absence in England of Hon. Mr. Turner, the ex-premier of British Columbia.

James Brierley and John F. McKay, of The Montreal Herald, have been committed for trial, reserving their defence, in the criminal libel suit brought by Chief of Police Hughes.

Richard O'Bryan, publisher of Montreal Town Topics, was sent to jail for a month and bound over to keep the peace for a year for publishing an immoral paper. O'Bryan was convicted several years ago of a libel upon Prince George of Wales, and was then let go on suspended sentence.

Mr. Livingstone, editor of The Klondyke Miner, Dawson City, was in Ottawa lately on his way to England. Mr. Livingstone established his paper a few months ago, and sells it at 25c. per copy. Mr. Livingstone was formerly the editor of a paper in the Ballarat (Australia) goldfields.

Isaac Wilson has sold The Glengarran, of Alexandria, and returns to Cobourg as owner of The Sentinel-Star. The Cobourg World, also, comes under new ownership and management, Mrs. Williams and her daughter selling it to T. B. Lapp, J.P., of Baltimore, with whom Mr. James, of The Bowmanville Statesman, is associated.

ENGLISH PAPERS NINETY YEARS AGO.

In 1816 the circulation of The London Times was only 8,000 copies, and it paid a stamped duty to the Government of £900 a week. It was almost impossible to obtain trustworthy intelligence. Government officials were so jealous of newspaper influence that they placed every obstacle in the journalist's way. It seems that the "funny man" of the American newspaper world was preceded by a similar character in England: An author was kept who was bound to furnish daily a number of witty paragraphs at the rate of 6d. a joke, the length of no paragraph exceeding seven lines. The reports of Parliamentary proceedings were garbled to suit the politics of the particular journal, while scarcely any leading articles, as a general rule, appeared. Such distinguished men as Leigh Hunt and Coleridge wrote for the London press in the early days of the century.

ENLARGING THEIR BUILDING.

Increase of business has forced the Hamilton firm of Buntin, Gillies & Co. to enlarge their premises. As there was no room to spread out, they had to add an additional storey to their building. This space was very much needed, but the firm expect now to be able to carry on their fast increasing business with more convenience than in the past.