

dian Press Association, and a couple of months ago was elected its president by a unanimous vote. Mr. Pirie married the eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph McCausland, of Jarvis St., Toronto. He has become as popular in Dundas and the Wentworths as he was and is in Toronto where so many years of his life were spent, and it is a safe prediction that he will yet become as prominent and influential in politics as he is in journalism.

TYPE-SETTING MACHINES

To the Editor of Printer and Publisher:

DEAR SIR,—In several issues of your excellent publication, which is so interesting to the craft generally, I have read articles concerning type-setting machines, but most newspaper men have not, as yet, got as much information as they would like about them. When were they invented, and where? What offices in Canada use them? How long will a machine last? What is the average day record? You say it will not pay for a weekly paper to buy one. How is that? If a machine sets twenty columns of matter in a week, which is just the exact number of columns some weekly papers set, why will it not pay to get the machine to set it? Have the machines passed the "experimental" stage, and are they now a success beyond peradventure? These are some of the questions many a newspaper man "down by the sea" who has never seen the machines would like to have answered.

Yours fraternally,

Pictou, N. S., March 13.

ALBERT DENNIS

Inventors have been struggling with type-setting machines for about two score years, and many of the earlier products in this line are stowed away in a room in the Linotype factory in Brooklyn, N. Y. The Linotype and the Typograph are the only type-setting machines known in Canada, as they are in operation in several offices. The Linotype was formerly known as the Mergenthaler, so named after its inventor. About ten years ago a new company was organized for perfecting the machine, and then its name was changed. It is said that fully a million dollars have been spent in bringing the machine into its present condition. The Typograph, or as it is sometimes called, the Rogers, is some four or five years on the market, but like its competitor is being improved from time to time. The Linotype is operated in the *Toronto Globe*, *Montreal Herald*, *Hamilton Spectator* and in the Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa. The Typograph is used in the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Mail*, *Empire*, *Presbyterian*, *Grocer* and *Evening News*, Toronto. The life of either of the machines is an unknown quantity at present, although the *New York Tribune* has now in operation some of the Mergenthalers that were built about a dozen years ago, and which are claimed by certain of the

operators to be superior to the new ones. To all appearances the Typograph will last longer than the Linotype, there being much less delicate and intricate machinery in its construction. The Linotype is a handsome piece of machinery, and no mean monument to the brainy man who yet lives to see his wonderful invention gradually superseding hand composition. It is claimed for the Linotype that it can set from five to eight thousand ems an hour, but the lower figure has never been reached in Canada, except on a spurt and then by an expert. The Typograph agents claim that their machine will produce from three to five thousand ems an hour, and that that product can now be exceeded by the recent introduction of a new top. Under former conditions the average operator could not exceed two thousand an hour, the majority of them dropping below that figure. It is our opinion that the publisher of a weekly will not find either of these machines profitable. To run the machine by hand is a slow process, whereas if the best results are desired power is required, and in addition a steady heat, such as given by gas, is an absolute necessity to keep the metal in proper condition. These items may not cost much per week, but the greatest possible cost to be considered is the adjustment of the machines. With all the simplicity of construction in favour of the Typograph it would not be prudent to commit it to the care of a good operator only unless he had an intimate knowledge of the machine, and was something of a mechanic as well. At times the *Globe* kept two machinists on their staff to look after the machines, while an expert machinist is employed to keep the various Typographs in this city in working order. As mechanical constructions the machines may have passed the "experimental" stage, but as profitable accessories to a printing plant they have yet to demonstrate their usefulness and economy. As already stated improvements have been recently made in the top of the Typograph, which indicates that the inventor is only experimenting, and it may be possible that the fertile brain of Mergenthaler is conjuring some further improvement for the Linotype. The machines can produce composition at a certain rate, but what that rate is we in Canada do not yet know from actual experience. It has been stated by an official in the Dominion Printing Bureau, Ottawa, that the cost of running one Linotype equals the wages of four men, while the product falls below that of four average compositors. The matrices of the machines are costly, and in a future issue their durability or wearing power will be referred to.—Ed. P. and P.]

THE dinner of the Irish Journalists, which took place in this city on March 18, was a decided success, the orator of the evening being Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P.