

**MR. WILLISON ON "CANADIAN JOURNALISM."**

THE lecture on "Journalism in Canada," by Mr. J. S. Willison, editor of *The Globe*, formed one in the course delivered to the students of Victoria University by several prominent persons. Mr. Willison began with an interesting historical survey of the newspaper field in England and then in Canada, and having made some generous allusions to the prominent men who have figured in Canadian journalism, passed on to a brief outline of the conditions which reign in newspaperdom here to-day.

The foundations thus laid for his argument, Mr. Willison proceeded to handle the subject with force and fluency, exhibiting a clear insight into the principles that govern the management and enhance the influence of the press. In his view the editorial page would grow in dignity and importance, while the old doctrine of editorial infallibility would perish. A danger that newspaper despotism would lead to attempts at legislative control was pointed out. "The great fault of the Canadian press," Mr. Willison continued, "has been that it was political rather than national, and one of the most hopeful signs for Canada at this hour is that in the main it tends to become national rather than political." A strong defence, however, of political journalism was made, based upon the ability, acute intelligence, and superior information of the members of the press. The mere party organ was condemned, and the lecture concluded with a moderate but forcible vindication of the usefulness, honesty and courage of the Canadian press.

The limits of space in this journal prevent the publication of Mr. Willison's able lecture, and no summary does adequate justice to its logical force and cogent reasoning. It was incomparably the best exposition of journalistic policy that has been delivered in Canada during the sixteen years I have been associated with the press. I am unfitted to offer an unprejudiced view of *The Globe's* political opinions, because I dissent from them. But, from the newspaper standpoint alone, it is surely unquestionable that Mr. Willison has put into practice, as far as any vigorous journalist can do, the principles he enunciated in this lecture: moderation of statement, toleration of view, accuracy in giving news and a very considerable freedom from rabid partisanship. A recent incident has shown that *The Globe* does not shrink from a painful duty, that of stern denunciation of a man who will say under the shelter of Parliamentary privilege what dare not be said outside. Such a deplorable abuse of a privilege does not occur once in a decade. When it does, exceptional remedy is required. Because if we allow public men to assert—where the law cannot touch them—that we are corrupt and purchasable, all our passionate asseverations of innocence will be in vain. *The Globe* stands for the honor and influence of the press, at no time more effectively than in the hour of emergency, when a weak submission to the insulting taunts of a political friend might have placed an everlasting stigma on journals that have the courage of conviction.

A. H. U. COLQUHOUN.

**DEATH OF MR. WATERS.**

Mr. P. J. Waters, editor and proprietor of *The Ridgeway Standard*, died at his residence there April 19. The deceased gentleman had only been a resident of the town a comparatively short time, having gone there from Bothwell in the early part of 1896, having purchased *The Standard* from Mr. Wesley. He

was a stalwart Liberal in politics, and was prepared to defend the principles of his party both through the columns of his paper and on the stump. He took a very active interest in the June elections, and assisted the cause of the Liberals very materially. In religion he was a Roman Catholic.

**CANADIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.**

THE secretary, Mr. J. A. Cooper, reports that up to the present month of 1897 he has issued twelve more certificates to members than were issued the whole of last year. It seems probable that the association will show a good increase in membership this year.

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A copy of the annual report has been mailed to each member. If anyone should have failed to receive his copy, the secretary, on notification, will send another. A new feature in the list of members is that the number of the certificate is placed opposite the name. There is, it seems, quite a competition as to who shall get certificate No. 1. The early bird this year is Mr. John Ross Robertson, M.P., who was the first to renew.

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There were no amendments to the libel law proposed at the recent short session of the Ontario Legislature. Mr. Pattullo has promised to take the matter up this year and amendments will be ready for the session of 1898. Unless the Legislature meets very early in the year, the association will have assembled in annual session and perhaps a large deputation can be arranged to wait upon the Government.

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Among the new members of the association are S. J. Cooley, *Trenton Press*; J. S. Robertson, editor, and Chas. Robertson, manager, of *Business*, Toronto; James Fisher, *Leamington News*; C. A. Lapp, *Brighton Ensign*.

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The president of the association, Mr. MacLean, is going to England next month. While there he ought to look into the incorporated organizations of journalists there and be able to tell us next year exactly what those bodies have done for the newspaper business and how they are conducted.

**SALE OF TIMBER.**

The Quebec Government advertises for Wednesday, April 28, at the Department of Lands, Forests and Fisheries, a sale of timber limits in the Upper and Lower Ottawa, the St. Francis, St. Maurice, Montmagny, Grandville, Metapedia, Rimouski, Bonaventure, Gaspé, St. Charles, Lake St. John, and Saguenay districts. Also the water power at the rapids and falls called Des Chats, upset price, \$35,000, and the water power at the Grand Calumet Falls, upset price, \$6,900.

**EXCHANGE YOUR OLD CUTTER FOR A NEW ONE.**

The fin-de-siecle rule and lead cutter is the improved Little Giant. Besides the standard gauge on the bed for cutting to twelve-point ems, this cutter has a gauge extending in front of the knife, also graduated to ems. The strip of lead or rule is fed up to this gauge and the pieces as cut fall out of the way. No well-regulated office will be without one of these cutters. Beware of worthless imitations. (Advt.)