

who, in addition to shorthand speed, and ability to read his notes readily, either writes neat longhand or can operate the type-writer. This desire arises from the increased competition in business, one firm bending all its energies towards coping with and eclipsing, if possible, its rival in the same line. It is quite evident, therefore, that unless hard times come down on the commercial community with a crash, there will be a steadily increasing demand for competent shorthanders—using this term as a compromise between phonographer and stenographer. In connection with this development of the shorthand profession comes the question of salaries. Those in Canada range from \$6 to \$20 per week; and the comparison is instituted between this rate of salary and the wages of the laboring man. No doubt the balance is in favor of the laboring man, when any less salary than \$10 per week comes into question; but it must be remembered that the young men who receive less than that are not fitted by physical development or mental education for manual labor, and their ambition as well as capacity lies in the direction of literary work. Many of them use shorthand as a means of progress in education, and salary is a secondary object with them. Others, who start on a low salary, take into consideration the fact that they are gaining business knowledge and experience worth a great deal of money to them; hence it is not difficult to find shorthand writers who will take positions at the figures named, and who are at the same time competent to do the work required of them. At present the demand is mostly for young men who, while being able to write and correctly transcribe from 100 to 125 words per minute, are also willing to take routine and office duties, such as invoicing, entering, etc. In the course of time there will be a change in this respect, and business men will learn that they are losing money when they keep their shorthand writers employed at other duties than the technical ones that no others can do. As to salaries, they will increase with the demand, for the best men will come to the front and will be constantly receiving better offers, so that the business man will have to face the alternative of increasing the salary of his favorite shorthand writer, who has thoroughly learned his ways and wants, or being annoyed by training a novice in the technicalities of his business.

The Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario (Hon. Adam Crooks), is a firm believer in shorthand, both as an educating and money-making art-science. He has recently announced his intention of re-modelling the school regulations so as to render the instruction in the High and Common Schools, as well as the Normal School for teachers, more practical and in keeping with the demand of the age. At our suggestion, he has inserted a clause in the regulations, making Shorthand an optional study in the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes of the Province; and he has also amended

the regulations relating to Mechanics' Institutes, so that the Government grant will be allowed when evening classes are conducted in Shorthand. This amendment, however slight it may appear, will prove to be a great boon to school teachers, and phonographers who have the gift of teaching, as it will enable them to increase their salaries by means of engagements as shorthand tutors. To the pupils in the schools referred to, and the young men and women in our Provincial towns, who wish to devote their evenings to the study of shorthand, the introduction of the subject in the programme of studies in Mechanics' Institutes will be of incalculable benefit, enabling them to secure, at the minimum of cost, the maximum of benefit in the form of practical knowledge of the most valuable art-science which any young man, and especially any student, could master. We have no doubt that our progressive Boards who control the schools and Mechanics' Institutes, will take advantage of this amendment, and organize large classes during the coming winter. We shall be happy to furnish any information in our power, and to offer suggestions as to teachers, etc. We have no doubt our suggestion to the Minister of Education will lead to important developments in connection with our educational system. The readiness which Mr. Crooks has shown to adapt the regulations of his department to the real needs of the age, is evidence—if any were wanting—that he will be prepared in due time to place Shorthand on the list of subjects for Common Schools; and then we shall be much nearer the Orthographic Millennium than we now are. The phonic method of instruction in reading already has a place in some of our schools. Let this be supplanted by pure phonetics, and then, with phonography added, our boys and girls will leave school with a thorough mastery of fundamentals which will enable them to learn anything. The present "cramming" system is evil, and only evil, and that continually. What Common-School pupils need is to be thoroughly furnished mentally so that they can acquire knowledge in any branch or profession for which they have natural adaptation. We wish Mr. Crooks all success in the Herculean task before him of remodelling our school system.

In a recent sermon Dr. Talmage said: "The Christian newspapers will be the right wing of the Apocalyptic angel; the cylinders of the Christian printing press will be the front wheels of the Lord's chariot." The *Chicago Inter-Ocean* claims to rank as a Christian newspaper, and gives this invitation:—If any one has the curiosity to see a fine assortment of the aforesaid front wheels in motion, he or she may call at the *Inter-Ocean* office at 4 o'clock every morning, except Sunday, or at any time Tuesday of each week, when the 100,000 edition of the Weekly is printed.