

been made by well-known houses established for a long series of years. Of late, however, other inks are creeping into use, and efforts are occasionally made to introduce the products of unknown or inexperienced makers. There is a tendency to try every new ink brought along by agents. One person is taken by the colour and another with the fluidity of an ink and, without any real knowledge or even thought of the importance of the matter, each tries to have some favourite ink introduced into his office. There is doubtless much writing which is ephemeral in interest, and might be written in fugitive ink without detriment to the public service, but an ink once introduced into an office is apt to be used for everything without discrimination.

Typewriting Ink.

"The typewriting machine is fast superseding the art of writing by hand and, day by day, is extending in new directions, so that, not only letters, but deeds and notarial documents of all kinds are now written by typewriters. It is therefore important to inquire whether these documents are or are not permanent.

"Up to a certain point the answer is simple. All typewriting inks of green, red, violet and other such fancy colours and many blues are evanescent, and whatever is done in these inks will need to be rewritten, or will perish in the course of comparatively few years. Writing ink made of salts of iron, even if badly made, may, when faded, be restored by suitable processes; but these typewriting inks when faded will have disappeared beyond hope of restoration. It is needless to point out that the use of inks not known to be permanent should be forbidden in the preparation of all documents of record.

"During the last year I had under my notice a crucial instance of the different behaviour of inks under a severe test. In the fire at the West Block two letter books belonging to the Department of Militia were injured. Both were charred at the edges and had been thoroughly soaked with water to an equal degree. The signatures and all letters, in both books, which had been copied from writing ink were perfectly good and legible. The durability of good writ-

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