

those charming surprises which seem to be the order of the day. It is not, therefore, meet that we who live in this dense darkness should wonder whether the Government at Ottawa, which we have supported so long and so faithfully, and from which we receive so little advertising and so few shrievalties, jailorships, etc., has consented to carry the Ontario Fourth Estate, without charge, over those long lines of rails which John Haggart says are capable of being used profitably. Nor is it meet that we should wonder whether our old play-fellow, Bill Callaway, or our titled acquaintances, Sir N. J. Power and Sir D. McNicoll, have done anything better than that miserable two cents per mile which we enjoy, and say "Thank you!"

But I am going to take in the excursion, anyway. I have arranged with the office boy to write my editorials for two weeks, and a friend of mine, a lawyer, who has an office next door, will estimate on all work which may come in during my absence. As the farmers are busy hoeing potatoes and carrots,

I do not expect many of them will be in to pay their subscriptions while I am away.

If it is not too late, I would like to make one or two suggestions. I think we should have Aberdeen meet us at Montreal and spend a few hours with us. This meeting would make a good local for our papers and would help to get votes at the next municipal election. Then, at St. John they have, I understand, a Press Club. This should be exhibited for our benefit. I have read about the ones they have down in Texas, especially the one in The Arizona Kicker office, but I have never seen a genuine Canadian one. My subscribers are not quarrelsome, so I have never really needed one. Then at Halifax, I would like to have a talk with Evangeline, for I have heard a lot about her and that fellow Longfellow. Moreover, a few genuine "Blue-noses" should be got together for inspection. Most of the people in our village have red noses, and I would like to see a blue one for a change. Then the Executive—but perhaps these suggestions are impertinent. However, I hope we will have a good time.



NEWSPAPER SLOT MACHINE.

The Montreal Herald has been making great gains in circulation, and at least part of the increase must be due to a new patent contrivance which is something distinctly new in the publishing trade. This is nothing less than a circulation slot machine. You put one cent in the slot, and out comes a copy of your Herald. The machine has been invented in The Herald office. It is quite simple and easily constructed. When improved it ought to do much to revolutionize the circulation and distribution of newspapers. At present The Herald has about 25 of the machines in use, posted in a number of conspicuous places throughout the city of Montreal, and in many of the railway stations at the summer resorts near Montreal. The results in circulation are already being felt, and the slot boxes are believed to capture readers who are not prone to buy from other sources. The boxes have not affected street sales or

the demand at the news-stands. In fact the patrons of the slot seem to be extra readers which are being added to The Herald's list. The boxes are constructed of a hard durable wood; they hold from 50 to 60 papers each, and when the last copy is withdrawn the legend "all sold" appears. There is one just outside the office of the paper on Craig street which has to be filled three and four times a day, while purchasers still find their way inside the office. The boxes are filled by a man who makes the rounds and returns at close of day with those papers left over. As a set off against the cost of this service, the publishers get full price for all papers sold by this device. While liable to the frauds for which all these slot machines afford some opportunity, The Herald's new contrivance is a clever one, both in design and execution, and reflects credit upon the inventive genius and enterprise of the establishment.



MORE REDUCTIONS IN LABOR.

NEWS TAKEN FROM TELEGRAPH INSTRUMENT BY MACHINE OPERATOR—A MACHINE TO DO EIGHT MEN'S WORK.

EDITORS are, like typos, being pushed to the wall. On May 27 a unique and successful experiment was made at Louisville, Ky. A press telegram report was taken from the wire directly by the operator of a type-setting machine. One of the press loops was run into The Evening Post composing rooms, and B. C. Boyle, managing editor of The Post, and R. Cogan, chief operator of the Associated Press, who are both telegraph and Linotype operators, succeeded in receiving the despatches of the Associated Press and putting them in type directly from the wires. The experiment made proves that the telegraph wire can be worked successfully with type-setting machines, and a maximum rate of speed of fifty words may be obtained.

But a still more startling discovery comes from Germany, in the way of a new type-setter. It is built on two different models

—one called the Autotype, and the other the Plectrotype. These machines compose, justify and distribute different fonts of type automatically and by electricity respectively. Each machine, it is claimed, will set more than twice what can be set by a Linotype, and only one operator, assisted by a boy, is required to watch seven or eight machines. That is, eight machines and one man will do the work of 64 hand compositors.

For the Autotype the copy is prepared by a special typewriter, which makes up the justified lines with perforated characters. Here all corrections and alterations are made. When the copy is ready for composition, the tape is introduced into a contact apparatus, which may be situated at any distance from the machine, the connection being effected by electric wires. Thus, the copy may remain in the editorial rooms,