

proofs. It must be remembered that newspaper copy is given out in small "takes, and the comp. is placed at a disadvantage with such copy, it having neither beginning nor ending, save "even lines."

A STRONG effort is being made over the border to reduce the hours of work in printing offices, and much is being said on both sides by keen advocates. It is possible for Union men, who are honest in their intentions to secure a greater number employment by cutting down existing hours, to injure unionism. Where non-Union offices exist, and consequently where Union regulations would not be observed, a reduction of hours without a corresponding reduction of wage, would certainly work injuriously against the employers of Union labor. Every honest workman should have some consideration for his employer, and not make a move that would throw business into the hands of those who are opposed to Unionism.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Inland Printer* favors a new departure by job printers, as he asserts that the job printer of the future, if he aims at success, must be a natural born artist. The new idea is the use of illustrations in many styles of job work. While there may be something in his assertion is it not possible for a tasty printer to produce a very attractive as well as an artistic job with the products of a type foundry? Illustrations have their recognized place, and unless they are used with judgment many jobs would bear a striking resemblance to a dime museum programme. There are certainly some classes of work that would bear embellishment by some other artist than a compositor, but if the customer desired such work he would probably take it to a lithographer.

MEASUREMENT OF TYPE

A CONFERENCE was held not long since in New York of representatives of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, the United Typotheta, the International Typographical Union and the Type Founders, to discuss the standard of type measurement. The following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

"WHEREAS, The present manner of remuneration for type composition, owing to the system of measurement, is unjust and inequitable for both employer and employee; and WHEREAS, Differences capable of adjustment exist between the employing printer, the compositor, the publisher and the typefounders, therefore, be it Resolved, That the lower case alphabet of all faces of body type shall not measure less than fifteen lower-case letter m's of its own face; that the thirteen letters of the alphabet most frequently used—c d e i s m n h o u t a z—shall equal the length of the remaining thirteen letters of the alphabet."

The meaning of the above is that the old system of measurement by em quads will be abandoned, the letter m being substituted for the em quad. The conference arrived at its conclusions without difficulty. This is probably the first time in the history of the country that there has been a meeting of the employers, employees and manufacturers on an equal footing to adjust trade differences with results so satisfactory and harmonious.

THE RIVAL MACHINES

THE financial product of the Linotype and Rogers type-setting machines is yet an unknown quantity. There is no trouble experienced in procuring figures, but certain matters should be considered and deductions made before satisfactory conclusions can be reached. What publishers want to find out is not the actual output of the machines, but the cost per thousand, and before that can be ascertained the cost of repairs, of power and gas, wages of machinists, etc., must be considered. These items should be taken into account as carefully as the wages of the operator, and the publisher who overlooks them when considering the purchase or rental of a machine makes a grave mistake. In the printed matter sent forth by those interested in the machines we frequently find the product of a few experts given. This is often misleading. The representatives of the machines naturally enough present the best case they can, and doubtless have no intention to mislead anyone, but they should give us the product of the average operator, and not the one whose nimble fingers enable him to outstrip his less fortunate workman.

From figures supplied by the *Globe*, of this city, where Linotypes are in use, we find that one operator put up 117,300 ems in forty-two hours, while another reached 183,400. The first man averaged 2,785 ems an hour, while the latter reached 4,343 ems. In the same week at Ottawa, where the Rogers machines are working, one operator set in seven hours 23,000, being followed by another who put up 20,000. The average of the former per hour was 3,287 ems, and of the latter 2,857. While these figures are very satisfactory as far as the actual product of individual operators is concerned, yet it would be more satisfactory were we assured that the matter was corrected and that there were no breakages or accidents. It would also afford satisfaction were we given the proportionate share each operator bore of the wages of the machinist, cost of power and gas, and then the prospective purchaser could add to these items the interest on capital invested. By all means give us full returns, such figures that will enable the publisher to accurately count the cost of introducing a needed invention.