

two others cast from the same pattern, with this change: the pattern was cut, down so that the diameter of the bearing at this place was two and seven eighths inches; all the rest the same. These four shafts were then turned in a lathe to a diameter of two and four tenths inches, which is the diameter of this broken shaft. Besides, I had two other shafts cast—(This part of the answer was objected to by Mr. Ives, and, after some discussion between counsel, was withdrawn.)

Q. Go on with the four.

A. The two shafts that were cast from the original pattern, and cut down to two and forty one one hundredths, broke with a weight, that is, a mean weight, of 3295 pounds, at one foot from the bearing. The two that were cast two and seven eighths inches in diameter, and cut down to the same size, to two and forty one one hundredths, broke with a weight or strain of 3296 pounds at one foot from the bearing; that was the mean between the two.

(CIRCULAR.)

TO THE SHORT-HAND WRITERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The importance of organization being generally recognized by our profession, it has been suggested that a Convention of Short-hand Writers be held in Chicago, Ill., on the 1st of September, 1881, for the purpose of effecting a National Organization of the Short-hand Writers of the various States, in order that the interests of our profession may be protected and advanced.

Correspondence upon the subject is solicited, and may be addressed to

GEO. W. BOYDEN,

Sec'y Nebraska State Stenographers' Association, Omaha, Neb.

Or to

DAN BROWN,

50 Dearborn Street, Chicago.

John Ritchie, Law Reporter, Chicago; Seates

& Nute, Law Reporters, Chicago; A. M. Griffen, Law Reporter, Chicago; Dan Brown, Chief Chicago Bureau of Phonography; John T. Bell, Pres. Neb. State Stenographers' Ass'n; Chas. A. Sumner, Pres. Cal. State Stenographers' Ass'n; Tinsley & Morgan, Law Reporters, Syracuse, N. Y.; J. S. Harrison, Official Stenographer, Adrian, Mich.; James H. Emery, Law Reporter, Toledo, O.; Frank P. Tupper, Law Reporter, Towanda, Pa.

DEAR SIRS,—

Above is printed call for convention, which I am now sending out, by which you will see that we have changed the time to September 1st. This has been done so as not to interfere with the court work in our Western States, which begins on the first Monday in September. I desire to include as members of convention any of our Canadian neighbors who may wish to attend, and shall be glad to have a good representation. The convention and organization should include shorthand writers of all systems. An organization should recognize every branch of the profession, which, I believe, can be included under four general heads:—*First*. General Reporting—including Newspapers, Congressional, Legislative and Convention work. *Second*.—Law Reporting,—including all branches of legal work. *Third*.—Commercial work including all classes of business correspondence. *Fourth*.—Shorthand publications and instruction. Please take the subject into consideration and give us views through the medium of the SHORTHAND WRITER.

Will keep you posted as to further arrangements.

Yours truly,

DAN BROWN.

Mr. Andrew J. Graham, in his *Journal* for April editorially remarks:—"The words *taken* by Standard Phonography are much more legible than those *not taken* by the inferior systems." No doubt.

Selected.

REPORTING BY MACHINERY.

EVERY now and then we read accounts of machines being invented—always extremely simple and capable of being worked without the slightest difficulty—by which *verbatim* reporting is made as easy as the proverbial process of "falling off a log." Some of these machines are built on the model of the phonograph, while others appear to resemble magnified type-writers, but the rapidity and precision with which they can report a speech or sermon is invariable and remarkable. There is one point which seems to be inaccountably overlooked by the inventors of such machines, and we beg, disinterestedly, to call their attention to it. It is this:—While there is no

doubt in the world that their barrel-organs can take down everything the fastest speaker may say, they do not appear to have the power of of rejecting anything,—they lack, in short, the condensing faculty. Let the Frenchman or Italian who invents the next phonographic hurdy-gurdy—and it is always a Frenchman or Italian, never an unpractical Yankee—bring out with it a condensing "attachment," something which will boil down sermons and speeches in first-rate style for publication in newspapers, and we will guarantee that he will sell as many as he can manufacture. It is obvious that by a little ingenuity the machine could be further improved so as to report a speech to suit a newspaper's politics, set the speaker right as to facts, write editorials, or even: