

CONCORD.

We have heard it suggested that it is possible that some of those, outside our association, with whom we come in contact, have the opinion that our organization is in reality the work of but a comparatively few men situated in but a few of the offices which this association claims to represent. As to the probability of this surmise, we do not profess to know, but every individual working in an office where a branch of this association is in existence, be he interested in us or not, knows and is able to assure the country at large if need be that such is by no means the case. When an organization such as ours has a number of branches all harmoniously working together with concerted action it is quite easy to suppose that some such idea might be advanced by some people who have but shallowly and from a distance studied the internal machinery of the organization. It is naturally true that only a few men from few offices were the instigators of our association, which fact must be equally true of any and every organization under the sun. Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver were perhaps primarily responsible for the movement, each of these offices at that time having a Postal Clerks' Association. It is not necessary to mention the names of the unselfish and far-sighted men who were the means in their own offices of amalgamating these local associations together with a number of others. Most of these men are still well known to all of us, and we believe also well known to, at least, the local P. O. officials. However, all this is years ago. To-day the organization commenced by these men has assumed the position that was hoped for and in a much shorter time than was ever dreamed of. To-day our organization is run by the entire membership, the officers doing, and willing to do, the dictates of the majority. For the benefit of any who may read and who are not members or acquainted with our association, let us say that every province in the West has at least two representatives upon the executive council to whom all matters are submitted before being taken up by the Dominion association. If necessary, a plebiscite is taken as was done last year for instance. No action taken by an organization working along these lines and which can boast of a membership of 90 per cent or over can be called the work of a few. Dr. Cowan, Mayor of Regina, who three or four times each day, passed through the hall in which we were recently holding our convention, stated in his speech at the banquet that one of the things which had

impressed him most was the fact that never did he see an empty chair or an inattentive occupant. The report of that convention shows almost every delegate as having taken his active part, and a report of that kind is often misleading in that, unless a man is either the mover or the seconder of a motion his name seldom appears in connection therewith. Naturally enough, some branches are more active than others, just in the same way that some members are more energetic than others. At present and at any rate until our newly appointed Organizing Secretary has properly settled down to work, we believe that the General Secretary and ourselves are in the best position to state which are our best branches. Personally, we feel satisfied that very few, if any, members of this association would name the same offices as ourselves if asked to name the three liveliest branches. All of these more or less disjointed remarks we contend are proof positive that if any such ideas as those with which we started this article are in existence they are quite without solid foundation.

FROM OTHER SOURCES.

"It is significant that postal reforms seldom, if ever, emanate from the Department. If the Service had depended upon self-evolution, it would to-day have been at least 50 years behind the times. It is to people like the late Sir Henniker Heaton that whatever progress has been made is mostly due. Post office administration is bewildered whenever "precedent" is taken away. The Service is conspicuous to-day for its reluctance to adopt time-saving and labour-saving appliances. A Postmaster who asks for up-to-date equipment is looked upon with suspicion, and, generally speaking, the administration is still in the quill-pen stage. In no single instance do we remember the Postmaster General or the Secretary of the day displaying any desire to elevate the Service into something more than a mere machine. The accepted view seems to be that the post office ought to perform its work in donkey fashion, that it is no business of the administration either to evolve improvements or to go out of its way to accept the ideas of other people. This spirit has got to be broken down before the Service can be made full use of for the public needs. But the work is urgent, and we of the Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association must do all we possibly can not only to secure reform in the methods of administration but to prove to the