

Murray. The Murray Printing Co. have fine offices at Nos. 31 and 33 Melinda Street; their type and presses are new and with such an experienced manager they should make a record for themselves.

THE WORK OF THE TYPOGRAPH

THE reports from the machine in the J. B. McLean Co.'s office again show a slight saving in cost of composition. During the past four weeks the operator was called away on account of sickness for a few days, otherwise everything has run smoothly. The machine has had two visits from the Company's machinist in Toronto, during the four weeks, once for a slight repair, and again to assist the operator in reversing the matrices. Since changing the matrices the quality of the work has been somewhat improved, but it has still much room for improvement before it can be compared favorably with type. The matrices, being made from thin strips of brass, with the letters punched in, have a very thin wall on the side, and two of these walls have to lay together between each letter, consequently, they being so thin, the constant forcing of the hot metal against them has a tendency to make these walls fall in, causing a very thin piece of metal, or "fin," to appear between each letter. We understand the Company are experimenting with a new sort of brass for making these matrices. Another source of trouble is in regulating the metal, on account of the varying gas pressure. This could be avoided by some regulator being placed in the burner, so as to give an even heat. They are also introducing a new metal pot which they claim obviates this. The following are the reports from the foreman of the work done by the machine:—

Machine set for week ending May 6th.....	107,500
(One hour lost for repairs.)	
Machine set for week ending May 13th.....	\$7,000
(Regular operator called away on account of sickness for 2½ days. During absence substitute on machine who was not familiar with work.)	
Machine set for week ending May 20th.....	121,500
Machine set for week ending May 27th.....	\$8,000
(Wednesday being a holiday, machine was not working.)	
Total set.....	404,000
To produce this cost:—	
Operator, four weeks, less one day, at \$15 per week.....	\$57.50
Rent of machine, four weeks at \$7.....	28.00
Fuel, power, etc., four weeks at \$2.40.....	9.60
	\$95.10

The cost by hand for the same amount of composition would be, at 28c. per thousand, \$113.12,

showing a saving of \$18.02, which is a questionable saving, considering the quality of the work. Again it may be stated that the operator employed on the machine has been working on them ever since they were introduced, consequently the machine has everything in its favor. The week of May 20th being the largest week but one turned out on any machine in Toronto.

IN LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH

A REPRESENTATIVE of this journal happened into the private office of a large piano manufacturer, who we will call Mr. M., the other day, when the manager of a similar concern dropped in. After the usual remarks regarding the weather, the quietness of trade, and the probability of this country going to the dogs; the visitor, whom we will style Mr. B, suddenly discovered on the desk before him a book entitled "Canada's Great Men," or some such title.

It might be here remarked that years ago but few in the country were called "great men." Then it took hard work and ability to earn this title, but now it is the easiest thing in the world. It just costs from five to fifty dollars to be called a "great man."

But to return. Mr. B. picked up this book, and the following conversation took place:

Mr. B.—"Did you see my advertisement in here?"

Mr. M.—"No, have you an advertisement there?"

Mr. B.—"Why, yes!"

Here they both spend about fifteen minutes looking for it, but finally succeed.

Mr. B.—"Here it is. Now, is that not fine?"

Mr. M.—"Yes, that is not a bad advertisement, but did you see mine?"

Mr. B.—"Why, no, have you an advertisement in it? I looked all through it but did not see yours."

Some time is lost in looking for Mr. M.'s biographical sketch.

Mr. M.—"There you are now, isn't that good? and it was "dead" cheap too. I promised not to say what I paid for it, but I will tell you. They wanted fifty dollars, but I got it for twenty-five, and one copy of the book. Isn't that cheap? They can't stick me you know. I have done too much advertising in my day and know all about it. Now, what did you have to pay?"

Mr. B.—"Well, ha! ha! They asked me fifty dollars for mine but I got it for five dollars, and a dozen copies of the 'fake' thrown in."

Mr. M.—"——! Let us go and take something."

The fashion editor wrote, "Boas are fashionable among young ladies," but the intelligent compositor had it the next day, "Boys are," etc.