

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Postage . . . . .	\$ 27 94
Printing—	
Warwick Bros. & Rutter . . . . .	\$18 55
Shareholder Co. . . . .	5 15
Apted Bros. . . . .	10 85
Robt. Holmes . . . . .	4 65
	40 20
Annual Report—	
Stenographer . . . . .	10 00
MacLean Publishing Co. . . . .	70 00
Canada Paper Co. . . . .	15 04
	95 04
Secretary's salary for 1898 . . . . .	100 00
Executive expenses . . . . .	65 25
Sundries . . . . .	5 20
On hand . . . . .	114 44
	\$448 67

Mr. A. Pattullo suggested that the very full report of the proceedings which is published annually in *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER*, the official organ of the association, is quite sufficient for all purposes and the cost of printing an annual report might be saved.

Mr. Cooper: "The association tried that plan one year, but, by resolution, a report was published the next year, as a great many of the members complained that they wanted to keep the reports on file. There was also the difficulty in adopting Mr. Pattullo's suggestion that he could not in *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER* give details which added greatly to the value of the annual report as a work of reference. He had also found the annual reports most useful in answering inquiries respecting the association, and it was owing to reception of a copy that many were now members."

Mr. Ireland: "I think we ought to continue publishing the reports in convenient form. It was the reading of the reports that caused me to join the association."

Mr. McKay: "My experience is very much the same as that of Mr. Ireland."

Mr. L. G. Jackson: "If the annual fee were reduced, and *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER* used, instead of issuing a report, even if we had to pay something for it, I think it would be apt to increase our membership. I have been speaking to some, and they think the fee is too high."

Mr. Phillips: "Would it not be possible to increase the advertising sufficiently to cover the cost?"

The report was referred to the auditors.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The chairman then read the president's address as follows:

CLINTON, ONT. Jan. 30, 1899.

To the Members of the Canadian Press Association:

GENTLEMEN,—As I happen to be engaged in an election contest that requires close personal attention, I find that I cannot be with you on this, your forty-first annual gathering, much as I would like to be, and it is a source of great disappointment to me. I trust that my absence from the chair will not in the slightest degree affect the success of an organization in which I have taken much interest, and through whose agency I have derived much profit.

The past year has not been a particularly eventful one, so far as the general interests of the Press Association are concerned. There have been no special features of a public nature, such as prevailed during 1897, to call for the amazing enterprise of the press, and ordinary matters have gone on the even tenor of their way.

I think it will be generally admitted that the editorial tone of the

Canadian press is higher than it has ever been, and that there is a greater degree of fairness manifested in discussion than formerly prevailed. I do not wish to pose as a critic, yet it must be acknowledged that there is a noticeable absence from the editorial column of much of the personal reference, which formerly was regarded as a necessary part of every paper issued. This change is to me a pleasant one, and I believe it to be equally so to all members of this association. We have been trying to follow ideals in various branches of the profession; improvement, progress, and advancement have been the stepping-stones upward, and if we can only succeed in eliminating from the editorial column, especially, that which for convenience might be termed the "objectional personal spirit," we will have accomplished much. While the English papers might serve as models in this respect, it is not necessary that we should follow any model. Our own ideas of propriety should prevail, and as we broaden our views of public issues, our treatment of them will be more on their own merits.

In a recent issue of *The New York Sun*, I noticed the following paragraph, which has particular interest to the fraternity:

"The Canadian newspapers seem to be made up by men naturally clever and industrious enough, but they expend their intellects on questions so peculiarly provincial in their limitation that we question if these journals are more than glanced at in any American newspaper office, or are read by anybody in this republic, or anywhere else outside of Canada, even by any of the million of Canadians who have emigrated hither to share in a really national existence."

Without commenting otherwise on this subject, I simply wish to say that the average Canadian editor is equal to any emergency, and if he thought his readers were more interested in the ruler of Timbuctoo than on some topic of local or provincial interest, he could just as readily prepare a leader on the one subject as on the other.

I regret to say that we were not able to take the excursion to the Coast as anticipated. Although I endeavored to make arrangements to this end, they were not such as I could satisfactorily offer to the members of the association and had to be dropped. I also tried to arrange for an excursion on the upper lakes, but only found about half a dozen members who were able to go, and, as I did not regard this as sufficiently representative, this too had to be cancelled. My correspondence with members of this association convinced me that they are in favor of an excursion to some attractive point, and I think it would be advisable to arrange for one during the coming Summer, but the time and place should be decided upon early, so that members, in arranging for their Summer's outing, could govern themselves accordingly. The details could be arranged later.

The law of libel is still a matter demanding attention. Two cases in particular have come up during the past year that have special interest for us. The one is the case in which *The Kamloops Sentinel* is concerned and the other is the one recently tried in which *The Toronto Telegram* was the defendant. In the case of the former the publisher asked for the cooperation and assistance of the association, but it was found after considerable correspondence that no specific assistance could be given. That some amendments to the law are necessary and safeguards to the publisher should be secured are self-evident, and the efforts of the association to protect its members and the press generally from needless and vexatious suits should not be in any degree abandoned.

In conclusion, let me express my appreciation of the faithfulness and zeal of the secretary. On him has devolved much of the work that should have been done by myself. That it has been admirably performed is self-evident.

I trust that your gathering may be mutually profitable, and