

Phonographic Gossip.

W. L. Cotton, Esq., editor of the *Examiner*, is one of the shorthand reporters in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Alf. Boyle has accepted a position in the law office of Messrs. Bain, Blanchard & McColl, Winnipeg. He was formerly correspondent for the law office of Messrs. Mulock, Tilt, McArthur & Crowther of this city. This is another of the Torontonians abroad.

We had the pleasure of a brief visit lately from Mr. H. A. Langford, of the Michigan Central Railway General Freight Office, Detroit. Mr. Langford was on his way home after a holiday in the east—a pleasure which all good shorthand workers deserve to enjoy.

Nobody will be more utterly delighted when the foundation is laid for a new County Court House than the hard-working shorthand men of Toronto. It is not only a disagreeable, but a dangerous business to work steadily for a day in the present ill-ventilated and old fashioned place.

Mr. Wm. Perkins, formerly correspondent for the law office of Messrs. McCarthy, Hoskin, Plumb & Creelman, of this city, has taken his departure for Winnipeg to accept the position of reporter on the *Times*. Mr. Perkins wishes Isaac Pitman's phonography with a few of Graham's contractions. We wish him every success in his new field of labour.

Mr. T. Pinkney and a company of friends leave Toronto on August 3rd for New York and the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence. It is their intention to pass a few weeks in the latter delightful locality, enjoying *otium cum digno*. We wish Mr. Pinkney (who is one of our esteemed contributors) and his friends a happy and healthful time.

Mr. Robert Tyson, a member of the reporting staff of the Superior Courts of Ontario, is an enthusiastic canoeer. A few years ago he took a long voyage around the coast of Lake Ontario and down the Mississippi, of which he afterwards wrote a most interesting account in the *Canadian Monthly*. Mr. Tyson contemplates another long trip this summer, if indeed he is not already afloat.

Mr. J. Innes McIntosh writing from Guelph, Ont., says:—In this city there are few whose knowledge of shorthand extends beyond the first of the text books. In common with other places there crop up enthusiastic aspirants, but many of them sink in the Slough of Despond before the alphabet is well learned. There are perhaps a dozen shorthand students here who are really in earnest, made up mainly of young typos and junior limbs of the law. The former know the value of the art from their close association with it, and the latter probably catch the contagion from the court reporters.

Mr. Herbert Burrows is private secretary to the superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway at Toronto. He uses Isaac Pitman's system and can write 150 words per minute.

We are glad to learn that our lady friends are adopting phonography on this side. Nine young women graduated in phonography at the Young Women's Christian Association last week. The best of them could write 110 words a minute.

"The Shorthand Society," for the study of the science and literature of shorthand, was established in London, England, on the 28th June. Mr. Cornelius Walford, F. S. S., F. I. A., was appointed President; Mr. Thomas Allan Reed, and the Rev. W. H. F. Hechla (Gabelsburger writer), were selected as Vice-Presidents; Mr. J. G. Petrie, Honorary Treasurer; and Mr. Edward Pocknell (author of "Legible Shorthand"), Honorary Secretary. The society is open to all the world. The fee for fellowship is 10s. 6d. a year. Foreign associates are admitted at 2s. 6d. a year.—half the fee of British associates. The object of the society is to discuss points of theory and practice with a view to determine right principles for forming a shorthand system for general use.

A new and most ingenious speaking machine has lately been exhibited by Herr Faber before the Physical Society, London. It is designed to more perfectly imitate, mechanically, the utterances of the human voice, by means of artificial organs of articulation made on the human model, and it is worked by keys like a musical instrument. A bellows made of wood and india rubber serves for lungs; a small windmill is placed in front of the bellows to give thrilling sounds; the larynx is made of a single membrane of hippopotamus hide and India rubber; a mouth with two lips, a tongue, and an India rubber nose complete the organs of the apparatus. Fourteen distinct sounds are uttered by it, and, combining these, any word in any language can be produced—also laughing and whispering.

We think it safe to assume that every subscriber to the WRITER would like to see its news department enlarged and improved. This can be most effectually accomplished if each of our readers will make it a point to send us at least *two paragraphs* of phonographic news every month. Personal mention of shorthand men, notices of meetings, and in fact everything and anything connected with or interesting to stenographers, will be most welcome. It is too much to ask our good friends each to make this effort? From what we know of the *esprit d'corps* which distinguishes the shorthand profession, we feel confident that our request will meet with a liberal response. Items may be sent either per postal card or letter, and we will only be too happy to remit all postage in this service.