

NEW SCALE OF WAGES FOR TORONTO.

THE Toronto Employing Printers and the Typographical Union are now conferring on the question of a new scale of wages. In forwarding their propositions to the employers, the committee of the union point out that the present scale has been in force since 1872, and assert that in the intervening 27 years "the cost of living has very largely increased." This statement will naturally be challenged, for it is a curious coincidence that the year 1872 was the very year when prices of all commodities touched the highest mark. Since then they have enormously declined. This applies to almost every article of food and clothing. In cities house rent has increased, but not in proportion to the fall in prices of commodities.

RATES FOR TIME WORK.

However, the conferences are probably not discussing this question at all, but are devoting their time entirely to the merits of the various details in the new proposed scale, which applies to weekly newspapers and book and job offices. For "time work" the union's proposals are as follows:

1. Members of the Union shall receive, per week, \$13
2. A week's work shall consist of 54 hours, such hours to be arranged between employer and employe, provided always that all work shall be performed between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., except on Saturdays, when work shall cease at 12 o'clock noon.
3. All overtime after working hours until 11 p.m. 35c. per hour, after 11 p.m. and Sunday work, 50c. per hour, this not to interfere with a night staff scale.
4. Lost time to be charged for on the basis of weekly wages, and under no circumstances is lost time to be deducted from overtime on the basis of hour for hour.
5. All odd hours less than a day's work, per hour, 35c.
6. Night staff of compositors, 45 hours to constitute a week's work, \$15. A night's work not to exceed 9 hours, nor to be less than 7½ hours.
7. All work done on the following holidays shall be charged at overtime rates: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Queen's Birthday, Dominion Day, Civic Holiday, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day.

FOR PIECE WORK.

The following are the principal items dealing with piece work:

A hook must be provided in every case.

Works done in the English language, common matter, reprint or manuscript, from agate to small pica inclusive, 38c. per 1,000 ems.; pearl, 42c.; diamond, 44c. Works done in type larger than small pica to be measured as small pica.

The following is the alphabetical scale for the measurement of type: Pica to bourgeois, inclusive, 13 ems.; brevier and minion, 14; nonpareil, 15; agate, 16; pearl, 17; diamond, 18.

Where time and piece hands are employed on the same work, all must work from the same hook, no alternate hookwork to be allowed in any case.

Page proofs and all revises to be pulled by the office.

When matter is over even ems, nothing under an em to be counted, when over an em, an em to be counted.

Price hands to correct no proof but their own, unless paid for on the basis of time work.

Three or more columns of figures or words, or figures and words, with space or other rules, five or more columns, with or without rules; double leader or dash border matter, where the matter enclosed is the same sized type, and all rule border matter shall be charged double price.

All work other than plain English, such as algebraical or euclid, medical, astronomical, arithmetical, dictionaries, spelling books, etc., double price.

When compositors are ordered to remain in the office unemployed, they shall be paid at the regular rates for time work or overtime, as the case may be.

All work by the piece required after the regular working hours shall be charged 15c. extra per hour.

Any works printed with figured accents or vowels, superior letters or figures, references (as in classical works or the Bible), and where capitals, small capitals, italics, display type, or figures, run in with the body of the matter, are profusely used, shall all be set on time.

Odd words of Greek or Hebrew, not more than three words in one place, shall be charged 5c. per word extra.

All works less than 12 ems in width of the type used shall be charged 5c. extra per 1,000 ems, 12 ems in width and less than 15 ems, 3c. extra per 1,000 ems.

Chapter heads and sinks shall belong to the compositor.

Side and centre notes, when furnished with copy, are to be measured full length of the page, according to the type in which they are set.

Time spent in making alterations from copy, overrunning matter, correcting author's proof, casing letter or distributing type (not to be used by the compositor) shall be paid for at the rate of 35c. per hour.

In reading matter, the compositor shall be entitled to such cut or cuts as may have matter set alongside in broken measure, or inset, or justified to uneven portions of the cut, such cuts to be measured price-and-a-half, according to the type used in the body of the work.

Foreign languages to be measured price-and-a-half.

Ads. shall be measured nonpareil, except where no smaller type is used.

MR. BECKLES WILLSON.

Mr. Beckles Willson, the London journalist who is now in Canada writing the history of the Hudson's Bay Company, was born in Montreal, August 26, 1869. He was educated in Kingston, and, going to Boston to attend the law school there, joined the staff of *The Boston Globe* in 1886. In 1889 he was sent to Cuba as correspondent of *The New York Herald*, and afterwards removed to London in connection with the English edition of that paper. There he became associated with the English press, and, in 1896, came to Canada and Newfoundland as correspondent for Mr. Harmsworth's paper, *The London Daily Mail*. His letters relating to Newfoundland were republished in book form under the title of "The Tenth Island." A year or two ago Mr. Beckles Willson undertook to write a history of the famous fur-trading company. Lord Strathcona, the present Governor of the company, placed at his disposal all the early records of the company, which are said to be very valuable and hitherto inaccessible.

The book will be entitled "The Great Company," and is the history of *The Hudson's Bay Company* from the time of its formation in 1667 to the year 1871, when the jurisdiction of the great company over the Northwest Territories came to an end. Mr. Willson has spent more than a year with this material, and the result is a history of the early days of the great Northwest that will be authoritative and permanent.

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