

STENOGRAPHIC MATTERS IN FRANCE.

MR. W. George Waring, Sr., in an interesting letter to us, furnishes the following information on shorthand matters in France, which we take the liberty of publishing:—

The June number of *L'Unité Sténographique*, (*système Prevost Delaunay*), says that M. Cateau successfully won, over seventy competitors, a place as shorthand reporter in the House of Deputies, making them all writers of that system in the Chambers, besides those who use the old Prevost method. Some have been promoted to the position of revisers. These have a salary of 7,000 francs—the actual reporters have \$30.00. They work in corps of twelve to fifteen, so that each one's turn at writing only lasts about five to ten minutes. In the *Times* office, London, a similar relay method is used for reporting important speeches. Each writer on being relieved steps to an adjoining room and reads his notes to a compositor in the *Times* office, who sets up the words by means of a type-setting machine. In a very short time after the close of the speech, a printed proof is in the speaker's hands for revision, if he desires to examine it before the final printing off.

Ever-circulators have just been introduced into France for the first time. The best account of them that I have seen has been given lately in a French paper, by M. Bontillier, under whose conductorship the *Courier Sténographique* has been launched as a manuscript circulator. There are nine co-writers, and they write under four

heads. 'Informations,' 'Questions Sténographiques,' 'Mélanges,' 'Conventions.' Each writes at least one page or up to three in one or several of these departments. A second section of the circulator is being arranged for the working of the first having given much satisfaction.

The circulation of these manuscript magazines, so useful to the student who cannot attend school has been obstructed in the United States by the rulings of the officials, who have had 'phonographic paper' on their lists of 'third class matter,' in imitation of a copy of English regulations, but who have persisted in refusing to let phonographic paper go as third class rates. Lately they have become more liberal to the poor home student, and they allow exercises to mutual comment or correction—although in script—short or long—to pass at third class rates, if the heading is printed, and the matter has the appearance and character of a periodical.

I should have mentioned, in connection with reporting in the French Chambers, that it is made imperative that the candidates be 'Bachelors of Science.' This is a degree not easily attained, and excludes many who, as writers, are more skillful than any 'bachelors' that can be found.

There is much said and done towards the desired end of preserving the actual 'first entry' notes of all debates, and also towards deciding on some one system which all shorthand writers must at least be able to read, and will be expected to use. This feeling extends to Germany, where the adherents of the old and new 'Stolze' methods (used at Berlin) are about fusing, seeing that in union there is strength.

Phonographic Gossip.

CANADA.

MR. FRANK YEIGH has issued a second edition of his Canadian Phrase Book.

MR. G. F. TAYLOR, of Chatham, has been appointed reporter for the Kent County Court.

MESSRS. HORTON & MACLEAN'S lively little sheet, the *Evening World*, has reached a regular circulation of 5,000 copies daily, though only about five weeks old.

THE *Printers' Miscellany* has a kindly reference to the visit in St. John of the conductor of the WRITER. The friendly expressions are heartily reciprocated.

MR. W. L. FAIRBAIN, of Brockville, is preparing an article for the WRITER, entitled "Reporting in the British Parliament Sixty Years Ago." It will be looked for with interest.

THE young man who can write 145 words a minute, shorthand, called on us this morning. And he is still rising.—*Evening World*. If he will call at the office of THE WRITER we will give him a lift.

A LADY recently advertised in the *Toronto Globe* for an engagement, stating as a recommendation in her favor that she was an accomplished shorthand writer. Can't some young man accommodate her? Such an appeal should not be made in vain.

MR. J. W. MICHIE, formerly in the service of the Northern Railway Company here, has joined the exodus and removed to Chicago, where

he has accepted a position on the Illinois Central Railway. Mr. M. is an enthusiastic student of shorthand, and bids fair to make an excellent writer.

MR. T. J. BELL has resigned his position as city editor of the *Hamilton Spectator*, and has assumed the proprietorship of the *Dundas Standard*. On leaving Hamilton he was presented by his friends with twenty-four volumes of Scott's novels and Shakespeare's complete works.

MR. ARTHUR L. JAMES, formerly in the Dominion Bank in this city, and an accomplished Man-on writer, has accepted a position in the Allan Steamship office, Boston, as shorthand writer, at a good salary. Mr. James has been a devoted student of phonography, and has acquired a good rate of speed in a comparatively short time.

THE Ontario Government staff of shorthand writers comprises L. V. Percival, Secretary to the Hon. S. C. Wood; Frank Yeigh, to the Hon. A. S. Hardy; William O'Neil, to the Hon. O. Mowat; M. Wilson, to the Hon. C. F. Fraser; H. Hayes to J. W. Langmuir, and T. W. Gibson, who has been recently appointed as the Hon. T. B. Pardee's Secretary.

MR. JOHN F. HENNIGAN, an enterprising reporter attached to the St. John *Daily Telegraph* staff, has got out a very full and correct report of the trial in the "Brothers' Pride" ship-scuttling case. The report makes a pamphlet of 200 pages. It is illustrated with portraits of