

merce, society, religion, yes, and I was going to say, politics. Every phase and department of life are moulded by its silent and irresistible power. The growing independence of expression is highly commendable and is an earnest of future elevation and multiplied influence.

MEMBERSHIP

As our influence extends membership in our Association is more eagerly sought after. This has been particularly evident during the past year. A number of new members have been admitted, the majority of whom we welcome to our meeting to-day. The additions to membership might, however, have been much greater had not your Executive jealously guarded the portals and carefully examined the credentials of every applicant, so that none but those of undoubted qualifications might be given entrance. Since last session the Executive has critically revised the list of members, having in view two well-defined objects: 1st. That of recommending the discontinuance of certificates to any whose qualifications were unsatisfactory, and 2nd, to assure the railway companies that no unfair advantage is being taken of the privileges they grant, through our Association. Full particulars respecting this revision will be given in the report of the Executive Committee.

At our Ottawa meeting Art. II of our Constitution was amended to read:

"The membership of this Association shall consist of Publishers, Proprietors, Editors or Business Managers of newspapers, professionally and habitually engaged as such, but not holding a financial interest merely, or occupying the position of a stock holder or silent partner, or of an editorial or news contributor. The term newspaper shall be understood to mean publications which are regularly issued not less frequently than once a month. All papers shall have been so issued at least one year before the publisher, editor or business manager is eligible for membership in this Association.

This qualification has been considered by members of the Executive and many others as too limited in scope, and in fact excludes some of the best qualified journalists of the country. You will be asked to decide whether it will not be better to allow the term editor to embrace not only editorial proprietors, but managing editors, news editors, city editors, editorial contributors (when exclusively engaged as such on the staff of any paper), and duly accredited editorial correspondents at Dominion or Provincial capitals.

It is also deemed advisable to provide for the admission of suitably qualified reporters as full members, and thus encourage them to take a personal interest in our proceedings, a privilege at present denied; no doubt to their loss and our disadvantage.

Opportunity will be afforded for free discussion on this important subject.

THE LAW OF LIBEL

This grave question has been before our Association at each session for the past four years, and you have no doubt observed, that at each successive step taken important amendments, to our advantage as publishers, have been secured, affecting the law relating to both civil and criminal libel. Since our last meeting a deputation of the Association waited upon the Minister of Justice relative to suggested amendments to the law of criminal libel, and some of these have since passed into legislation. Steps have also been taken to secure further changes in the law respecting civil cases from the Ontario Government. Mr. John King, Q.C., to whom we are deeply indebted for much of what has been accomplished in this matter, has been invited to visit this meeting, and he has kindly promised to report verbally the progress made since last meeting at some time to-morrow.

DUTY ON STEREO PLATES

Respecting the effort to secure a reduction of the duty on Stereo Plates, there appears to have arisen a misunderstanding in some quarters. Mr. Preston, chairman of the Committee having the matter in charge, will fully explain the relation of the Association with the Government and the Plate makers in the matter.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE

The effort of the Association to emulate the example of our esteemed fellow publisher, Mr. J. C. Jamieson, of the *Belleville Intelligencer*, in enforcing prepayment of subscriptions, has not been without fruit. A considerable number of our members have adopted the cash in advance principle, and I venture the prediction that none who manifest a determination to carry out the principle to the letter, without fear or favor, but will be enthusiastic in its continuance.

An interesting report will be presented from the Committee having in charge the effort to secure the discontinuance of premiums, and more than twelve months as a year's subscription.

THE TYPOTHETÆ CONVENTION

In compliance with the kind invitation of the United Typothetæ of America, the Association was represented at its Annual Convention and Banquet. Owing to the absence of your President at a distant point in the Province, Mr. Pirie, Vice-President, kindly accompanied the Secretary to the Convention, and it is needless to say, the dignity of the Association was fully sustained.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. P. D. Ross, 2nd Vice-President, was our appointed delegate to the National Editorial Society's