

place, as there are doubtless among those present some who are not familiar with our early history, to whom such an account will prove not devoid of interest.

"During the early part of the year 1890, it having long been apparent to leading practitioners of the craft that an Association for promoting the interests of Stenographers, but founded on principles different from those characterizing any existing organization, was a growing necessity, a meeting was convened, at which it was resolved "That it is desirable to form a Shorthand Reporters' Association for the Province of Ontario," and steps were taken with that object in view. The result was the enrolment as Charter Members of thirty-seven gentlemen, among them being two members of the House of Commons reporting staff, two Senate reporters, eight reporters of the High Court of Justice, the official reporter of York County Courts, nine newspaper reporters, seven departmental officials of the Ontario Government, and seven other stenographers variously employed. Provisional officers were appointed as follows: President, Mr. Alexander Downey, Official Reporter of the Maritime Court; Vice-President, Mr. A. C. Campbell, Parliamentary Reporter for the *Globe*; Secretary, Mr. H. J. Emerson, Law Stenographer; and Treasurer, W. W. Perry, assistant to Mr. J. Bruce, Special Examiner.

"During the summer of 1891 several meetings were held, one of them occupying a whole day, and very full discussion was had as to what should be the object and scope of the Association. The results of that discussion will be found in the draft constitution to be submitted at the present meeting. It had originally been intended to seek incorporation under the provisions of the Friendly Societies Act, but when Hon. Dr. Ross, Minister of Education, was approached in regard to the matter, and the objects of the Association were explained to him, he at once evinced an exceedingly lively interest in it, and very kindly undertook to introduce as a government measure at the next session of the legislature, "An Act for the incorporation of the Chartered Stenographers' Association of Ontario."

"When in compliance with his promise, Dr. Ross introduced the bill in the house, and it was read for the first time, exception was taken by members to some of its provisions, but after interviews between a committee consisting of Messrs. A. Horton, E. E. Horton, A. Downey, T. Bengough and H. J. Emerson, representing the Association, and Dr. Ross, Minister of Education, and Mr. W. R. Meredith, leader of the Opposition,—who also assumed a most friendly position towards the Association—and slight modification of the

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