

will not be occupied further than by the assizes in the spring and fall. It is thought that this arrangement will do away with the necessity of employing extra help at any time, while it will very greatly increase the stability and efficiency of the system as a whole. The staff will now consist of Messrs. A. H. Crawford, E. E. Horton, R. Tyson and A. J. Henderson, of whom it has so far been composed, together with Messrs. Wallace Maclean, N. R. Butcher, J. Monahan and F. V. E. Dickson, the late appointees.

Mr. Maclean, who is a Canadian by birth, has been employed as one of the "extra" reporters almost ever since the time shorthand reporting was introduced into the Ontario Courts, and has besides had considerable newspaper experience. He writes Isaac Pitman's style. Mr. Maclean is a graduate of Toronto University.

Mr. Butcher is 23 years of age, Canadian by birth, former resident of London, Ont., where he learned shorthand; came to Toronto four years ago and commenced the practice of phonography in an Insurance and Loan office, which he left to enter the employ of Messrs. Blake, Kerr, Boyd & Cassels, where he has been for the past three years. He is a Grahamite.

Mr. Monahan is a native of Ireland, in which country he learned Isaac Pitman's style. On coming to this country, however, he discarded it in favor of Benn's, which he now writes. Mr. Monahan has been for some time employed as "extra" law reporter.

Mr. Dickson is a native of Canada, and a disciple of Benn Pitman. He also has had considerable experience in Court reporting.

PATRIOTIC STENOGRAPHERS.



HE pluck and patriotism of the Irish stenographers is well illustrated in the following paragraph, which, though a trifle out of date, will prove interesting to our readers. It is clipped from newspaper correspondence on the subject of the Irish trials:—

One of the most important links in the prosecution which up to the present was missing is the stenographic report of proceedings at the weekly meetings in the league offices, Dublin, without which it would be very difficult to sustain many of the indictments against the accused. All the Dublin reporters have invariably refused to furnish reports, but it is now revealed that the editor of the *Express*, an anti-league paper, has been preserving his reporter's copy of the proceedings since February and will hand it over to the Government. Four of the *Express* reporters have been subpoenaed. They say that they have destroyed their original notes, and will not, therefore, swear to the absolute accuracy of the reports. One *Express* reporter refused \$400 to report a meeting where a government stenographer was unavailable.

Selected.



THE CHICAGO TIMES ON STENOGRAPHY



HE art of stenography is one in which there is great need of improvement. At present it may be classified with the occult arts. No stenographer can be relied upon to read the notes taken by another. No stenographer can be relied upon to decipher his own notes with consciously unerring accuracy. It is of record in important cases that witnesses declared they had not said the words attributed to them by the shorthand writer, and it was impossible to determine whether the error should be credited to a weak recollection on the part of the witness, or to honest misunderstanding on the part of the stenographer, or to his erroneous interpretation of the hieroglyphics which appeared on his note-book. It is easy to see that contingencies might arise in which the most innocent error in the notes should do gross and irreparable wrong to one or the other party in an action; and so long as the present system of marks prevails it is difficult to perceive how these dangers are to be wholly avoided.

Nor are the stenographers held to the least responsibility. They may be honest; they may be scoundrels. They may be above the reproach

of a bribe; they may seek it; their general reputation is, however, excellent, and the instances in which the professional integrity of a shorthand writer has been successfully called in question are conspicuously few. But, for maintenance of their reputation and their own protection against calumny, they should unite in any scheme which would insure greater accuracy in their notes, and would bring each writer's note-book perfectly within the comprehension of every other writer. This would necessitate a uniform system of marks and combinations. What system among all now in use is superior to the others, *The Times* will not undertake to say. Good work is, of course, done by all systems which are scientifically complete. But it is high time that the stenographers united in a determination to achieve a uniform system for universal employment in the United States. The obstacles are more apparent than substantial. A conference of representatives who are known to each other as experts could not fail to remove the numerous but trivial differences, which, small as they are constitute a Chinese wall, shutting out the writers of one school from the books of the others. Having reached uniformity, another step should be taken.