

minute for five minutes ranged from 150 to 280 words (see schedule in the August number of the Reporter's Magazine). These facts require no comment.

In Ottawa, the Capital of the Dominion where so many have benefited by and owe much to the inventor, no attention was paid to the centenary celebration although I understand Sir Isaac's system is authorized by the Department of Education and taught in the Collegiate institute and the Commercial classes of the public schools of this city. I am credibly informed that pupils from the above mentioned institutions, wishing to get up speed and qualify for the Civil Service Examinations have been advised and persuaded by teachers in our Commercial colleges to adopt an inferior system of shorthand.

This has been going on for some time and will continue if action is not taken by the Government to prevent it. The Civil Service Commissioners should insist that all candidates for positions as stenographers should read and write Sir Isaac Pitman's reporting style of Phonography. I understand that 86% of the shorthand writers of the U. S. Civil Service are Pitman writers.

Thirty years ago I learned phonography from Pitman's textbooks and experienced little difficulty in acquiring it. Since then, I have taken an active interest in it by subscribing to, and reading the Reporter's Journal, Reporter's Magazine and other works which are printed in the reporting style of phonography, by means of which I have been able to keep in touch with the progress of the art and with the improvements which have been made from time to time by Sir Isaac Pitman, and his advisers. Also, I have corresponded with phonographers, in remote parts of the Empire such as New Zealand, in the corresponding style of phonography and I am satisfied from my own experience that candidates for

positions in the Civil Service can be taught to write the Pitmanic system accurately and clearly so that their notes could be easily read by their fellow clerks if necessary. At present a Chief may dictate a number of letters or memoranda for transcription the following morning, but if the stenographer falls ill or fails to turn up, the work is of necessity delayed or must be redictated, since owing to the lack of uniformity and thorough grounding in the art it is generally impossible for fellow clerks to read the individualistic shorthand at present in use by the recent appointees to the service.

I hope some of our expert phonographers will take the matter up.

Sir Isaac Pitman and sons might be consulted and the Government might be induced to employ an expert, say from the great Pitman Metropolitan school, one who has captured the 200 or 225 word a minute certificate, to visit Ottawa and make a thorough investigation into the question.

The Civil Service Association and *Civilian* might help to revive a lively interest in this indispensable art, by arranging speed contests for substantial prizes, the winners of which would be sure of advancement in the service.

In closing, I wish to draw attention to the fact that 70 or 80 of the most experienced teachers and practitioners of Pitman's shorthand have been working in conjunction with Sir Isaac Pitman Sons Ltd., during the past eighteen months preparing a revised edition of the Instructor, which is to be called the "Centenary Instructor," at the enormous cost of £1,000 and it is said, by one of the revisers, to be the finest textbook of the finest system of shorthand that the world has ever seen—the price will be £3/16.

Yours sincerely,

"PHONOGRAPHER."

Ottawa, 28th August, 1913.