

list a number who might be specially invited to come to Canada and make a tour of the Dominion as our guests.

AMATEUR JOURNALISTS.

A great deal of unpleasantness arose in London during the Jubilee, owing to the large number of lawyers, doctors, teachers and other gentlemen bearing letters from Canadian newspapers, large and small. They were not as correspondents. They asked for the letters to enable them to secure privileges and favors not otherwise obtainable. They pestered the High Commissioner, Colonial Secretary, War Office, Scotland Yard and other public offices and theatrical managers, and failing to secure favors that professional journalists would not think of asking, they brought the profession in Canada into disrepute and made things most unpleasant by their unseemly conduct. The authorities were unable to distinguish between professional and amateur; only one with a personal knowledge could diagnose the difference. They inspired attacks upon the Colonial Office in the London newspapers—at least a Toronto lawyer and a university student so boasted. Much to their credit, the journalists from Canada recognized with what the authorities at home had to contend, and said nothing. On several occasions the presence of these sightseers seriously handicapped the work of the leading London papers by occupying their places at public functions. There is no doubt but that the trouble between Sir Alfred Jephson and the Australian correspondents, which has led to the grants from Victoria and New Zealand to the Imperial Institute being withdrawn, was due to the claims of these amateurs. He was not to blame, nor were the correspondents, for the course they took. My attention has been drawn to it by the authorities and by several London journalists, and I have been asked if we could not devise some means to remedy the evil. In fact, several London papers took up the matter latterly. I have been in communication with the officers of the Institute of Journalists, who are overcoming the difficulty to some extent. I think that our certificates might be amended somewhat, and copies sent to the High Commissioner's office and other public departments, and to the Institute of Journalists. In the meantime, the attention of all managing editors should be drawn to the great injustice thoughtlessly done by them in granting privileges to those not properly qualified to receive them. The Institute of Journalists have a certificate which is found very useful, but they are also considering the adoption of a special badge.

I desire to place on record our acknowledgment and appreciation of the very great kindness and attention shown Canadian journalists, especially by Lord Selborne, of the Colonial Office, and by our confreres in Great Britain during the Jubilee, and especially by Mr. J. M. Maclean, M.P. (president), Mr. Cornish (secretary), and other members of the Institute.

INELIGIBLE CANDIDATES.

It is important that attention should be drawn to the necessity of exercising the greatest care in nominating candidates for membership in the association. In several instances, recently, two members have asserted that a man was engaged professionally and habitually in newspaper work, when such was not the case. This gives unnecessary work and worry to the secretary and executive committee and brings the association into disrepute. The list should be revised at every annual meeting and any one not entitled to appear on it should be dropped. The fascinations of journalism draw many fakirs to it and it is only by the greatest care that we can keep them out.

REPORTERS AT POLLING BOOTHS.

On an election day journalists, especially in cities and towns, are required to go to the polling booths to secure the result of the vote. Frequently they have to wait outside for one to three hours, on a cold winter evening, for the ballots to be counted by an aged

and stupid returning officer, worried by an over zealous scrutineer, I think we should ask for an amendment to the Act to permit reporters to be present during the counting of the ballots. By that time secrecy is not required. I think the press galleries might be kindly asked to deal with this question.

EXTENSION OF MEMBERSHIP.

I have had several conferences with the president of the Quebec Press Association, and he is in favor of having the Quebec association become part of this organization. Our finances are now in such a satisfactory condition that we can afford to deal generously with them, and admit the members of the Quebec association at once to membership, assuming that they are all eligible, without an entrance fee or the annual subscription for 1898.

A PERMANENT SECRETARY.

The time has arrived when we should seriously consider whether it will be to the advantage of this association to have a permanent and well-paid secretary. There are many matters requiring attention, which the members of the executive cannot individually give. A secretary could easily save and earn his salary. The Japan Tea Growers' Association, finding that the splendid advertising being done for Ceylon and Indian teas in American and Canadian papers is materially reducing the demand for Japans, have voted \$140,000 per year to keep their teas before us. So far, very little of this has been expended in Canada, because it has not been the business of any one individual to look after it for the Canadian newspapers. Mr. Anderson, our commissioner to Japan, has very kindly taken the matter up, and part of the appropriation may be given to Canadian papers, but the subject still requires to be followed up. I could mention a number of similar instances. A monthly confidential report, such as is sent out by the American Publishers' Association, would now be valuable in Canada.

DEATH OF GEORGE MACLEAN ROSE.

I regret to record the death of an old member of this association, the late George Maclean Rose. Little has been seen of him at our meetings in recent years, but in the earlier history of the association he took an active interest in its affairs.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION.

We are to be congratulated upon the improved financial condition of the association. All outstanding debts have now been paid off, we owe nothing, but, instead, have a very satisfactory balance to our credit, which places us in a better position financially than at any time in the last twelve years.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

I wish to say that we welcome to the annual meeting all interested in journalism, whether actually engaged in it or not. We want their support and encouragement in promoting the authority and influence of the press. While the proceedings of the association are naturally intended for members only, the annual meeting—in some of its social features—is intended to attract men in public and private life who feel a personal interest in the expansion of the responsibilities and work of the press.

I cannot close without referring to the noble work performed by The Montreal Star in collecting a very large sum for relief in famine stricken India. I heard Mr. Graham's action much commented on and appreciated in England by those interested in Indian affairs, and it was recognized that the contributions from Canada were relatively greater, population and wealth considered, than came from any other source.

Mr. John Cameron: "I have a suggestion to make in connection with the vote of thanks I desire to move to the president for the very able address he has just read. I cannot say that I agree entirely with everything that has been stated in the