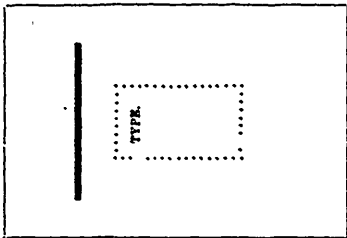


freshly made-up pages are necessarily damp, and if the weather is cold, the forms—cold and damp—cause the rollers to lose an even suction and become either “sticky or cross,” producing heavy blurred lines at foot or head, giving the type an appearance of being “off its feet,” and other grievances. Holding the forms near a stove or boiler, winter and summer, and rubbing the bottom dry with cotton waste, just previous to putting on the press, will save much time and greatly improve the appearance of the paper. No form will work its best when either it or the press bed chills the hand when placed in contact with it.

The newspaper imposing stone should have a box for the head of chases to rest against, it may be temporary, if convenient. This allows one column of matter to be readily moved without stirring the rest, which cannot be done if the chase is not firm, and the columns are crowded together by locking.

In running large editions (as envelopes) on a platen jobber, from one or two lines of type at right angles with the rollers, the form is apt to cut the rollers. To avoid this, put a wide reglet, a few inches from the form, outside the paper's margin, parallel with line, and an inch or two longer. This will act as a bearer, and by oiling it occasionally will prevent the rollers from becoming cut or blurring the print.

The following diagram may illustrate :



The above represents the bed, the dotted line an envelope, and the heavy line the bearer.

A Hint to Apprentices.

It is claimed that girls do not make the best compositors because they “pick up” the business not as a permanent occupation, but temporarily until something else (usually matrimony) provides for them. Whether or not this is strictly true, it certainly is a fact that too many male apprentices are endeavoring to learn the business in the same manner. Boys, you should not only know that certain duties must be performed, but you should also learn why they are necessary. In the ranks of the unemployed, you will find very few thorough workmen. They are always

REX.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

THE PRINTER'S MISCELLANY is issued monthly at \$1.00 per annum, *in advance*, or ten cents per number. Price to apprentices—50 cents per annum, *in advance*.

The name and address of subscribers should be written plainly, that mistakes may not occur. All letters should be addressed to

HUGH FINLAY,
Editor and Proprietor,
St. John, N. B., Canada.

The Printer's Miscellany.

ST. JOHN, N. B., CANADA, DEC., 1878.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Printing of the State of Virginia--
Richmond Union to the Front.

We have received two pamphlets bearing upon the appointment to the office of Superintendent of Public Printing of the State of Virginia of Mr. R. E. Frayser, a man who knows nothing of the practical part of the business. The pamphlets are prepared by James E. Goode, late Printer to the Commonwealth, a practical printer. Mr. Goode goes into the matter very fully, and in a convincing manner brings home the charge of “false swearing” to Mr. Frayser, inasmuch as he took an oath in which was a clause that “he shall, in addition to the oaths required by law to be taken by other officers of the commonwealth take an oath that *he is skilled in and acquainted with the practical details of the business of printing,*” when the facts point out that he did not even know the boxes of the case, let alone, one type from another. The pamphlets referred to were followed by the preferment of formal charges and specifications in both branches of the Legislature, with the view of displacing Mr. Frayser and putting in his stead a practical printer, as the law requires, or the abolishment of the office altogether. The matter created quite an agitation among the craft in the city of Richmond, and the Union of that city appointed a committee to memorialize the Legislature on the subject, with instructions to recommend a compliance with the law, as it stands or the abolition of the office, and empowering the heads of departments to give out the public printing at a price not to exceed an advance of twenty-five per cent. on journeymen's wages.

We trust the craft of the “Old Dominion”