

Canadian Press Association.

The executive committee of this Association, met at the Rossin House, Toronto, November 9th, to arrange for the annual meeting. The following business was transacted:

Moved by A. Pattullo, seconded by R. Holmes, that whereas, J. V. Ellis, editor of the St. John, N. B., Globe, has been imprisoned and fined, under the law, for alleged contempt of court, and, whereas, it is apparent that in his case the judicial prerogative of punishment, by the exercise of the law, was most unjustly strained. And, whereas, this case, whatever its own merits or demerits, indicates that the law relating to contempt of court, in its present vagueness, is liable to be stretched by unworthy judges or magistrates, into an exercise of gross injustice and tyranny.

Resolved, that the Canadian Press Association, petition the Dominion Parliament to define the law of "contempt of court," in such a manner that, while judges or magistrates may have summary power to maintain the decency and dignity of proceedings in court, and power also to check and punish criticism or proceedings outside court, which may prejudice juries, or, may, before delivery of a judicial decision, assail the court, there shall be no possibility of any citizen being otherwise subjected, without trial by his peers, to arbitrary punishment for any alleged contempt or libel.

A letter was received from the Canada Atlantic Railway Company offering special privileges over the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway, to members of the Association. The offer was accepted.

Two new members were elected, and the resignation of J. E. Atkinson, of the Globe, the secretary-treasurer, was accepted, and J. B. Maclean appointed in his place.

The annual meeting of the Association will be held in Toronto, on the second Thursday and Friday in February. It is expected that J. W. Scott, of the Chicago Herald, and president of the American Publishers' Association, will be present. The usual annual banquet will be held on the first evening of the meeting.

The principal subjects discussed at the meeting will be: "The Libel Law," "Tariff Changes, in so far as they affect Printers and Publishers," "Copyright Law," "Typesetting and Casting Machines," and "The use of Electricity in Newspaper Offices."

PRINTERS have to suffer a great deal for the ignorance of their customers. A man who has seen a cylinder press run is often convinced that with such machinery as exists to-day, the work of printing should be instantaneous and delays unheard of. This leads to unnecessary irritation on the part of customers sometimes. They want quick work, and the printer is often tempted to promise to deliver it in a shorter time than is required by creditable work. The consequence is either a broken promise or a poor job, or both, and this is likely to disgust the customer. The printer who values the reputation of his name and imprint should avoid rushing jobs through, and he should disappoint people in promises only to the extent that he likes to be disappointed himself. The care taken in the composing-room may be made useless by the lack of care in the press-room if the work is too much rushed. The work in the machine-room is as important as any other, and no printer can afford to slight it. Bad composition is a great fault, at least it would be if it were not so common; but ordinary composition printed in first-class style is preferable to excellent composition spoiled by poor and hasty presswork. —Engraver and Printer.

In 1671, Sir William Berkeley, governor of the Colony of Virginia, delivered himself of these words: "I thank God there are no free schools nor printing (in Virginia), and I hope we shall not have these hundred years; for learning has brought disobedience and heresy and sect into the world, and printing has divulged them and libels against the government. God keep us from them both." Sir William was fortunately in the minority then. At the end of the hundred years during which he prayed to be delivered, the colonies were about entering upon a war for independence, and the spirit of independence had been inspired by the men of the school, and "divulged" by the men of the press. Even now, after we have entered upon the third century, no great number of us are convinced of the wisdom of Governor Berkeley. Our greatest pride is in our schools, and not the least of our blessings is the printed matter which is now more than ever within the reach of the people. The books and pictures which are printed make up a great part of our civilization: the newspapers play an important part in popular government and in business. We could as happily give up all our manufactured articles, steam, electricity and gas, as the products of the printing press. —Engraver and Printer.