

which, as a whole, the reports have been made. Since I rose to speak, I have handed to me a memorandum which is exactly in the direction in which I have ventured to make these few remarks. This memorandum, I think I may take the liberty of saying, has been handed to me by the chief of the staff, since I have been on my feet:—

"All that is required to perfect the report is to slightly strengthen the staff. That is all we ask. Let the Committee do this, and corrections will be reduced to almost nothing. Members will then have no trouble, and the extra cost will almost be saved in printer's corrections."

That is my judgment, and I hope it will meet with the approval of the House, and that liberty will be granted to the Committee to so strengthen the staff so as to bring about what is suggested here by the very excellent superintendent of the staff, Mr. Bradley, than whom there is no better or more efficient man that I know of engaged in the practice of stenography.

MR. HUNTINGTON.—We are so peculiarly situated that, as has been well said, the labors of the *Hansard* staff are greater and more efficient than elsewhere. The reporting being in the two languages, the labor is very great.

OUR EVER-CIRCULATOR.

W I have received a number of communications from readers desiring to have the Ever-Circulator sent them. In many cases they have neglected to say what system they write. This is absolutely necessary, as we propose issuing one in each system. When this request is complied with, No. 1 will be issued.

PROFIT OF SHORTHAND WRITING.

A BOUT thirty years since I learned Pitman's System of Phonography. Twenty-five years ago I began an ever-circulator. Shorthand Writers then were very few, scarcely anybody pretended to teach it. The ever-circulator was at that time quite a godsend to many aspiring youths. Some of the oldest and best reporters will remember me as a sort of phonographic father. The state of things changed for the better, the facilities and advantages are now complete and generous. The colleges, schools and periodicals render it easy and the compensation makes it worth while one learning shorthand.

A few years ago I learned Graham's system and now I write a mixture of Graham's and Pitman's. I have studied several other systems but upon the whole I find Pitman's as good as any. The fact is any system depends very largely upon the person learning. A person needs to be a good penman in order to be an expert in phonography. The science of shorthand depends very much on practice. The science part anybody of ordinary brain may get, but the art part is very different and I think almost impossible for some.

To be a good verbatim reporter a person

wants to be a machine for the time being. He wants to be able to abstract himself from all surroundings—simply letting the sound of the speaker pass through his mind and so honestly record the same. It should be nothing to him whether the speaker is talking sense or nonsense, that he has nothing to do with. This inability to become a machine when needed is the reason why many can never report verbatim.

On the other hand if a person is called upon to report a speech topically then he needs to have a good mind, to be clear headed, qualified to be discriminating, and selective. He needs to know something of the subject about which the speaker is speaking. Topical reporting I regard as being far more difficult than verbatim. A reporter who has been accustomed to report political speeches in a condensed way, makes a poor effort in reporting a sermon at first. He does not understand the doctrines and definitions of Theology, hence his condensations are incongruent. The place and person have much to do with a reporter's ease of writing. One has to learn to hear in every place and to get accustomed to the speaker's voice and manner.

Phonography, like electricity and other discoveries, is being spread out over the needs and supplies of society. Without the telegraph one can hardly conceive how it would be possible to get along, especially in the running of railways. So it is equally as difficult to conceive how the press could be maintained without a knowledge of shorthand.

I am pleased to note the improvements and facilities in phonography. It surely must be a help, and a delight to all shorthand writers, to have such channels for communication as *THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER* and other journals. Wishing well to the reporting fraternity. I remain yours kindly.

JOSEPH WILD.

THE NEW COURT REPORTERS.

THE system of shorthand reporting in the Superior Courts of this Province has got beyond the experimental stage, and the recent changes made by the Government will go far to place it upon a lasting and satisfactory foundation. The principal fault in the working of the system was found in the fact that the permanent staff was not sufficiently large to overtake all the work, and consequently "extra" reporters had to be engaged every spring and autumn for the half-yearly assizes. The difficulty in obtaining first-class reporters at a moment's notice, and the frequent changes in their personnel made it evident that such a state of things was too precarious to be allowed to continue with safety. Accordingly the Government have increased the permanent staff by four additional reporters, making now eight for all the Courts, including Chancery. The new appointees are not, however, to be upon the same footing as regards salary, &c., as the original staff, and their time