

A TRIBUTE TO THE WORKING JOURNALIST.



THE banquet to Mr. John Ewan, of The Globe, in the National Club, on the evening of Saturday, October 1, was probably the most notable distinction ever conferred upon a member of the Canadian press not associated in any way with public life. Mr Ewan was selected, at short notice, to represent his newspaper at the front in Florida and Cuba during the war between Spain and the United States. He was at the battle of Santiago, and stayed at his post until invalided home after the chief events of the war had taken place. His letters to The Globe were vigorous, able and discriminating. They were regarded in Canada as the most trustworthy and readable information sent from the seat of war and fully equal to the correspondence sent to the English press, being, indeed, more interesting to Canadian readers, on account of the writer's special knowledge of Canadian affairs.

Before Mr. Ewan's return from Cuba, and when some anxiety was felt for his health and safety, a number of his friends, journalistic and other, signified their wish to join in some public expression of satisfaction and approval of his courageous and clever services as soon as he returned. But the management of The Globe, with a graceful promptness which was appreciated by newspaper men generally, took the initiative, and, under its auspices, the banquet was held. The gathering was entirely non-political, and the proceedings, from first to last, constituted a personal compliment to Mr. Ewan. Mr. Robert Jaffray, president of The Globe Company, was in the chair, and Mr.

J. S. Willison, the chief editor, and Mr. Charles W. Taylor, the manager, filled vice-chairs. The Hon. G. W. Ross, Mr. A. F. Rutter, Mr. W. B. McMurrich, and other directors of the paper, were present, as well as a number of prominent journalists, military men and other citizens of Toronto, including His Worship the Mayor, Lieut.-Col. Denison, president of the British Empire League; W. F. Maclean, of The World; Edmund E. Sheppard, of Saturday Night; H. W. Charlesworth, of The Mail and Empire; J. T. Clark, of Saturday Night; J. A. Cooper, of The Canadian Magazine; J. J. Foy, M.P.P.; Joseph Tait, ex-M.P.P.; Lieut.-Col. Delamere, Lieut.-Col. Mason, Emerson Coatsworth, ex-M.P.; Peter Ryan, J. W. Bengough, Lieut.-Col. Cosby, W. D. Gregory, L. K. Cameron, Queen's printer; E. T. Malone, Hugh Blain, John King, Q.C., George Warwick and many others.

The toast of the evening was that of Mr. Ewan's health, and after it had been honored in the most enthusiastic way, Mr. Rutter, on behalf of The Globe, presented to the successful

war correspondent a gold watch suitably inscribed. Mr. Ewan's speech was characteristically modest and straightforward, as he thanked his friends for the warmth and generosity of their reception and greeting. The other addresses delivered during the evening expressed in high and evidently sincere terms the estimation in which the guest was held, both in his personal and professional capacity. From his long and active connection with the Canadian press, Mr. Ewan is exceedingly well known and liked by newspapermen all over Canada. He received his early training in The Globe office many years ago, and was a reporter on the staff in 1879, during the editorship of Hon. George Brown. He was at Ottawa for some years as correspondent for The Mail, and returned to Toronto as a member of The World staff. He joined The Globe after Mr. Willison became its chief editor, and has since been a prominent member of its editorial staff. He has on several occasions, in the intervals of political leader writing, done some noteworthy and excellent literary work as a staff correspondent.



JOHN ALEXANDER EWAN.

Correspondent of The Toronto Globe in Florida and Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

Returned to Saturday 11-9-98

up through the province of Quebec repeated in a series of graphic letters which were highly appreciated, and well exemplified Mr. Ewan's talent as a descriptive writer. On many other occasions he has shown his versatility for handling difficult assignments, possessing, as he does, a long and varied experience not only as a writer, but as a news editor. His biography of Sir John Thompson, at the time of the Prime Minister's sudden death in 1894, is spoken of as a very fine piece of work. The services in Cuba have now added fresh laurels to a reputation steadily built up during many years by hard, honest work.

Before the proceedings after the banquet terminated, Mr. Peter Ryan proposed the health of The Globe staff. To this Mr. Willison replied, referring to Mr. Ewan's success in the

kindest terms and declaring that during his absence he had had the very hearty sympathy of his comrades in the office, whose admiration for his work was tempered only by anxiety for his safety. He had done his difficult work with courage and prudence, and the skill and literary force which he had displayed had won him a first place in as brilliant a staff of correspondents as ever followed the fortunes of a war.

It is characteristic of Mr. Willison to bestow a generous tribute where it is deserved, and he never loses an opportunity of seeing that when a member of his staff does good work all the credit for it goes to the man himself. This somewhat rare virtue is one of several causes which account for the expansion and prosperity of The Globe in recent years, for to the energetic and able business management of Mr. Taylor and the wise editorial policy of Mr. Willison, is added a staunch loyalty to the paper among all its employees. The banquet to Mr. Ewan is a compliment to the whole newspaper fraternity, since, in honoring one of us, The Globe has honored us all.