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A CANADIAN SHORTHAND CONVENTION.

Notwithstanding that the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association is in *statu quo*, we see no reason why a Canadian Convention, if held in this city during this summer, should not be a success. Indeed, many "professionals"—and the membership of the C. S. W. A. is composed entirely of such—have passed the "enthusiastic" stage, and some of the members of the Association might be inclined to look upon a Convention as something in which they were not required to take an interest. It would be a very pleasant and profitable thing for the professional members of the Canadian fraternity to meet the younger adherents of the craft upon the same level for the nonce. It would revive the recollections of the early days of student progress, and give rise to mental reflections and comparisons which would be extremely gratifying, for there is not one of the influential—and more or less wealthy—members of the profession who does not owe his mental, social, and material advancement in very large measure to the art-science of Phonography. There is one reflection which would surely be forced upon the professionals by the sight of the large number of enthusiastic, bright-eyed practitioners who would undoubtedly be present: the professionals would remember that one day they, too, were amateurs! The reflex influence on the amateurs, of this mental impression, would be very valuable. The relations of distance which now subsist between the two classes would immediately change. The professionals would no longer view the amateurs—as they now do—with distrust, as enemies of the profession, undermining its usefulness, lowering its standing, and reducing its material value; but, remembering their own early struggles and ambitions, they would be moved with fraternal compassion, and recognize in the more youthful portion of the company, the younger brothers of a great fraternity. To be the "big brothers" to whom these youths would look up

with mingled awe and admiration, and whose every suggestion would be eagerly sought after, would then appear to the professionals as a worthy ambition. Thus the professionals and the practitioners would be reconciled, and swear fealty for all the future.

The practitioners are ready to recognize and appreciate to the full the superior skill, knowledge and attainments of the professionals. Let the latter, in turn, recognize the practitioners as the necessary counterpart of the demand for shorthand writers which the professionals themselves have created. On this basis of mutual recognition, representatives of all systems and all grades of progress may hold a Convention which will be an honor to Canada, and a credit alike to the hearts and heads of the leaders of the fraternity in this Dominion.

The idea of a Canadian Convention is by no means impracticable. As to time and place there need be no difficulty, and, whether the gathering be great or small in numbers, it surely will be enthusiastic. The juniors, we are satisfied, would muster in full force, and we see no reason why there should not be seventy-five or a hundred delegates present. Liberal arrangements can be made for railway and hotel accommodation, and employers, as a rule, will gladly consent to a few days' holiday in addition to the customary quota, when they know that their stenographic assistants will be materially benefited by the meeting.

If the Convention were held about the latter week in August—after the meeting of the New York Association on the 1st, and prior to that of the International on the 31st, we might hope for the attendance of some of our American brethren, and their presence would be an inspiration. The Canadians, in Convention assembled, might nominate delegates to attend the International as their representatives, conveying their greetings to the world of shorthand writers, and also contributing to