

A CENTURY OF NEWSPAPER PRINTING.

THE development in the apparatus of newspaper printing is perhaps the most marvellous thing, besides the telegraph, that the nineteenth century has witnessed. In the early years of the century newspapers were produced on a hand-press at the rate of about 125 copies an hour. Now it is possible to print them at the extraordinary speed of 24,000 copies in the same time. But while each copy of the earlier paper was made up of only four pages, the modern newspaper may contain twelve. This means that the actual rate of production now-a-days is 72,000, as against 125 ninety years ago. Furthermore, a single page of to-day's newspaper may contain quite as much matter as all four of the earlier print. Going on and multiplying the 72,000 by four, the astounding fact is thus revealed that in place of 125 newspapers, as our grandfathers may remember them, we can now turn out the equivalent of 288,000.

How this result has been achieved may briefly be indicated. The flat hand press, after a career in England of about 340 years, was first superseded in 1814 by a steam-driven cylinder machine, which, in the language of *The London Times*, worked "with such velocity" as to impress 1,100 sheets an hour. By a succession of improvements the rate was gradually raised until by 1848 it had reached the number of 12,000, the printing, however, being on one side of the paper only.

The problem of impressing both sides simultaneously was solved in 1869 by a Scotsman, John Cameron Macdonald, manager of *The London Times*. This was effected by the process of stereotyping, which enabled the machine to be supplied with a double set of printing plates cast from a mould taken off the type. This machine was also fed by a web of paper, which it printed on both sides, cut into single sheets, and delivered at the rate of 10,000 an hour.

But how, it may be asked, is labor affected? Well, the hand-press was manipulated—say, by two men; the new "Hoe" is attended by three. If, as has been said, the "Hoe" produces the equivalent of 288,000 copies for 125 of the hand press, it would appear that with three men work is done that would by the old process have required 4,608. There is another result. In its first years the price of *The Scotsman*, for example, was tenpence; it may now be had with twelve times the contents—or ten shillings worth at the old value—for one penny. Besides this, by aid of telegraph and railway, your daily pennyworth contains news up to date from every part of the world, all well arranged and accurate, as well as other details too numerous to mention. Thus, with saving of labor, cheapening of price, and improvement of quality, not much more, it would seem, remains to be done for newspaper printing.

PRINTING MACHINERY.

The Controller of Customs has made an important ruling regarding the duties on Linotype matrices under the new tariff. A Toronto paper passed six sets in yesterday, and entered these matrices, from which the lines of type are cast, under the heading "Type-making accessories for printing presses." A new definition. The matrices are, therefore, dutiable at 10 per cent. only, instead of as manufactures of brass at 30 per cent. under the old tariff. Stereotyping machinery, for making the plates from which papers are printed, will also be admitted at 10 per cent. duty in future.

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