

Improvements in Ruling Apparatus.

Ed. W. Blackhall, of Toronto, has invented and secured patent rights for a number of useful inventions in connection with the bookbinding business, among which may be enumerated a Ruling Attachment, a Round-Hole Lifting Perforator, a Beam Stop, a Drop Box, a Guide Piece, an Under-Slide Pen Lifter, a Waved Line Maker, and a Sheet Lapper, Regulator and Striker. The Ruling Attachment is an ingenious contrivance whereby one ruling machine can be made do the work of two. The Round-Hole Lifting Perforator is a perfect gem in its way, being accurate, quick and reliable in the quality and quantity of work turned out. The Beam Stop prevents all jar to the clamp, hence the pens are not liable to shake. The Drop Box is a simple arrangement that will drop all and any kind of paper so uniformly that it is ready to fold or tie up without further handling. With the Guide Piece the finest adjustment can be secured, and it can be altered to suit inaccurate paper in an instant. The Under-Slide Pen Lifter is a narrow steel clamp with a strong slide in the centre, and is fastened on the under side of the pen clamp. A small lever, worked by a wire from the cams on the lapper, causes it to advance and push up any pen or number of pens required. The clamp can be taken out quickly and the pattern set up on the feed board, which, all will admit, is a great advantage.—being able to lay the clamp on the pattern; besides, it is claimed that the slide movement is easier on the pens than any method now in use. The Waved Line Maker will give any size of crossed waved lines. The Sheet Lapper, Regulator and Striker is a simple contrivance that will accomplish more than all the present combinations of cogs, trips, wings, tipping-pieces, bars and the multitude of pieces now in use for the same purpose. For the great bulk of work (one head) it does away with the use of a striker altogether, down-lining being done as fast as feint-lining, and with greater accuracy and less work for the ruler, who can make every required alteration as he stands at the pen-clamp. Paper from 9 inches to 32 inches can be worked without any loss of space between the sheets. The sheets are fed in tail up (lapped carelessly by the feeder). The Gate is worked by the Lapper, which regulates the lap, so that any width of head can be allowed; the tail of the second sheet cuts off the head of the first, and so on all through the job;

the pens never lift, but run continuously; they can have one leg short, thus preventing their ruling as one, and the cloth never gets inked. The average cost of using a Ruling Machine is about \$15 per week, which the inventor claims can be reduced, at least, one-third—say \$250 a year.

Formation of a Typographical Union in St. John.

In order to test the Union feeling prevailing among the printers of this city, a circular was put in circulation for signature, and upwards of eighty-five journeymen signed it. By mutual consent it was agreed to call a meeting of the craft, and on Saturday the 26th of February, about seventy printers assembled in Good Templar Hall, King street, nearly every office in the city being represented. Mr. John W. Perkins was called to the chair and Mr. George E. Day was chosen secretary. After the temporary organization had been perfected, the presiding officer stated the object of the meeting, and was followed by many of the older printers in attendance, who expatiated on the benefits to be derived from a society. After an almost general and a very favorable expression of opinion in favor of a union, the meeting, by a unanimous vote, resolved itself into a Typographical Union, and elected the following officers: John W. Perkins, president; William H. Eaton, vice-president; J. J. Ryan, recording secretary; H. E. Codner, corresponding secretary; Robert Simpson, financial secretary; John S. Mitchell, treasurer; Robert C. Woods, sergeant at-arms. A committee was then appointed to frame by-laws previous to applying for a charter from the International Typographical Union of North America.

After transacting routine business, the Union adjourned to meet at the call of the President.

During the session a very pleasing incident occurred which displayed the good and warm feeling felt by all present for the project; we refer to the presentation, by one of the members, of a gold pen and a quantity of paper, for which he received a hearty vote of thanks.

Correspondents are reminded that their real names must accompany every communication. We cannot take any notice of letters when the above rule is violated. Items of news are often sent to this office by friends, no doubt, but they are perfectly useless to us unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.