



Law Reports. The Beeton World directs attention, with good humored sarcasm, to the law reports in the Toronto morning papers, and remarks: "The reports in the daily papers of legal cases that come before the judges at Toronto, to the average mind, are as clear as mud. A combination of legal phraseology and Latin is used, and unless one has a Latin dictionary at hand, or a lawyer near by, he knows as much as the man in the moon what the reports mean after he has read them. Why do not court reporters give us plain English? The great majority of people have no knowledge of Latin, and cannot afford to consult a lawyer every time they want to know what decision has been given in cases in which they are interested." This criticism is not without foundation. The reports in question are written by a lawyer for lawyers. They are accurate and well condensed, but, as far as the general reader is concerned, they might as well be reported in Chinese as in the technical terms now employed. The Montreal Gazette's legal reports are better suited for laymen

Calling in Subscriptions. The Parry Sound Star has issued a call for unpaid subscriptions, and the plain common sense and civility of the notice may be commended to other publishers. The Star says: "We have sent out this week upwards of \$400 worth of accounts for subscription to The Star. The response has been generous as far as the town is concerned, and we expect it will be equally so from the country as soon as our patrons receive their little reminders. We intend to adhere strictly to the cash-in-advance plan and will insist on all who do not pay strictly in advance sending us \$1.25 if their subscription is overdue on the 30 inst. We have hundreds of dollars outstanding, largely for want of thought on the part of our patrons, and this money we need to assist us with our building operations."

A Century Celebration. The Onllia Packet has begun a good editorial campaign in favor of people celebrating the beginning of the 20th century next January by paying their debts. The appeal is one that might be made with some effect all over the country, and weekly papers especially might take it up to the signal advantage of their merchant advertisers. It is notorious that many persons who can well afford to pay have acquired the habit of hanging on to their money until it is almost forced out of them. One of the worst features of business life in Canada is this credit system for small debts. A reminder will bring in a good deal of money to merchants, and the newspaper which starts the agitation in any district will earn the gratitude of its principal advertisers. A corres-

pondent of The Packet says: "I don't know whether it is the proximity of Canada to the United States, or whether it is natural extravagance, but people, in the cities at any rate, do not exercise common honesty in paying debts which they think they can, as they term it, 'stand off.' I have seen a man who owes me hundreds of dollars, and has not paid his taxes for years, driving around Toronto in a stylish rig of his wife's—at least, that was what he said it was. On another occasion, a person who owed me money, long past due, on being remonstrated with, it being known that she was in easy circumstances, replied, 'Oh, my lawyer told me that you would not bother to do anything to me for a month or two yet, so I might as well keep the money a while longer.'"

Reducing Size.

Reference was made in this column last month to the courage of The Blyth Standard in reducing its size and telling the public why—increased cost of production. The Fort Steele Prospector has done the same thing, and its remarks on announcing the change are worth noting: "In reducing The Prospector from eight to four pages we will say that this step is taken on account of the largely increased cost



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of producing a newspaper at the present time. Although The Prospector is smaller in size, we purpose making it as good, if not better, in quality. The reduction in size will not be accompanied by any neglect of the paper, either as to make-up, quality of news or circulation."

H. Woodside, of The Yukon Sun, Dawson, who has been spending some weeks in Ontario, was born in Bruce county, his parents being pioneers of Arran township. He began his newspaper career as a boy in 1871 in the employ of David Creighton, of The Owen Sound Times, and was subsequently connected with newspapers at Port Arthur and Portage la Prairie, being for a time editor of The Manitoba Liberal. He went to the Yukon in 1898.