

Innes, M.P., James Shannon, George Tye, C. B. Robinson, J. A. Davidson, W. Watt, jr., J. J. Crabbe and E. H. Dewart.

3.45—"Symposium on Type Machines."—P. D. Ross, Ottawa; S. S. Stephenson, Chatham; W. S. Dingman, Stratford.

4.15—"Law Reform as it Affects the Ontario Press."—J. S. Willison, Toronto.

4.30—"Newspaper Accounting."—A. O. Kittridge, New York.

Adjourn at 5 p.m.

#### THE BANQUET.

The banquet will be held at the Rotunda, Board of Trade, beginning at 6 p.m., sharp.

#### TOAST LIST.

By the Chairman—T. H. Preston, Brantford, President.

1. "The Queen."

2. "The Lt.-Governor of Ontario." Lt.-Gov. Kirkpatrick. Song—Mr. J. E. Atkinson.

Proposed by Mr. John Cameron, of London.

3. "Canada." Hon. M. Bowell, Hon. G. W. Ross. Mr. Goldwin Smith.

Proposed by Hon. T. W. Anglin.

4. "Dominion and Provincial Parliaments." N. F. Davin, M.P.; W. D. Balfour, M.P.P.

Recitation—Mr. J. W. Bengough.

By the First Vice-Chairman—Mr. L. W. Shannon, Kingston.

5. "In Memoriam." (Hon. George Brown) W. Buckingham. (Hon. Thomas White) W. F. Maclean, M.P.

6. "Early Journals and Journalism." Hon. James Young.

Proposed by Mr. W. Houston, Toronto.

7. "The Press of To-day, Its Position and Aspirations." C. W. Bunting, J. S. Willison, D. Creighton, E. E. Sheppard, H. F. Gardiner, A. Pattullo.

Song—Mr. A. C. Campbell.

Proposed by Mr. G. R. Pattullo, Woodstock.

8. "The Canadian Press Association." Mr. T. H. Preston, President.

By the Second Vice Chairman—J. S. Brierley, St. Thomas.

9. "The Country Press." A. F. Pirie, H. P. Moore.

Song—Mr. J. L. Payne.

10. "The Patriots." W. T. R. Preston, R. Mathison.

11. "Sister Associations." The President Quebec Press Association.

12. "The Press Gallery." L. P. Kribs, J. E. Atkinson.

13. "Ladies in Journalism." Mr. Frank Veigh.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

Meet at 10 a.m.

10 a.m.—Election of officers and members of Executive Committee.

10.30—"Copyright." Mr. A. F. Rutter, Toronto.

11—"Advertising Fakes and the Abuse of Mail Privileges." Mr. J. C. Jamieson, Belleville.

11.30—"Newspaper Subscription Prices." Mr. J. B. MacLean, Toronto.

12—Report of Committee on Resolutions.

General business.

All newspaper men, past or present, are invited to be present.

Tickets for the banquet (\$2) can now be obtained from the secretary or president, and it will greatly assist the committee if those desiring to attend would purchase their tickets early. By so doing the number of plates to be laid will be ascertained early.



### QUEBEC'S NEW LIBEL LAW.

BY W. A. RITCHIE.



BY the action of the Quebec Legislature on the 25th of January, newspapers in that province stand a chance of some amelioration in their position. On that date the bill submitted by Attorney-General Casgrain, governing suits for libel, passed its third reading, and in a year's time will become law, provided it is not vetoed by the Lieutenant-Governor—a very unlikely occurrence.

The bill passed, with two important exceptions, almost as it was submitted by the Hon. Attorney-General. These two exceptions were the clause relating to a deposit providing for costs by the party suing, and the one whereby, in the case of the publication of a signed letter, the newspaper publisher could make the writer of the letter responsible as well as himself. As there was a danger of these two clauses defeating the bill, the Hon. Mr. Casgrain withdrew them.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that the sentiment of the more intelligent members of the House was strongly in favor of

the suing party depositing costs, Mr. Fitzpatrick, a leading lawyer, and one of the brightest lights of the Liberal party, making a strong speech in favor of its retention. Unfortunately, however, the members for backwoods country districts have a voting strength, and this important clause had to be dropped.

Still Quebec pressmen have reason to be thankful. Until this bill was submitted they stood in a very unenviable position, being open to an action from any of the number of money-seeking scallawag lawyers that disgrace the bar. In the majority of cases, therefore, to avoid annoyance and trouble, publishers compromised matters, and it is pretty strong proof of the low calibre of some limbs of the law that a cheque for \$50 frequently was sufficient to stop all proceedings.

The great fault of the existing libel law of Quebec is that it belongs to a past stage of existence—the time when there were no newspapers. And it does not speak much for the understanding of some of the members at Quebec that they were willing to continue this state of things.

However, the new libel law, when it becomes law, will permit a newspaper to plead that the libel was inserted "without actual malice and without gross negligence," and that a full ap-