

### PRINTERS' PROTECTIVE FRATERNITY

THE great majority of the compositors of Canada are not aware that there is in existence in North America an organization consisting solely of non-union compositors, yet such is the case. How many subordinate associations are in existence is unknown to us, but a few months ago the movement had a foothold in Canada, as a Fraternity was then in operation in Montreal. The reasons for this new organization are set forth as follows by Mr. Charles G. Low, president of the Omaha Printers' Protective Fraternity, whose letter is taken from the *Inland Printer*:

"So much is being said nowadays about 'rats' that the opinion is pretty thoroughly fixed in the public mind that 'rats' generally work under the scale, and are continually cutting the price of labor to the detriment of workingmen generally. The name 'rat,' therefore, does not belong to a non-union man. He may have good reason for not belonging to the typographical union, without in any way prejudicing the scale. There have been reasons urged, and good reasons, too, why every printer should belong to an organization; but there may be just as many reasons and just as good ones as to why he should not belong to the typographical union.

"First, the losing of the individuality of the workman. He does not strive to excel, because no extra efforts are appreciated and encouraged. If he be able to hold a position at the scale, he must be content. If he be not able to earn for the employer the wages the scale demands, he relies upon the strength of the union to compel his employer to pay him wages he does not earn.

"Then there is the strike clause. Perhaps this keeps out more independent, self-thinking printers than any other one thing. Have strikes been successful? Have they not invariably brought about ill-feeling and distrust between employer and employee? Having been largely unsuccessful, should not they be laid on the shelf among the relics of past history? A non-union man would rather take his chances and work for his employer's interest and feel secure in his position than to be a member of a union and feel that for every trivial difference he was liable to be pulled out to vindicate the autocratic member. If the conservative union men dominated its council it might be different, but hot-heads precipitate trouble and leave it for conservatives to settle. For example: Perhaps a workman is doing well and saves some money. He invests in a home, paying thereon monthly. He has some yet to pay when he is called out. He must obey the dictates of the powers that be, though he had no grievance. He loses his home and want may stare him in the face. He is compelled by com-

petition to leave town or live from hand to mouth. Is this justice? Who reaped the reward?

"The boycott, too, plays an important part in the union policy. This un-American, indefensible weapon is brought to bear when the strike fails. No law but expediency is urged in its behalf. It drives capital out of business, engenders strife and provokes hatred. It often leads to deeds of violence and crime. And all for what? To wreak vengeance on a person who cannot see as others do.

"We submit that every man has the inherent right to the fruits of his own labor, and the disposition of it to whomsoever he chooses is his own affair. The persistent ostracing of a person for maintaining this right to not belong to the union is unchristian, unlawful and unwarranted. And he is neither a rat nor a scab for his failure to ally himself with men and give his moral support to measures he cannot indorse. When the typographical union eliminates strikes, lockouts and boycotts from its code of ethics, then it can consistently ask non-union men to become members."

### IS THE EDITORIAL DOOMED?

IN a recent issue of the *New York Journalist* Mr. W. B. Chisholm writes:—

Henry Appleton discusses, in the *Newsman*, the probable decline of the editorial, and thinks that the newspaper will soon be restored to its original function—that of a *news* paper, and no more. The newspaper editorial has been the subject of more persistent attack of late years than any other department, and every writer of the so-called progressive set feels called upon to offer some amendment to the existent order of things. I, for one, believe that the editorial column will survive every onslaught that is made against it. The fact is that instead of the editorial being made too prominent in the average paper of the day, it is encroached upon more and more steadily by the business office, and the exceedingly ephemeral "local." There is bound to be a reaction of some sort, because the people themselves, whose cents or dollars keep the newspaper afloat, demand opinions as well as facts, and are close and earnest critics of the editor's own special work.

You cannot maintain the highest dignity and usefulness of any paper by emphasizing the fact that its first and only object is to appeal to the sensational reader. The regular subscribers to any paper are those upon whom it must depend. A blood-curdling tragedy will cause it to experience a boom in circulation for that day. But who is worth more to a paper—the man of solid taste and a desire for intelligent discussion, who marches up to the business office once a year, and plunks down his six dollars, or the boy or