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EDITORIAL NOTES.

"How little impression can I use in printing this job?" should be the first question which a pressman, on being handed a form, should ask himself, says William J. Kelly. Most publishers of country weeklies use "too much" impression, and the print produced is too heavy. A light, clear effect is needed, and it can only be secured by a careful regulation of the number of sheets used in the nature of tympaning. Mr. Kelly lays down the rules: (1) Begin by careful underlaying so as to bring up all defective letters to the standard height of perfect ones, and to make the strong lines stronger; (2) begin making

ready with a light tympan, and gradually increase it until the proper even impression is produced.

*

If anyone should ask: "What is the greatest fault of the small Canadian printer of to-day?" everyone competent to give an answer would say, "Bad presswork." This includes bad rollers, poor quality of inks, dirty presses, irregularity of speed, disregard of making ready, and a general overwhelming desire to rush it off regardless of the effect.

*

I know a country printer to-day who publishes a splendid local weekly, does a large job business, and has been working in a printing office since before he left off his knickerbockers, who has not the first idea of how to make a form ready. That careful skill which pastes a piece on here and another there, which adds a half sheet of good thickness here and a thin quarter sheet there, and which is quick to detect the spot where the impression is too heavy or too light, and what lines of types and what cuts need under-laying, is absolutely unknown to him.

*

My incredulous friend may smile, and say this is overdrawn that the language includes too much—but I, most emphatically, say that it "isn't and doesn't." The small country publisher and job printer is away down in the rank of "knowledge of his business," and some of them know more about feeding hogs than they do about printing. And what is most disgusting, they will not try to learn. They spend twenty-five years running a job printing business, and know as little when they get through as when they started.

*

They growl, and say there is no way to better their condition, and that the old press and the old type and the old methods will have to do a while longer. These two statements are at once companions, and at the same time contradictory. The job printer can improve himself, but in order to do so he must first have good presses, the best type and the latest methods. There is no need to say where the presses and type can be got. But there is, seemingly, a need to tell where the latest methods are to be found.

*

Methods can be bought just the same as anything else. Any trade journal devoted to printing, and this is not the only one, for Chicago, New York and London have their share, will give much information. This information costs from \$2 to \$5 per year. The cost is ridiculously small, but the seeker after