

COMPOSITORS AND REPORTERS.

VERY often the reportorial force on a newspaper becomes crippled from unlooked-for circumstances and substitutes are taken from the composing room. The showing generally made by such individuals in their new capacity has been highly commendable. Thus we are reminded that there are a great many printers working at the case to-day who have the ability to make good reporters should they feel so inclined. While there may be some printers who have given news gathering the preference to that of type-setting as a means of earning a livelihood, there are a great many others who are loth to make the change because of the inferiority of reporting as regards remuneration for services. The average compositor can see no advantage in leaving one occupation to take up the other, where the rate of wages is lower, even though the new business may be a little more genteel, and those engaged in it considered a point or two above the composing-room mechanic.

Taking the cities as a basis for comparison, the compensation paid to reporters is much less than that given to compositors, and a great deal of surprise is manifested as to the reason of this fact.

The chief reason why the services of the reporter are so poorly compensated, in comparison with the compositor and others connected with a newspaper, is because the business of news gathering is overdone. There is no vocation which possesses so much fascination for the young fellow just from school as the life of a reporter. Every young man claiming the ability to compose into sentences a readable essay sees in this alluring business the goal to which all ambition should tend—a stepping-stone to journalistic greatness. Consequently, all the newspapers of the country are besieged by this class of literary aspirants, and those manifesting any ability whatever are generally given a trial at meagre rates of compensation, and though the work performed by some of them is abominable, their inferiority is tolerated because of the mere pittance they receive. One first-class reporter at a good salary would do the work of two or three of this class of incompetents, but it seems the average newspaper cannot be induced to view matters in such a light. This is more particularly true of newspapers outside of the large cities, where weekly salaries, from \$4 up, are the rule, rather than where compensation is made according to space.—American Art Printer.

THEY ADVANCE TOO.

EVEN the printers and publishers in Great Britain are making progress. The British and Colonial Printer and Stationer (what a pity somebody wouldn't chew off half that name) speaks in a recent issue as follows:

Little more than 20 years since there were very few provincial papers that had found it necessary to adopt the rotary machine, but at the present day if one looks round there are comparatively few of the old established and widely-read weeklies that have not adopted the principle. Of course this points to the conclusion that circulations have gone up enormously, but it further illustrates the growing intensity of the competition. The respectable weekly that could once afford to go to press on Thursday afternoon with one side of its sheet, and back up with later intelligence on Friday afternoon, and possibly a second edition at midnight, now finds it necessary to rush its 30,000 or 50,000 copies through entirely within the "wee short hours a yont the twal," to meet newsagents' demands at 4 o'clock on

Saturday morning, not to mention train despatches. To print a sheet without late Friday evening results is fatal to a paper's reputation, and 6 a.m. editions must be spiced with late Parliamentary, foreign, and other wires up to past midnight, and even a glance at London editorials of "even date," as commercial men put it. All this the rotary, and the rotary alone, renders possible, with its 12,000, 24,000, 48,000, or 96,000 an hour turn out. Where will the struggle for pre-eminence land us at length? Single-width web machines are comparatively speaking old-fashioned to-day—double-widths, treble-widths, and double-width inseting machines are what are inquired for now. And if this width of reel is to go on, what about the paper-maker? The makers of our news reels must keep pace with the demand, put down mammoth machines, or be shut out from competition. But it is evident the reel cannot be increased beyond a certain capacity, therefore it is probable that we shall soon see two double-width reels mounted at one end of an insetter, running off 192,000 an hour. Will it stop at that?

We recall having read in the dim past a prophetic paper by a writer who foretold that at some era of time, not set down, the machines which we now so laboriously constructed would become sentient things and rise against us in their might and fury, throw off the yoke of servitude and crush us to the earth. Fancy a quad-quad-quad-quad-demy monster terrorising over one! Phew! Perhaps we only dreamed of this after a Press dinner instead of reading it in print. We hope so, for we have a profound belief in everything that appears in print.

CANADA'S GREAT FAIR—TORONTO.

Though not a World's Fair, Canada's Great Industrial Fair, to be held at Toronto from the 4th to the 16th of September, will be very much the same in every respect, except as to extent, and will be equally as important to the people of Canada. This year's Fair will, it is predicted, excel all former ones, both in point of exhibits and in the attendance of visitors. The space in all the buildings has already been applied for. New stables and new cattle sheds have been erected at a cost of over \$100,000, and visitors can pass through all the buildings and view the animals under cover at all hours of the day. The grounds have also been drained, new roads constructed and many other improvements made. The special attractions are promised to be greater and better than ever and will embrace many new features. A very small proportion of the Canadian people are going to the World's Fair at Chicago, the masses being intent on taking in the Toronto Fair, of which they all feel justly proud.

AN EDITOR'S BAD BREAK.

THE Boston Traveler tells of how an editor lost two subscribers. They wrote to ask him his remedy for their respective troubles. No. 1, a happy father of twins, wrote to inquire the best way to get them safely over their teething, and No. 2 wanted to know how to protect his orchard from the myriads of grasshoppers. The editor framed his answers upon the orthodox lines, but unfortunately transposed their two names, with the result that No. 1, who was blessed with the twins, read in reply to his query: "Cover them carefully with straw and set fire to them, and the little pests, after jumping about in the flames a few minutes, will speedily be settled." No. 2, plagued with grasshoppers, was told to "Give a little castor oil and rub their gums gently with a bone ring."