

Mr. Bruce gave a paper showing the legal status of the Stenographic profession in the different Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

Miss A. M. Ashley, of Belleville, read a paper on "Shorthand writing and Efficient Women to Write It." This paper in an admirable way showed that ladies were not as incompetent and unable to perform the duties required of a shorthand amanuensis as is generally thought by business men and others. It is evident that a great reformation is pending in relation to the employment of lady stenographers. Several ladies are now employed in business houses in the city and are all giving good satisfaction.

During the afternoon the subject of "Shorthand in Schools" was touched upon. There was considerable diversity of opinion but the majority decided that it would be a much needed reform. It was clearly shown that with shorthand at least one-third of the time of a school course would be saved, and this itself is a great point in favor of the introduction of shorthand into the schools.

One of the most interesting parts of the programme was the evening session at the City Hall. It would be impossible to give a detailed list of the machines and appliances as well as the ancient books and other oddities on exhibition there.

A lithographic stone was exhibited and specimens of the work distributed. There were at least five different styles of type-writers exhibited. A No. 2 machine of the old class which prints capitals and small letters; two caligraphs which also print capitals and small letters, but have twice the number of keys that are used on the former. Mr. Horton's machine was also exhibited, though in an unfinished condition. It has several advantages over all other machines shown, one of which is that the work can be constantly seen by the writer without lifting the carriage, and another that the machine is far simpler than those of American make. The portraits of authors of systems and distinguished reporters were also to be seen on the tables.

Several distinguished speakers addressed the large audience assembled to take in some of the wonders of the shorthand world. The hall was filled and several left not being able to obtain seats.

Prof. Goldwin Smith read the address of "Welcome," and in the course of his remarks gave a short *resume* of the growth of shorthand from the time of Zenophon to the present. [Zenophon was a shorthand writer who ran a Bazaar in Egypt, but whose business was injured by the bombardment of Alexandria. His name does not appear in history, hence this explanatory note. Ed. C.S.W.]

Mr. Wm. Houston, M.A., [formerly] of the *Globe*, gave a very interesting paper showing some of the glaring defects of our language and strongly advising the introduction of shorthand

into the schools. He is a man of large experience and his opinion is valuable, and is no doubt sanctioned by the country in the steps already taken in this direction.

Rev. Dr. Wild said that it was shorthand that made him what he is. It was shorthand that put the first \$50 in his pocket and enabled him to complete his education. He was an efficient reporter when only eleven years of age. He closed by giving some practical advice inspired by his own experience.

But the most important subject of the evening—a subject affording a great deal of satisfaction to the hard-worked shorthand writer—was presented by Mr. Bengough. It was the reading of letters by business men stating their opinion of shorthand writers as amanuenses, and not only do they testify to the great amount of time saved but one of them stated that the manner in which their business was done was so greatly improved by the employment of shorthand skill as to increase their business at least fifty per cent., and it is certainly a fact to be considered by business men that three-fourths of the time of corresponding is saved and the work much more efficiently done. A most enjoyable evening was spent and everyone went away highly satisfied that shorthand was indeed an "institutooshun" not to be undervalued.

The members met on the morning of the 30th ult., at the Rossin House, where cabs were provided, and the majority of the Association took part in a most interesting drive through the city, calling at the "Zoo" before taking the northern part of the city. The new Rosedale bridge was visited, after which the cabs crossed over to Yonge-st., driving through the Queen's Park on the way to the depot, whence the delegates departed to take a part in the International Congress of Shorthand Writers to be held at Cincinnati. This brings to a close the first meeting of the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association, one of the most remarkable features of which, and a feature which should greatly encourage our amateurs, was that the seniors and professionals took such an interest in the second-rate shorthand writers. We are glad to note such a friendly and fraternal spirit prevailing and predict for ourselves as successful a future as their first convention has proved to be.

BENGOUGH'S COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER for September has its pages mainly devoted to the meetings of the Canadian and United States Shorthand Writers' Congresses. The accounts of the proceedings, and the racy comments thereon, will doubtless be read with much interest by every stenographer. Learners can also study the constitution of the newly-formed Association with advantage, for at last a movement which promises to be successful has been started to give a status to all really worthy members of the profession.—*Hamilton Times*.