

for them, struck work and refused to return unless he was reinstated and the foreman discharged. The employers and foreman asserted that the discharge was not on account of any official action of the compositor in behalf of his fellow-workmen, but was solely owing to a personal misunderstanding between him and the foreman. However, it resulted in the hands staying out, to the great inconvenience of their late employers. Messrs. McKillop & Johnston, being both practical printers, and being enabled to secure some outside help, had the paper out looking as usual on Monday morning. Since then they have secured additional help and at the present writing the office is thoroughly re-organized.

Of the hands that struck work, Geo. Thomas, Wm. Clark, J. Ryan, and Geo. Maxwell went to New York; Thos. Millar went to Fredericton, and Francis Murphy left for New York later, while Duncan Brown, James Foster, Chas. Hazel and — Doherty went back to work a week or so later. Geo. E. Day, we believe, has secured work in Halifax, N. S. Thus ended a very disagreeable episode in the printing trade in St. John.

In justice to all it may be added that the men felt and acted conscientiously when they struck work when they thought one of their number was singled out for discharge merely because he had acted as spokesman for them. The person discharged did not (so it has been represented to us) express any wish or desire that the men should strike on his behalf. The employers felt they had a grievance when the hands struck work after they (the employers) asserted that the discharge was not on account of any official action, as spokesman for the men.

For many years there has been a deep feeling among compositors here that their wages were insufficient for their proper support and sustenance, and for the quantity and quality of the work done. Some years before the fire of June '77, the feeling began to crop out, especially since the advent of daily newspapers in the city. The feeling since has almost universally been that 25 cents per thousand ems is inadequate remuneration for the exhausting and debilitating labor of a daily morning newspaper compositor. We defy contradiction when we state that there is not another occupation which so taxes a man's physical and mental powers of endurance, and there are few, if any, that requires more prepara-

tion and greater skill. There is a great deal to be said in favor of the compositor who has to delve into his case all night and a good part of the day for a livelihood, and we feel it to be our duty to commend his case to the kind consideration of his employer.

On the other hand, there is also much to be said in favor of the employer. For many years business has been dull, and for a part of the time exceedingly flat. Then, the fire of 1877 nearly swept them out of existence, and left them without any means except their former good credit and business ability. This is true of nearly all business houses in this city, but we think the printing fraternity's sufferings were more severe and protracted than almost any other. They have struggled through thus far manfully, but they contend (and we believe them) that they have not fully recovered from its disastrous results, and are not yet in a position to advance the scale now paid for work. We believe, and we are in a position to know, that the majority of the printers in the city at the present time have taken this view of the matter, and have, consequently, refrained from doing anything which might add to the burdens of their employers.

There is a point upon which we wish to touch before closing. If more leaded matter was set on newspapers employing piece compositors, things would move along more smoothly and agreeably among the men, while the employers would not only not be out of pocket one cent more but actually gainers; it would cost them less, the compositor would be able to make good wages in less time than now, and the readers (the public) would be better satisfied, notwithstanding they got a little less reading matter.

#### Typography vs. Lithography.

It seems to be a foregone conclusion with some of those interested in the production of work in which these two branches of art may be said to be rivals, that in the finer classes of jobs the latter process is by far preferable to the former, especially in work requiring the use of color; and the lack of enterprize, or a true appreciation of the undeveloped possibilities of the former on the part of many printers, has done much to foster this idea. That it is erroneous in many respects is being daily made manifest by those printers in the old and the