

speakers as Principal Grant and Prof. Robertson, but is it wise to force people to wade through a dinner of eight courses when three or four at half the money are all that are required? Of course, it will be said these are the views of a Philistine. Anyway, I loathe banquets. You have to dine at an hour far later than usual, and you go *into* dinner either in a weak and famished condition, or else you have regaled yourself before starting with a bite in the pantry. In either case the digestive processes are interfered with. Why not sit down to dinner at half-past six or seven precisely to a well-cooked dinner of four courses, with wines extra, and get through the speeches, etc., by half-past ten or eleven? The average Canadian banquet has degenerated into an appalling farce and ought to be reformed. But the annual dinner, being a valuable adjunct to the social side of the Press Association, might, with modification, be retained. The iceboating excursion provided by Mr. Fred Campbell, was a very pleasant contribution to the meeting's enjoyments.

Next to the social feature the other really important part of the meeting was the practical informal discussion on such matters as municipal printing, the collection of subscriptions, etc. These, in my humble view, are of great value, and should be enlarged each year so as to make the annual meeting an open conference, not of set speeches, but of unrestrained exchange of opinion by members of the fraternity. They ought not to be reported in the daily press. In fact, there will always be a tendency towards reticence until the city members present are requested not to mention the matters in their reports. My own impression is that the publicity of the meetings tends to keep city members and country members away rather than to attract them. However, all these observations are offered in a spirit of meekness and with a due consciousness of my own insignificance, and are presented more as an evidence of good faith than for publication. The Press Association is a useful body, and the enlargement of its usefulness depends upon the members generally, not upon the executive solely. For years the officers have done their duty well, and the secretary has been a model of energy, but it seems to me the amount of cooperation received from the rank and file is limited.

A. H. U. C.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

W. S. Dingman, editor of The Stratford Herald (daily and weekly), is a descendant of U.E. Loyalist stock which settled in the Bay of Quinte district in 1784. Land where the city of Utica, N.Y., now stands is said to have been confiscated from the Dingmans as punishment for loyalty to Britain.

The subject of our sketch is a native of Lambton county, and is just past 40 years of age. He began as printing appren-

tice to The Sarnia Canadian in December, 1873, under the present proprietors of that paper. From 1874 to 1886 he was connected with The Strathroy Dispatch—first under A. Dingman, his father, as publisher, and latterly with his brother, L. H. Dingman, as publishers—with the exception of one year, 1884 to 1885, spent at Port Arthur as manager and editor of The Daily Sentinel. In December, 1886, he purchased The Stratford Herald, and, in March of the following year, began the issue of the daily.

The Stratford Herald, under the company management of himself and his brother, L. H. Dingman, has steadily risen in excellence, and consequently in circulation, until it is now one of the best Provincial papers in Canada.

While the general make-up of the paper is highly creditable to the profession, it is specially worthy of mention in two points. First, a leading feature is its well stocked columns of excellent

reading matter, drawn largely from local pens throughout the Perth district; and second, the loyalty it shows to the Conservative party is generally strengthened by the knowledge that there is a measure of virility in the editorial pen that refuses to be led entirely by party considerations. An evidence of this was the stand taken by the paper on the Manitoba school question.

The Herald also gains a powerful influence, which is reflected from the high personal qualities of our newly elected president. As a citizen of Stratford he has deeply entrenched himself in the estimation of the public through his general fair-mindedness and quiet dignity of manner, supported by a community of interest in all that appertains to the welfare of the city.

As a point of municipal honors, he has contented himself with a seat at the Collegiate Institute Board, of which he has been chairman, and is now a member of six years' standing. Music has claimed his atten-

tion somewhat, and he is president of the Stratford Vocal Society, a large and flourishing organization. For some seven years he has been the choirmaster and organist of the Central Methodist Church, which ranks well among the best choirs of Ontario.

The Herald occupies its own premises, a fine three-storey block, and Mr. Dingman's modern home, which he built a few years ago, is well and charmingly wifed and mothered by a daughter of the Rev. Wm. McDonagh, to whom he was married some ten years ago. W. J. F.

A. C. Bertram, editor of The North Sydney Herald, has been reelected mayor of that town. He publishes a live paper.

The Windsor Tribune will hereafter be published by P. M. Fielding, a cousin of the Finance Minister, and James Woodworth.



W. S. Dingman, the new President