

work. Mr. J. V. Reed, who has enjoyed the contract for the past nine years, did not tender. The city spends about \$10,000 a year in printing.

The April issue of THE PRINTER AND PUBLISHER contains a portrait of T. H. Preston, editor and proprietor of The Brantford Expositor, and a sketch of his life written by Editor Pirie, of Dundas. Mr. Pirie says a good many nice things about Mr. Preston in a very nice way, and they are all of them more than deserved. Hamilton Herald.

Buntin, Gillies & Co., Hamilton, have just purchased from the Fairfield Paper Co. one of the largest shipments of American bond paper ever sent into Canada. This paper (The Woronoco Bond) is a well-known line, suitable for commercial forms of the better grades, and the price is little more than for common papers.

A cheque for \$5 was issued by the accountant of the Senate twenty years ago in favor of the publisher of The Congressional Record at Washington, but the name of the publication had been changed and the cheque could not be cashed. This was in 1875, but the cheque was only returned last week. The \$5 has lain at the credit of the cheque all that time, with interest.

At the annual meeting of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Ottawa, Mr. R. M. Macleod, of The Ottawa Citizen, was elected president; W. Mackenzie, of The Ottawa Journal, vice-president; George Simpson, of The Toronto Globe, secretary. The following constitute the Executive Committee: J. A. Phillips, Montreal Gazette; R. A. Payne, St. John Sun; A. Olivier, Montreal La Minerve; A. J. Magurn, Toronto Globe; and J. D. Clarke, London Advertiser.

There are some odd newspaper names in England, but nothing to compare with the name of a paper in Greenland, which is the longest newspaper name in the world to wit, the Atrilagdlintit Ralingingimik Lusaruminassumik—and signifies "Something to read, interesting news of all sorts." The record for brevity, on the other hand, is said to be held by a journal in Illinois, which is simply called X.

HOW HE GOT HIS PRICES.

The inference drawn by Mr. Campbell, of The Cayuga Advocate, as published in the April number of PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, that all papers which are running Davis & Lawrence's patent medicine advertisements are doing so at the paltry rate offered Mr. Campbell, is objected to by The Mount Forest Representative. The publisher of The Representative adds that he considers many country publishers make a mistake in treating offers like that made by Davis & Lawrence in the way the Cayuga man did. The offer which reached The Representative office was the same as sent to Cayuga, but the Mount Forest publisher replied to the firm to the effect that they could not expect any paper worth advertising in to run their advertisements at the figure quoted. The result was the making of a contract at profitable rates. Concluding, The Representative man says he holds country publishers have a duty to perform in trying to disabuse the minds of patent medicine men and some other city advertisers of the impression they seem to have, that town newspapers are so anxious to get electros to fill up and save composition as to do advertising for little or nothing. With this end in view correspondence should be tried, failing to succeed, then consign the offers to the waste paper basket.

A SOLICITOR FOR THE PRESS.

THERE is being prepared an agreement for the retainer of a permanent solicitor and counsel for the Press Association. The subject was discussed and heartily approved at the last two annual meetings. Additional impetus has been given the movement by the enormous costs for vexatious libel suits incurred within a recent period by newspaper publishers.

The pleas in favor of the proposal are admittedly strong. There is scarcely an associate body of any importance in the country that has not a regularly retained professional adviser. Banks, companies and associations of all sorts, whether incorporated or not, have, with few exceptions, an officer of that kind in their service. The wonder is, that the Press Association has been so long without one. A professional expert in the law affecting the rights and obligations of newspapers is greatly needed by the association, and would be invaluable in many ways to its members.

The plan contemplated embodies the elements of a co-operative association of a system of mutual insurance by and for all the subscribers to a retainer fund. The advantages to everyone of having within call, at any time and at a small expense, an experienced and reliable solicitor to consult and advise, and, if necessary, to act—one who understands the law and the legislation and current decisions affecting it, and who is in thorough sympathy with the press and his clients—cannot be over-estimated. The saving of expense for professional services under the new system, as compared with the old one, is incalculable. In the Beaton suits, for example, what a gain there would have been to the several defendants! In every one of those actions, under the proposed arrangement—if the plaintiff were not good for costs—the defendant, whether successful or unsuccessful, would be liable to the association's solicitor for the actual cash disbursements only. If the plaintiff were good for costs, the successful defendant would not be liable for anything. In almost any action which might be fought out, the subscription fee, which secures protection and defence to the subscriber, would be a mere bagatelle compared to the sum total of costs that he would have to pay under a system where each man defends his own suits.

The large saving of expense is plainly one of the most cogent arguments in favor of the retainer system. There is also much to be said for it in view of recent legislation affecting the press, of the decisions of the courts on the new Libel Act, and the law generally, and of further amendments of the law, civil and criminal. The services of an expert to watch and suggest and support legislation, in the general interest of the publishing body, is a matter of vital importance.

A NEW QUARTERLY.

Canada has few quarterlies, but it has now one more. From Hamilton, Ont., and The Templar office, comes "The Templar Quarterly," published in the interests of social reform.

Social reformers are by many considered as faddists, but they are the leaders of the day. They may not preach sound doctrine, but they certainly pave the way for the appearance of sound doctrines.

This quarterly is well illustrated with many cartoons and other illustrations, is neatly printed, and has a two-color cover. Its appearance alone indicates that it is published on a business basis.