

THE U. T. A. CONVENTION

ON Monday, the fifteenth, they began to come. There were delegates from the sunny, balmy regions on the Pacific, from flowery Florida, from agricultural Dakota, and from busy, buzzing New York. Smart, bright, rapid business men they were, these employing printers. They dropped on to this city in small swarms and proceeded to size the place up. They looked, and said nothing but what was pleasant. The reception committee were busy on Monday until away into the night, and, led by R. L. Patterson, they saw that no delegate was lacking in any comfort.

About eleven o'clock on Monday, the Executive Committee met, with Amos Pettibone in the chair. Those present were: Messrs. Wadley, Richmond, Va., secretary; T. L. DeVinne, New York; W. H. Woodward, St. Louis; C. S. Moorehouse, New Haven; W. S. Fish, Indianapolis; A. M. Geesaman, Minneapolis, and W. A. Shepard, Toronto. They spent the whole day in preparing their report. What this was will be seen later. In the afternoon a number of carriages were placed at the disposal of the delegates, and the majority took advantage of the opportunity to see the Bicycle Races at the Toronto Lacrosse grounds. On the journey to and fro, they had ample opportunity to view the scenery of Rosedale, which at this season is at its prettiest, with its green verdure and its inviting shade.

During the afternoon and evening, the delegates continued to arrive, and when the Convention met at the Education Buildings on Tuesday morning, the theatre contained over two hundred delegates. Mr. W. A. Shepard, the President, took the chair at 10.30, and on the dias were: the Secretary, Everett Wadley, Richmond, Va.; the Treasurer, Chas. Buss, Cincinnati; E. R. Andrews, Rochester; J. S. Cushing, Boston; Geo. M. Courts, Amos Pettibone, Chicago; and two ex-Presidents, Theo. L. DeVinne and T. H. Rockwell. The first act of importance was the reading of the President's address. He referred to the Pittsburgh strikes, and their effect upon the Typothetae offices in that city. In his opinion the strike was unwarranted and unjustifiable, and he had not seen any honest attempt to defend it. He believed in conference with workmen when there were disputed points.

Continuing, the president said:—"I have been requested to refer to a practice which is in operation in Canada and Great Britain, but which, I understand, does not prevail across the lines. It is this: When a union printer is selected to take charge as foreman, either of a press-room or composing-room, he at once ceases to be a member of the Typographical Union. In this country and in Great Britain, the foreman

as a general thing has the employment of the workmen, and it is but reasonable and just that the man having charge of your establishment should be independent of the men he employs. He is placed there to look specially after his employer's interests, and in my opinion should have no connection with the Typographical Union.

The question is often asked why do we not establish a scale of prices; and we are told that if we would only agree upon a price list, a large number of printers would be added to our association. This has been tried again and again, but in every instance of which I have any knowledge proved a failure. But it has been demonstrated that by our coming together, frankly and intelligently discussing questions of cost and production, cultivating a kindly and forbearing spirit, and by a fraternal interchange of views on business matters, better prices have been obtained in every city where a Typothetae has been established. In this connection I was pleased to note that the Typothetae of New York, at a recent meeting, appointed a committee for the purpose of compiling a statement as to the customs of the printing trades, and of suggesting a price scale for work under contract. There is no doubt that such a price list would be of great advantage as a matter of reference, even if not inflexibly adhered to. It would be of general interest to know what has been the result of the committee's investigation.

The question of a uniform standard of type is one of great importance, and it is satisfactory to know that efforts are being made by other associations to bring about a change in the system of measurement. At its annual meeting in February last, the American Newspaper Publishers' Association appointed a committee to take the matter in hand. I am informed that the International Typographical Union and the type foundries have appointed committees, and I would recommend this convention to appoint a committee to act in concert with the other bodies, so that the present absurd system of measuring type may be changed.

It is strange what absurd ideas some of our employees and some journalists have of the objects of this association. There is a prevalent opinion that the United Typothetae of America was organized to oppose any effort our employees might make to increase their rate of wage or shorten the hours of labor. And it is said by writers in some of the papers that the United Typothetae of America and the International Typographical Union are standing like bull dogs, waiting and watching for the first overt act to pounce upon each other. The employee who entertains such an absurd opinion, and the writer who utters such arrant nonsense, have entirely mistaken the objects of this association and the attitude we bear towards our workmen.