

streets and the country roads drowned in snow, the consumptives in the thin houses, and the "slipin'," as the sleighing was called, that lasted from December to April with hardly a break. At first our family was housed on a farm a little way out, because there was no tenement to be had in the village, and my father and I used to walk to and from the office together in the morning and evening. I had taught myself to read Spanish, in my passion for Don Quixote, and I was then, at the age of fifteen, preparing to write a life of Cervantes. This scheme occupied me a good deal in those bleak walks, and perhaps because my head was so hot with it, that my feet were always very cold; but my father assured me that they would get warm as soon as my boots froze. If I have never yet written that life of Cervantes, on the other hand I have never been quite able to make it clear to myself why my feet should have got warm when my boots froze.

*(To be concluded next month.)*

#### WAGES OF MACHINE OPERATORS

**T**YPE-SETTING machines appear to be causing more trouble between employers and employees in Great Britain than in this country. The difficulty lies in arriving at a mutually satisfactory system of paying for the work. We are inclined to believe that time work is the most equitable system to adopt on such machines, and sooner or later both employers and employees will come to this conclusion. When presswork was done on hand presses the men were paid by the piece, but when machines which at once quadrupled the output were invented the men were paid by the week. Whether a press can be run at a thousand an hour or twenty thousand an hour does not effect the pay of the pressman, but employers know that the faster it runs the more skillful the man needs to be who has charge of it; and they pay him accordingly. While the two cases may not be parallel, there is a great similarity; for, although the speed of the type-setting machine is limited by the skill of the operator in a way that the printing press is not, the tendency is to make machines so nearly automatic that the product can be increased without calling for more work from the operator. Such machines cost large sums, and it would seem that they should be put in charge of good men only, at remuneration which will induce the best efforts as to both care and speed. It might be well to offer a bonus for every thousand ems beyond a certain limit.—*American Bookmaker.*

[In connection with the closing sentence of the above it may not be amiss to state that both in the *Empire* and *Mail* offices in this city, a bonus is given the operators if they exceed 1,700 ems an hour.]—*Ed. P. AND P.*

#### IMPROVED COMPOSITOR'S CASE

**A**MONG the latest inventions patented in England of interest to the printing trade is a case for the ready placing of types and logotypes, and their easy manipulation. The case is constructed with open sides and front, and divided into a number of compartments inclined downwards from the back towards the front, such compartments being divided in two for receiving two different sizes of type. Trays are provided made with a number of divisions adapted to receive other trays, preferably stamped out of sheet metal and divided into compartments or channels adapted to receive rows of different types. By making the last-named trays of sheet metal they are adapted to contain a reserve row of each type. The composite trays thus formed can easily slid into and out of the case through the open sides thereof. A notch is cast in the right hand side close to the shoulder of the type in order to facilitate picking up. This is another attempt to introduce logotypes into the composing room, many of which have already been tried, but always unsuccessfully.

"You say you were once a newspaper man?" inquired the kind old lady.

"Yes'm," answered the sad eyed tourist at the kitchen door. "I once had a responsible position on a big daily paper."

"Then, haven't you some newspaper friends who could help you?"

"Friends," bitterly replied the wanderer. "No ma'am, I was a proof-reader."

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