

fied that publicity is being given to all that is of general interest in connection with the affair."

#### AN OTTAWA MAN'S OPINION.

An Ottawa newspaperman writes PRINTER AND PUBLISHER: "In discussing the incident, I think it is only fair to assume, with regard to banquets, especially, which seem to stand alone as a class of newspaper assignment, that the gathering is of a private nature unless newspapermen are expressly bidden to the spread. When, however, copies of the speeches at a private banquet are supplied to the newspapers, as in the case of the entertainments to Lord Herschell, it is, of course, optional with the newspapers whether they should publish them or not. But no newspaper, I think, should allow one of its staff to be put in the position of being rebuffed by cads, such as we often find managing functions of this kind.

"In the matter of the Aberdeen banquet, especially, when publicity to the speech of the guest was the principal object aimed at, it seems to me that the committee were entirely in error when they neglected to invite the newspaper representatives.

"Of course, this is a subject which has been discussed time and time again, and on which you will always find difference of opinion. Some people take the view that, as a newspaper is simply a purveyor of news, there should be no standing on dignity, and looked at from this standpoint it would have been the duty of the newspapermen to hang round the doors of the banquet hall, but this is the view which I cannot accept."

#### THE VIEW OF AN OLD REPORTER.

By J. T. Clark, Saturday Night.

Reports came from Ottawa recently that tickets for the banquet to Lord Aberdeen in that city were not to be sent to the press representatives at the Capital. It was rumored in Toronto about the same time that free tickets for the banquet in this city would not be sent to the newspapers, and items crept into print recalling previous instances wherein the overlooking of the press in this way had resulted in the failure of the newspapers to report the speeches made on those occasions. It seems to be taken for granted that the newspapers insist upon free tickets for banquets. Do they?

The columns of your paper seem to be open for the making of such an inquiry as this.

Perhaps there are many newspapermen who, if placed on exactly the same footing as men in other professions, would not find in this treatment cause for falling into a rage. In country places where the proprietor of a paper is also editor and reporter—where this editor is of such local importance that his presence at a banquet is necessary to the success of the evening as well as necessary to the reporting of the affair in the newspaper—in such a case as this the tendering of a complimentary ticket may be quite proper.

Have we not, however, in our large cities perpetuated a rural practice the discontinuance of which would not degrade, but elevate the standing of the profession?

In Toronto, I think, the average newspaperman is vastly bored by dinners and concerts and lectures. He cannot possibly use all the "passes" sent him. He seldom goes near any

of these things unless his duty to his paper requires it of him. The man who actually reports the speeches at a banquet nearly always glides unobtrusively into the room as the first toast is proposed. In his pocket, unused, is the ticket that entitled him to a seat at the banquet. Of choice, he dined at home or at his restaurant, filled one or two other assignments, and timed his arrival to suit the "news" requirements of the affairs. He enjoys a good dinner as well as another, but observation tells one that the experienced reporter does not often use a professional ticket at a dinner unless the diners are people among whom he has a large personal acquaintance. Business is business, and the newspaperman has a social circle of his own that meets his social needs.

It seems to me that the life of the newspaperman would be sounder and more self-respecting if at banquets he either attended on the same footing as other guests, or arrived in his professional capacity at the beginning of the toast list, to find a table supplied with conveniences for the taking down of a good report. The idea, is, I think, worth discussing, and I write you because your paper goes to the profession without circulating to any great extent among outer barbarians.

#### MONTH'S NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Arichat, N.S., Record has been enlarged.

John A. Garvin has joined The Ottawa Free Press staff.

The Middleton, N.S., Outlook has moved into new quarters.

The Portage la Prairie Review was completely burned out Oct. 27.

The Kentville, N.S., Chronicle has again changed hands. Sold to F. Wickwire.

A. H. Dunning, business manager, St. John Telegraph, has been visiting Montreal and Toronto.

The Commercial is the name of a new weekly at Chatham, N.B., which makes three for that town.

Samuel & James Watts, proprietors of The Woodstock, N.B., Sentinel for 38 years, have dissolved.

C. W. Lawton, of The Paris Review, was married October 26 to Miss Margaret Ames. Mr. Lawton has the good wishes of all his confreres.

James Irwin has sold The Lucan Sun to Mr. Phillips, of The Toronto Mail and Empire, and Mr. Crossland, of the St. Mary's Journal, and has revived The Brussels Herald.

The Montreal Star intends to issue a huge special edition to celebrate the attainment of a 50,000 circulation for the daily, and a 100,000 for the weekly edition. It is to be called a "Jubilee" number and will be very elaborate in its get up.

John R. Sawle, of The Welland Telegraph, died Oct. 20, aged 45. Mr. Sawle was a Devonshire man and had been 14 years in Canada where he had made many friends. His brother, Henry Sawle, publishes The Caledonia, Ont., Sachem.

#### BEAUTY SHOW IN PROSPECT.

The Canadian Magazine is arranging to print the pictures of the editors of the leading Canadian papers. This ought to be the biggest beauty show the world has ever seen.—Vancouver Province.