

OBJECTS OF THE TYPOTHETÆ

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT W. A. SHEPARD

AT the request of the President of the Canadian Press Association, Mr. W. A. Shepard, President of the United Typothetae of America, and an old member of the press, gave a brief address at the recent annual meeting of the Association at Ottawa, on the objects of the Typothetae, etc. In view of the fact that more than ordinary interest is now being evinced by Canadian printers and publishers in the Typothetae owing to the approaching Annual Convention in Toronto, we have much pleasure in publishing the address, which will be found well worthy of perusal. It is as follows:

The United Typothetae of America was established five years ago at Chicago, and is composed of Employing Printers and Publishers. No special effort has been made to extend the Association, but during those five years it has obtained a foothold in many of the leading cities of the United States and Canada. At Cincinnati, where the last Annual Convention was held, there were about two hundred delegates present, representing some forty branch Societies, and from figures presented at that Convention, it appeared that there was invested over \$50,000,000 in the plant owned by members of the Association.

To give an idea of the class of business men connected with the Typothetae, I may mention that in New York City, amongst its one hundred members are to be found the well-known names of the Harperts, the DeVinnes, the Lockwoods, the Sun, the News, Putnams, Rankin, the Appletons, Little. In Chicago, Rand, McNally & Co., Poole Bros., Pettibone, Donnelly, Blakely. In St. Louis, Emis, Slawson, Gilbert, Woodward. In Boston, Houghton, Rockwell, Barta, Mudge, Cushing. In Cincinnati, Russell, Morgan & Co.—said to be the largest printing house in the world—and in fact the leading houses in Philadelphia, San Francisco, Richmond, St. Paul, New Orleans, etc. In some of the cities will be found amongst its members the leading newspapers as well as job printing houses.

In Toronto the Association was organized four years ago, and numbers about forty members, including nearly all the newspaper establishments, and a majority of the job printing houses, representing a capital of over \$2,000,000. The only other Association in Canada is in Montreal, which numbers about twenty members.

It is to be hoped, in view of the fact that the next Convention of the United Typothetae of America is to be held in Toronto, that an effort will be made to organize branch Associations in the leading cities of Canada, so that we may have a large representation of the Master Printers of Canada at the meeting. Societies ought to be organized in Hamilton, London,

Ottawa, Halifax, Quebec, Victoria, Winnipeg, and other cities.

A similar Association was established about a year ago in London, England, called the Printers and Allied Trades Association, and numbers over 100 members. Some of these houses employ from 100 to 1,000 men each. An invitation has been extended to this Association to send a delegation to the Convention, and we have reason to hope that we shall have the pleasure of welcoming representative Master Printers from the great metropolis of the mother country, as well as from our own Dominion.

The object for which the Association is formed cannot better be told than is expressed in the preamble to the Constitution, which says: "It is organized to develop a community of interest and a fraternal spirit amongst the Master Printers of the United States and the Dominion of Canada, and for the purpose of exchanging information and assisting each other when necessary. It is based on the right of the individual as opposed to the arrogated rights of trade societies, and while it disclaims any intent to assume an arbitrary control of the trade either against customers, workmen, or members, its members assert and will maintain the individual right to regulate their own affairs."

Mr. Theodore L. DeVinne, the well-known publisher and author, of New York, in a paper presented at the last Convention, says: "The tolerant attitude of our Society towards individual right and even individual wrong, is always a surprise to the members of other societies, but it is really one of our strongest safeguards. It keeps in our fold members of the most diverse views and enables them to have an influence on each other which they never could have if they were not fellow-members. It enables us to discuss debatable questions, and to harmonize differences of opinion. It certainly does draw us nearer together in individual line of action."

There is a prevalent opinion amongst journeymen printers that the Typothetae was organized to resist any effort on their part to increase their wages or to improve their condition. I need scarcely say to this intelligent assembly that there is not the slightest ground for such an opinion. While our aim is mutual protection, and while we intend to control and manage our own business, it goes without saying that we are not only desirous but anxious to cultivate the kindest feelings towards our employees, and to do all we can to improve their social and financial condition.

As an evidence of the good results of our organization, and the kindly relations that exist between the Master Printers of Toronto and their employees, I may mention that on two occasions within the past four years the Printers' Union of Toronto made a claim upon us for increased wages and a revision of the