

of improving such an opportune occasion by obtaining and publishing a census of the people. It is an event worthy of being chronicled in the history of the state, and the information obtained thereby will undoubtedly be used in the compilation of future documents relative to the growth of the vicinity.

HOW THE WORK WAS DONE.

"The introduction to the statistics contains a declaration of the objects of the census, a classified list of the persons counted and omitted, and some rules governing the work of enumerators. Then follow the ward divisions and the name of the individual in charge of the canvas for each ward. The report itself covers not only the statistics of population, but those of education and church membership. The tedious work

of classification and compilation was all done in *The Gazette* office, and completed in time for the regular edition, which also contained the usual complement of general news.

"It is needless to say that such an undertaking created a great demand for the paper, and an extra large edition had to be printed to satisfy the call.

A GUESSING CONTEST WHICH DIDN'T NEED A PRIZE.

"One other feature connected with this remarkable work was the publication of a list of guesses on the number of inhabitants, which had been called for in a previous issue; and a curious fact brought out by these figures was that the lowest guesses were by the oldest inhabitants. No prize was offered."



SEND PROOFS.

Glancing over a number of local weeklies recently, I could not help but notice what a number of typographical errors occurred in the advertisements, and how aggravating such mistakes must be to the advertisers.

I have been long enough at newspaper work to learn that to spell a business man's name incorrectly is to commit a heinous and unforgivable offence. To spell "Corelli" in a book advertisement "Corelei" and "Crockett" as "Crockell," to have "Peau de Soie" appear "Peau de Soil," and "Ecu" printed as "Ecm" must be heart-tearing to the advertiser.

The whole danger can be obviated by sending out a proof of every advertisement. This in itself is a compliment which

pleases the advertiser. Moreover, it prevents your losing his highest esteem and his financial appreciation.

But it benefits you in other ways. It keeps your paper clear of typographical errors so patent and so ludicrous that your ignorance is discovered to those from whom you must hide it. It will improve the appearance of your advertisements, because the advertiser will make suggestions and the ad-setter will do better work.

Make it a rule of your office to pull a neat proof of every advertisement and send it in a cheap printed envelope to your advertiser. You will find it will pay.



A PRESS CENSORSHIP PROPOSED.

The question of the effect of questionable literature on the morals of our people is incidentally touched upon—a decided touch, however—by Dr. John Ferguson, of Toronto, in an excellent article in the August *Popular Science Monthly*, entitled, "The Nervous System and Education." He remarks, "I think it is clearly the duty of the State to exercise its authority in the suppression of injurious books, papers and advertisements. It is high time that stringent steps were taken in this direction. It does seem strange that large sums are paid annually to furnish children with good reason and good morals, and at the same time numerous presses are turning out tons of reading matter of the most degrading and perverting nature."

We have often pointed out the evils resulting from immoral literature, but have never gone so far as to suggest State inter-

ference. The censorship of the press was once in vogue, and, although dead, its unhealthy perfume still troubles the nostrils of a liberty-loving people. To restore it would be difficult. Yet a censorship of the press in the nineteenth century would be an essentially different thing from the censorship of the seventeenth century. It would be a democratic regulation, applied according to democratic ideas. The aristocratic element would be entirely eliminated. The State does at present regulate what the people shall read, in that the Criminal Code prohibits the importation or sale of vulgar books and periodicals. What Dr. Ferguson seems to suggest is an extension of this prohibition to blood-curdling murder descriptions and tales of licentious and obnoxious conduct.



THE SPACE SYSTEM IN CANADA.

THE plan of paying for local news on the space system is not generally in vogue in Canada. Some of the city dailies have space contributors for locals. The *Montreal Witness* added one the other day to its staff, more apparently as an experiment than anything else, since James Harper, the most experienced city news editor in the office, does not favor the

space idea. During his New York career he had carefully tested the merits of the scheme, and concluded from practical participation that in the long run neither the best work nor the best men were obtained by it.

On the other hand, J. H. Daboe, editor of *The Montreal Herald*, one of the younger school of Canadian journalists,