

What Interests British Journalists.

AT the annual conference of the British Institute of Journalists in London a few weeks ago several questions of some interest to Canadian newspapermen came up. Sir James Henderson, president of the institute presided, and among the Canadians who attended were: Mr. A. F. Pirie, of Dundas; Mr. Martin J. Griffin, of Ottawa, and Mr. James Johnson, formerly of The Ottawa Citizen. The institute seems to flourish, and its objects; namely, to confirm the professional status of newspapermen and to provide a sort of insurance for members as well as a fund for orphans are all well maintained.

TWO TENDENCIES AT PRESENT—Sir James Henderson referred to the "New Journalism" in these words: "The sensationalism that used to be regarded as the sole possession of our American confrere is becoming too common in our British press which, consequently, is, in my opinion, in danger of losing much of its dignity and prestige." On the question of the increase in the number of women writers in the ranks of newspaperdom, Sir James said: "The lady journalist, though scarcely a product of the new journalism, has undoubtedly been helped forward by it to the fighting line of our ranks. We are glad to have the names of these talented ladies on the role of our institute and we have no objection to an increase in their numbers."

BENEVOLENT FUND.—The chairman of the orphan fund committee announced that the fund had grown from \$28,000 to \$37,000 in three years. During the nine years the fund had been established they had assisted 48 orphan children of members of the institute to the extent of about \$12,000. Subscriptions to this fund are not obligatory upon members of the institute.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC BANQUETS.—At the meeting a motion adopted by the London Council of the Institute was considered. It dealt with the question of invitations to dinners and other public functions which are often sent to one or two news agencies whose reporters are present while the newspapers which are not invited and send no representatives print the reports furnished by the agencies. Against this the London Council protested as tending to the reduction of reporting staffs in the London press and to the depriving of reporters of employment. It also urged that where, as a matter of news, it was necessary to report the speeches at these gatherings the editors should be asked to omit the name of the organization giving the function. The institute carried the "previous question," and refused to vote upon this resolution on its merits.

COPYRIGHT IN SPEECHES.—A paper was read to the members by Mr. J. A. Strahan, honorary counsel to the institute, upon the famous decision of the House of Lords in the recent case of Walter vs. Lane. This decision, as

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Canadians are well aware, gave to the reporter of a public man's speech appearing in a newspaper the exclusive property in his own report. Mr. Strahan's opinion of the decision is that the exclusive property of the report resides not in the reporter but in the publisher for whom he works.

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