

annual cost (\$600,000) of Toronto's public schools is wasted in teaching the irregularities and monstrosities of spelling, it asks why \$150,000 a year should be sunk so in a single city? After showing that simplification of our wordforms will help spread the language, it concludes:

"After the metric system is introduced, the next great educational movement should concern itself with reformed spelling."

The *World's* editor, W.F. Maclean, M.P., is a rising man. Born in Ontario in 1854, he was educated in the public schools of Hamilton and in Toronto University (B. A., 1880). A born journalist, he was on the staff of the *Toronto Globe* and other newspapers till he established *The Toronto World* as an independent high-tariff paper with Conservativ leanings, especially since its editor entered politics. However, *The World* publishes a National Platform—a strong blending of conservativ-radicalism—in which every one finds several planks to commend. Maclean's election to the Canadian Parliament for his native North Westworth but unsuccessfully. Next he nearly ousted ex-premier Mackenzie from East York, which includes part of Toronto. Since Mackenzie's death it has been represented by Maclean, returned in 1896, and in 1900 by 800 majority. He has a vigorous, practical, logical grasp of questions—far more so than the average would-be reformer, especially a radical one who defeats his own end and knocks his brains out against stubborn facts.

AROUSING JOURNALISTS AND PRINTERS.

Ontario's Nestor in advocacy of simplification of wordforms is Mr Wm H. Orr, principal of the Toronto branch of the Etina Life Insurance Co. When he saw the *World's* editorial mentioned above, it stirred the martial spirit of the war-horse, too long dormant, and he set out the *HERALD* for counsel before breakfast. He bought 100 copies of *The World*, marked them, and addressed them to as many publishers with this:

SIR, Having from early years (when publishing the Bowmanville Messenger, Oshawa Vindicator and Christian Offering) been a warm advocat of spelling reform, I delight in the practical step taken by the *Toronto World* as set forth in its leading editorial of this morning. I send you and other newspaper publishers a marked copy, and beg you to read the article carefully.

"Would it not be wise and beneficent if every publisher in Ontario would follow the brave opening thus made? Would it be too much to hope that you make a New Century move along this line? Give *The World* an encouraging word, and consider whether you cannot greatly forward the good work by using similar spelling in future?"

He should have marked this statement in the *World*, considering to whom it was addressed, so as "to rub it in" to a spot very sensitive—the pocket:

"If one-tenth the letters now used are unnecessary, we can save ten per cent on our paper bills. If the saving on paper were only five per cent, it would be enormous in aggregate. . . . Newspaper men will grasp the significance of reformed spelling when they realize that it would mean an increase of ten per cent in efficiency of composing-rooms. There would be a saving of six minutes in the hour in getting to press with late news."

Yet more, Mr Orr acts on the presumption that journalists and printers would follow the better way, alike from intelligence, inclination and interest, were they safe in assuming that public opinion would support them. Their own intelligence is hardly at fault. Journalists, as a rule, are alert and progressive, especially where, as in this case, heavy business interests are involved. It is the public who are ignorant and indifferent, and need educating. The journalist-printer can serve both his own interests and educate the public too by starting on a better course: "well begun is half done." Accordingly, Mr Orr had typewritten several copies of this plea. It is addressed to Toronto publishers and journalists:

"1. The deplorable and vexatious irregularity of English spelling has come about largely from printers, almost from Caxton down, having done as did their predecessors. Since Shakspeare, our language has changed much (as from letters becoming silent) with no corresponding change in spelling.

"2. 'The Rules of the Office' permit each master-printer to dictate which of two variant spellings shall be used in his printery.

"3. Concerted gradual extension of the 'Rules of the Office' is a feasible method to bring simpler spelling into use.

"4. Each expensive type-setting machine, its operator and the rest of the 'plant' now lose an hour a day putting in letters that are silent or useless. Or, the 'plant' will turn out as much work with ten per cent less of wear, tear and running expenses.

"5. A century ago useless k was dropped from music, traffick, logick, magick, etc., which now look odd with them. So,

"6. Retention of most irregularities and useless letters is matter of habit and prejudice, unsupported by either reason or authority, and specially condemned by linguists of highest authority.

"7. The *Toronto World* recently extended its already excellent 'Rules of the Office' by discarding catalogue, pedagogue, demagogue, prologue, decalogue, although, thorough, thoroughfare, through, throughout, programme, though (which require 104 letters), and substituted for them these shorter ones (requiring but 74:

catalog, pedagog, demagog, prolog, decalog, tho, altho, thoro, thorfare, thru, thruout, program

It is now in the second year's practice of them. It said (4th Feb. 1901), with much else, that it had lost neither influence nor prestige among ultra-conservatives, but had established this fact that 'the daily paper can take a hand in spelling reform without sacrificing circulation or influence. No newspaper need hesitate following *The World's* example for fear of losing cast or suffering pecuniary damage.' We ask you to extend the Rules of your Office so far as your judgment allows in direction of simplification of spelling. We think the time has come when public opinion will support a steady gradual advance.

"8. We are startled to notice that British trade supremacy seems threatened. This is largely due to being handicapped by old-fashioned ways of doing things, as reckoning money, weights and measures, and so much else of which the last but not least is