

the Executive Committee. The resolution recommending a boycott on the wholesalers who trespassed on the legitimate field of the printer was allowed to drop, as Mr. Brierly in common with most of those present, objected to the Association as a body instituting a boycott.

The Secretary-Treasurer's report was presented showing the Association's treasury to be in a satisfactory state, and prophesying a surplus at the end of the present year.

The Auditors' report was made and adopted.

The installation of the new President, Mr. T. H. Preston, took place, and the meeting adjourned.

Printing Office Leakages.

THERE are a number of these. Of three, which have come specially under my notice, I will deal.

First.—The Lead and Rule Cutter. Is it an essential in an office? I hold not. For some time my opinion has been, that with the present facilities for securing well cut and trimmed leads and slugs, the lead cutter is not absolutely necessary, and in last Inland Printer a writer from Philadelphia bears my views out. He puts the matter plainly. After stating that for his new office neither a lead nor a rule cutter was purchased, he says: "My leads and slugs were all cut labor-saving lengths at the foundry, graduated by ems from 4 to 16 ems pica and ems from 16 ems up. The additional leads, etc., that were needed since have been purchased the same way and have always been exact, consequently there has not been any waste, and my lead racks have been kept in excellent order. The expense of cutting (2 cents per pound, labor-saving 4 cents) is so small that I feel confident that if others will try the experiment, they will find it a profitable investment. Some may say that it is impossible for an old office to do this. I beg to differ. It will pay and pay big. Send the old leads to the foundry and have them sawed and planed off at the edges, taking off at each end. Of course you will lose an em, but you will have accurate material. A foundry may not be convenient, or the reader finds it too expensive on account of freight to send them away. Figure the cost of cutting the leads yourself. Can you do it for 2 cents per pound? How many pounds can be cut in an hour, say sixteen or seventeen ems pica? Surely not thirty? I rather think not—hardly one-third that, and even then, unless handled very carefully, they will show variations. Perhaps you'll put the boy at cutting leads—his time will not be quite so high in price as a

careful compositor and this will show a balance (?) in your favor, but wouldn't he be more useful at the case and help that way to earn his salt? . . . It has paid me to do without one (and my leads have not been cut down with scissors, either). Why wouldn't it pay others to try the experiment?" By purchasing his leads and slugs cut at the foundry the printer does not lose the waste.

Second.—Lead Moulds. Dispense with these altogether. At the present price of leads and slugs—16c. and 18c. per lb. uncut and cut respectively—there is no money in such contrivances. During last July I was in a print shop where the foreman was casting pica slugs. As all are aware, July is not the coldest month in the year. A roaring fire was kept up in the centre of the office—the institution was nearly "burnt alive." The heat was so intense that every now and again the comps. at the case were noticed to wipe off the perspiration, while the party who was doing the "money saving act" was almost stripped to the waist. He looked as though he had a fire inside. This state of things was kept up for, to my knowledge, an hour, and the product was eight slugs the full length of the mould—perhaps a foot. And the slugs! They were "daisies" to be sure! Had a nonpareil line been put up close to them I fear that the letters would not carry unless the line was extra well spaced, or, if even well spaced, whether the letters would remain in line. In conversation I found that they cast all their leads and slugs that way. The proprietor, who was not a practical printer, but had been around a printery considerable was of the opinion they were saving money, as in this manner the old type was being used up. I did not see the slugs cut to size, but presume they were nice (?) at the ends. Now, had this proprietor sold his old type and purchased cut slugs from the foundry at 18c. per lb. he would have been a long way ahead.

Third.—Cutting Cards. A number of printers have the idea that by buying cardboard in the flat and cutting it up to the various sizes, they save money. It's a mistake, and this they will realize if all expenses in connection with the cutting are taken into account. I would say: buy all cards cut to the different sizes, and in boxes. The difference in price between those in boxes and those in packages or bands will be so slight that it will be made up in the "keep" of the cards.

In connection with the cards I would suggest that a united effort be made by all printers to have stationers supply at least 505 cards to the 500 box, so that when the order for 500 cards is run off, the printer has not to run to his stock-room for, and open, another package or box to make up for the spoiled ones.

Winnipeg, Man.

H. C. S.