

THE UNITED TYPOTHETÆ OF AMERICA.

The Sixth Annual Convention of the United Typothetæ of America was held in Cincinnati this year, commencing on October 20th and closing on the 23rd.

About 300 delegates were present. The representatives from Toronto were Messrs. W. A. Shepard, James Murray, W. F. McLean, and Bruce Brough. Delegations were present from the largest publishing and printing houses of New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cincinnati, and other cities, representing a capital of \$40,000,000.

President A. H. Pugh, of Cincinnati, delivered the annual address, which was a masterly effort. He dwelt at length upon the importance of the Typothetæ and the great benefits to the trade resulting from an organized body of employing printers. He said that the United Typothetæ had now reached a state where encouragement was not needed; it stood upon a footing which could not be wrecked by assaults of any character so long as the present friendly relations existing among the members remained unchanged. Among the topics touched upon was the nine hour movement. He recommended moderation in dealing with the question—a question which, although settled for this year, was sure to face them before very long, and in his opinion the time was not far distant when the employers would not only find it necessary, but to their interest, to make the concession asked for.

The report of the secretary showed a large increase in the membership of the organization, while the Treasurer's report indicated a satisfactory balance on the credit side.

The report of the Executive Committee was exhaustive and interesting. After arranging a model plan of procedure, it entered in detail upon the points of vital importance to the Typothetæ—the time question and the evils of competitive bidding. It attributes the evils arising from competitive bidding to moral weakness, in that the bidder so frequently does not have the courage to ask what he knows the work to be worth; to mortification and chagrin, to jealousy, envy and hatred of contemporaries in business, to corruption and demoralization of the customer, to temptation to be dishon-

est, in that, after using every means to secure the order, some will yield and use cheaper materials or furnish a lower grade of work than that contracted for in order to save themselves from loss. Following this come loss of reputation, loss of self-respect, and finally poor credit, bankruptcy and ruin. A code of ethics which, if strictly observed, would avoid this state of affairs, follows in the report. It suggests as absolutely essential in honorable competition that all printers should be honorable in every particular; that every printing establishment should have a perfect system of ascertaining the actual cost of every job. It is in this way only that the

different cities in which the Typothetæ are organized.

Mr. Cruikshank, of St. Louis, read a carefully prepared paper on the subject, "Electricity in the Press-room." This subject was discussed by several members.

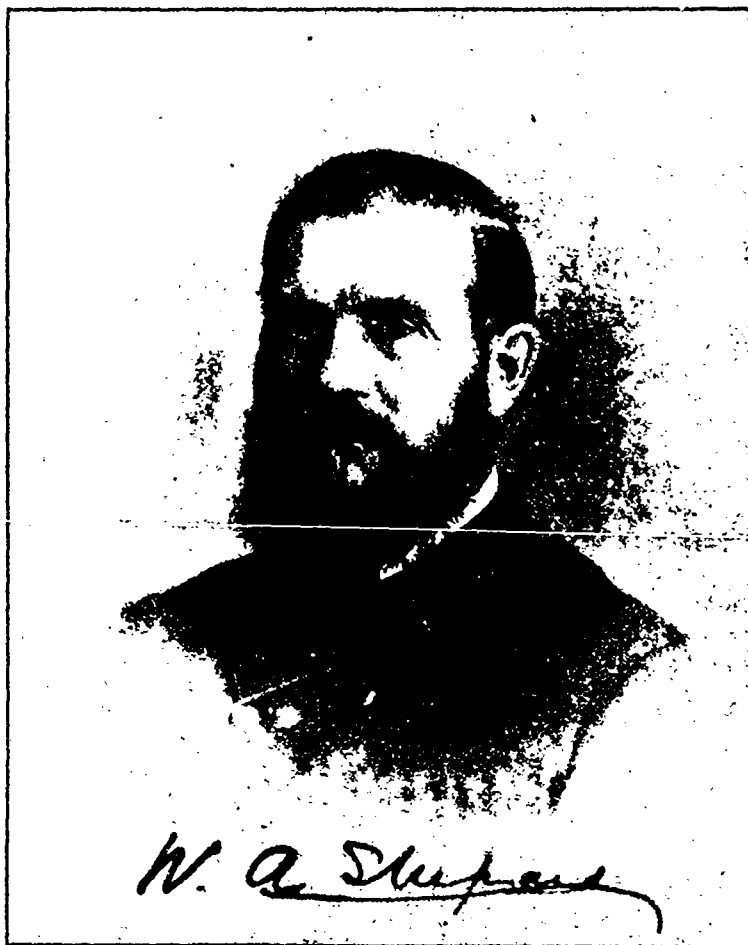
Mr. R. J. Morgan, of Cincinnati, presented an excellent paper on the subject of "Printers' Rollers: How to Make Them and Care for Them."

A resolution was adopted instructing the Executive Committee to endeavor to get an expression of opinion from the employing printers throughout the country as to the advisability and practicability of adopting a shorter working day for the printing business.

These reports and other papers will be printed in full in the report and proceedings.

Mr. W. A. Shepard, president of the Employing Printers' Association of Toronto, had been instructed by his association to invite the Typothetæ to hold its next annual convention in Toronto in August, 1892. After referring to the action on this question at Boston last year, he said that though they might not be able to play the host in the royal manner that had been done in other cities, he could assure the members of the Typothetæ a hearty and hospitable welcome. A great many of the people on the south side of the border had the idea that Canada was a bleak and inhospitable region, chiefly inhabited by savages, and wolves, and bears. But he said Toronto had had some little experience in entertaining visitors from the United States. Only last summer the school teachers of the United States, including the High Commissioner of Education at Washington, and

principals and professors of the universities and colleges, swept down upon Toronto to the number of nearly 20,000; and later on they had the pleasure of welcoming the Florists of the United States in annual convention, and yet they were not put to much inconvenience. It was true, he said, that the supply of pemican and bear's meat had been entirely exhausted, and his friend Mr. Murray doubted whether a further supply could be obtained by dog-train in time for next year. (Laughter.) But fortunately for them the McKinley Bill virtually prohibited the exportation of hen fruit from Canada, and through the kindness of Mr. Blaine in



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business can hope to be relieved from the deleterious effects of guess prices, and that the expense of doing business, such as the wear and tear of material, interest on money invested, bad debts, rents, taxes, insurance, bookkeeping and all other items of expense, should ever be taken into consideration. The report makes a number of other important changes.

The Committee on Type-setting Machines reported a number of statistics, but made no recommendations.

A report was presented by Colonel L. L. Morgan, of New Haven, on the rates of wages, hours of work, and trade customs in