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## CURRENT NOTES.

THE advantage of newspaper men being practical printers was shown in The Toronto News office a few days ago. The fire in McKendry's dry goods store broke out shortly before 7 p.m. That is an hour when evening staffs are retiring from their labors. All the printers had gone home, and the power was off the type-casting machines. But three members of the staff gathered at the office—H. Hocken, editor; W. Wilkinson, city editor, and J. Cowan, commercial editor—and being old printers, seized sticks and began work at once at the cases, two on long primer, one on brevier. In The News' own words: "The senior devil turned up in time to set the heading, and one of the foreman drifted in as the copy was nearly finished, and arranged the page for the reception of the account of the fire. Just as the succinct and complete report of the conflagration was ready for the form word was received that the fire was under control." By this time stereotypers and pressmen were on hand, and an extra was out in the hands of the crowd. This enterprise was only possible because the heads of the paper knew their business. A college degree is a good thing in any line of work, but in newspaper offices having served a term at the case is better.

The political campaign has produced a somewhat novel feature in the conduct of newspapers. This is the leasing of a certain amount of space to some political organization, to be controlled by it and matter inserted which may not correspond with the views of the paper as a whole. The heading of the column is supposed to transfer the responsibility for the contents from the paper to the lessees. Technically, this argument may hold. Without going into hair-splitting discussion as to the propriety or wisdom of leasing space not avowedly paid for as

advertising, our opinion is that a newspaper loses a large slice of its individuality and prestige in parting with the exclusive right to express its opinion. Properly worked, the editorial tone and opinion of a paper is a valuable asset. The leasing arrangement impairs this, and when the campaign is over, individuality and a reputation for sincerity are recovered with difficulty, if ever.

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The Canadian dailies devoted columns to a minute account of the Czar's coronation. The stuff purported to have come by cable. It was prepared for United States consumption, Russia and the republic being cheek by jowl politically. The ceremony being unique and gorgeous makes, within certain limits, readable matter. From the news point of view the awful tragedy in which hundreds were crushed to death was worth more than the coronation proceedings, yet it was squeezed into short space. The Canadian papers should have condensed the elaborate lists of dignitaries at the function. The long array of kings and princes was intended for the palates of flunkies. Why newspapers in a democratic community like this should cater to that element is not clear.

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Mr. Pattullo, in The Sentinel-Review, notes with satisfaction that The Hamilton Spectator made a kindly reference to Mr. J. L. Lewis when he left that staff to become editor of The Herald, and adds: "Even the Spec. has come under the genial and humanizing influences exerted by the Canadian Press Association—quite unconsciously of course. Its reference to a member of its staff who is about to take the chief position on a rival paper, is a credit to it and a good sign of the times." Hear, hear. It is to members of the press like Mr. Pattullo, who have used their powers to promote good feeling instead of stimulating acerbity, that we owe the friendlier relations that now prevail between the brethren.

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The other day a political interview with Professor Burwash in The Mail and Empire was, owing to the chance use of the word chancellor, attributed to his brother. In correcting the error, The Globe dealt with it in this courteous way: "Of course our contemporary's error was an accident, and we would not refer to the question were it not that the interview is being circulated throughout the country as Chancellor Burwash's." This, too, at the boiling point of the campaign.

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Yet another recent instance of fair-minded courtesy may be noted. The Montreal Star suggested lately the name of Mr.