

Correspondence

THE TYPE SETTING MACHINES.

LEADER PRINTER AND PUBLISHER

Some few months ago a number of your interesting journal was entirely devoted to facts concerning the type setting machines.

Would it not be a splendid idea, say once in two or three months, to give as much information as possible in connection with this modern invention? The only source to get such is PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.

Every newspaper man is, or ought to be, interested in the machine, as it will undoubtedly be in every office sooner or later. But it remains to be seen which is the best and cheapest.

In many offices the Typograph does good work, and in others again it is poor, but whether the cause is the machine or the operator I am not prepared to say.

The Monoline has been on trial in The Montreal Herald office for nearly a year, and it is giving general satisfaction. This machine is said to be smaller than the Typograph, and will be put on the market in a few months. For small offices the question will be—"Which is the best of these machines?" I suppose experience will tell in due time.

Since the new face has been put on the Typograph, there is a great improvement noticeable, and doubtless the day will come when all the machines will be more perfect than they are now.

Machines are in operation from the Atlantic to the Pacific. How would it do to get a brief opinion from every man that uses them, and publish the same in your next issue?

SUBSCRIBER.

HALIFAX, N.S., Dec. 8.

THE LATEST TYPE CASTING MACHINE.

Reference was made in PRINTER AND PUBLISHER early last year to a new type casting and setting machine which was being perfected in Minneapolis. It will be ready for a public test and critical examination in New York within a few weeks, so I am informed by the manager of the company. It is on the same principle as the Lawson, though very different in operation. It is smaller, but rather more intricate. There are two distinct machines, having no direct connection with each other whatever. The first is simply a typewriter. When a key is struck and a needle perforates a strip of paper, when an article is completed the strip of paper looks like part of the web used in a hand organ. This typewriter differs from the Lawson, in that it is operated by an electrical attachment. An expert writer can run 60 words per minute on this machine. The strip of paper is taken to the second machine, where by automatic process each letter is cast separately, set and justified and placed on a galley.

Those interested are very conservative in what they say about the machine, in fact they object to be interviewed until the public test. They admit that an experiment made 4,500 ems an hour. They cannot say whether the machine will be

rented or sold, or the price if sold. I heard from an outside source that they could sell at \$750 and make a good profit, but the manager whom I saw could not verify or deny this report.

It is to be known as the "Goodson Type Casting and Setting Machine."

THE LAW OF LIBEL.

The Attorney-General of Quebec has introduced a bill into the Legislature that, if passed, will do justice in a direction where injustice has hitherto prevailed. It relates, says The London Advertiser, to the law of libel, and the proposal is to make those who bring these suits against newspapers, so often badly-founded and vexatious, put up security for costs before proceeding. The plaintiff must also give the offending newspaper five days' notice, in order that it may apologize, retract or explain. In the event of the suit being pressed after apology, the law will provide that actual and not vindictive damages shall only be collectable. If the same individual sues five or six journals for the same offence, the damages, if any, are to be equitably divided between the newspapers concerned. These amendments are reasonable. Why should we not have them in the Ontario law?

TORONTO'S EVENING PAPERS.

TORONTO has three evening papers, and the policies of two are sometimes hard to understand. But there is no doubt of one thing, and that is, that the cheapening of their cost during the past year, due mainly to the great drop in the price of white paper, has led these two to cut stiffly into subscription prices.

Last month The Evening News and its policy was referred to. The Evening Star pursues somewhat the same policy, and both papers club with weeklies who will sell their own paper, and either The News or Star, for \$1.50 per year. Of this, 75 cents go to the weekly and 75 cents to The News or Star. A country weekly that clubs with The Toronto Globe and pays 37 cents for that paper, sells the two papers for \$1.25, thus leaving 88 cents for itself. This is not so bad for the country weekly, but to accept 75 cents is worse.

The effect of this dissemination of The News and Star throughout Ontario must be disastrous to the country weeklies and small city dailies in a collapse of prices.

The efforts of these evening papers are simply the result of a gasping for breath due to the intense competition in Toronto. They are selling their paper in the outside towns and villages at just enough to cover the cost of the raw paper needed for 300 numbers. This paper costs them about three cents a pound, and six copies of The Evening News weigh seven ounces.

Three hundred copies would weigh 350 ounces, or 22 pounds. The cost of the raw paper is thus 66 cents, leaving a balance of nine cents per year for printing, mailing, book-keeping, etc. Where is the money in that?

With Toronto dailies selling at 75 cents, and Toronto weeklies at 30 cents, where is the publishing business going to land? It is said that one Toronto paper is so anxious for a large subscription list, that it allows its agents 25 cents commission on a monthly subscription of 25 cents. Truly, the way of the newspaper publisher is beyond the comprehension of the ordinary citizen. The only hopeful feature of the matter is that this is a passing phase or condition—and yet one cannot be too sure of this hope.