

to the paper makers, vast quantities of printed sheets being imported from the United States for a class of work that formerly was entirely manufactured here.

I understand that the Christmas number of a well-known eastern paper was recently imported from New York, holus bolus.

I think I speak for the wholesale paper trade in general, when I say they are anxious to do all in their power to help place the printing business on a sound basis, recognizing that the interests of the printing trade are identical with their own.

Trusting that the efforts now being made will lead to beneficial results.

F. J. CAMPBELL,
Canada Paper Company.

PROOF READING AS A FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT OPEN TO WOMEN.

THE "corrector to the press," says the Spinning Wheel, is usually of the male kind, but of late years many women have entered the ranks of this profession. An ordinary reader takes from forty to fifty shillings a week, but there are prizes in the callings, and a classical reader can often earn a much larger sum.

A really competent corrector must have served an apprenticeship in the printing office, and should know thoroughly all the typographical rules of the particular papers she is "on," in addition to the general laws by which printing is governed. She should be well read and have a miscellaneous assortment of useful knowledge.

Her duties nominally are to "follow copy," keeping the compositor in the exact footsteps of the author. Those are her duties nominally. Actually, in addition to throwing cold water on the delightful vagaries of the "comp.," she will have to throw a light on the slipshod writing of the author, and make him toe the line in point of spelling, grammar, and fact. The reader must be up in all the sciences and most of the languages, says a professor of the craft, "even the idioms or slang of the one, and the technicalities of the others. Every misquoted author must be well known to this long-suffering mortal. From the writings of the Ancients, to the newspapers which were published this morning, her knowledge must be exhaustive. If a Chinese explorer writes, the reader must be on intimate terms with Confucius. If a Hindoo: she must know who was Buddha, and what he did. If a Turk: the Koran must be an open book to her; and if a Mormon, she must know as much about Joe Smith as if she were an Elder and resided by the Salt Lake."

It is impossible to define more definitely the functions of a reader, as they differ in every office, but the general qualifications may be summed up as: Patience and natural carefulness, literary taste, wide reading, a very good knowledge of English, familiarity with books of reference, a fair knowledge of modern languages (especially French), an eye for minute, and a quick but careful pen. None of these points are unattainable to a clever girl, and as in a newspaper office the literary qualifications are the most serviceable, this is the best field for her. Already many ladies are earning a living in this capacity in offices where weekly and monthly papers are printed.

It is somewhat difficult to advise a candidate how to get a berth as reader. The best way is to find out which offices employ women readers, and call on the manager.

TORONTO EMPLOYING PRINTERS MEET.

A N important meeting of the Employing Printers' Association of Toronto was held at the Rossin House on the night of the 18th of January. President A. F. Rutter occupied the chair. Those present were: Secretary W. H. Apted, Dan. A. Rose, W. A. Shepard, W. S. Johnston, J. J. Crabb, Joseph Oldfield, J. Ross Robertson, John M. Poole, T. B. Williams, Thomas Moore, Thomas Thornton, Robert G. McLean, Max. Johnston, James Murray, Hugh C. McLean, R. C. Webber, James Dudley, T. Todd, Daniel Rose, Atwell Fleming (London), W. J. Douglas, W. J. Douglas, Jr.

Dan. A. Rose, moved, seconded by James Murray, "That this meeting regrets that the Dominion Government has not yet proclaimed the Copyright Act of 1890. The absence of this proclamation has, to a considerable extent, caused the failure of nearly all those engaged in publishing reprints (affected by copyright) in Canada, and, further, the loss of thousands of dollars to the printer, bookbinder, and paper dealer, which business, through legislation by the United States, has been secured to that country."

After a long discussion the motion was adopted.

A resolution was also passed dealing with tariff reform: "That the tariff as at present arranged on certain books, raw material, tools, and implements, inasmuch as it is opposed to the Canadian and in favor of the foreign manufacturer, is detrimental to the best interests of the printing, bookbinding, and publishing trade in Canada."

The question of liens was dealt with in the following series of resolutions, which were adopted: "That this meeting views with alarm the extent to which the press makers, type foundries, and paper dealers have taken advantage of the law which allows them to take chattel mortgages and liens on supplies to irresponsible and incompetent parties, as evidenced by the late numerous failures in Toronto, thus doing very great injury to the legitimate trade.

"That in consequence of the injury to the printing and allied trades through wholesale stationers supplying paper direct to the public, press manufacturers, type foundries supplying goods on lien or chattel mortgage system, and ink manufacturers giving tips or commissions to employees, this association pledges itself to withdraw its support from any firm against whom these practices can be proved, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to all dealers.

"That a committee be appointed to wait on the Ontario Government, and impress on them the necessity of having all liens registered as soon as given."

The matter of a scale of prices came up, and proved to be a very difficult question. On motion, a committee was appointed to prepare a scale of prices and report to a subsequent meeting. The committee are J. S. Murray, R. G. McLean, R. C. Webber, A. F. Rutter, Max. Johnston, John Burns, W. H. Apted, Daniel Rose, W. A. Shepard, W. S. Johnston and Thos. Todd.

John Ross Robertson said that he had good reason for believing that when the present contracts for publishing the provincial school books expire, the printing of them will be thrown open to the competition of all the publishers.

It has been currently reported that E. N. Williams, Buntin, Reid & Co.'s former book-keeper, had made a settlement with his company. This is not the case, although a settlement is under way.