

Printer AND Publisher.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE printing trade of Toronto was never before stirred in its soul's depths as it has been during the last month. For two or three issues this journal had been talking of wrong methods of selling paper, presses, and type, and trying to explain why prices were low. These words fell on ears that only half heard, and it was not until a bugle blast with a tune entitled "In Darkest Toronto," was sounded in our January issue that the printers sprang to their arms. Then there was buckling on of armor, cleaning of death dealing swords, a rush ing hither and thither in pursuit of the enemy.

But others deserve the credit of helping to arouse the sleeping warriors about whom the enemy were swiftly gathering. The Toronto World spoke up manfully and boldly. It made one or two mistakes, but the World has a big heart, and that is why it desired to see its fellow printers and publishers pulled out of the slough of hard times. Then that staunch old journal, the Monetary Times, followed up the cue given by this journal and struck a blow where PRINTER AND PUBLISHER had designated. Both these journals deserve the credit of the trade for their efforts on its behalf. It is pleasant to know that these efforts are not to have been made in vain. The Toronto printers have screwed up their courage to the sticking point, and the paper jobber, type founder or press manufacturer who disobeys their resolution will find himself in hot water. True, the employing printers of Toronto have never been striking for their propensity for living up to their resolutions: but we are confident that they mean business this time. The meeting on the evening of the 18th was the largest ever known in the trade: the speeches had a more determined ring, and the resolutions were more decisive.

Moreover the country printers are going to give the city printers good support. We publish in this issue two letters from men who have felt the keen competition of the Toronto printers who sell goods they never pay for. The writer has come in contact with a dozen or more job printers from various Ontario towns, and all are unanimous in saying that they will uphold the Toronto printers in their efforts to reform the methods of those giving credit to the craft. At the annual meeting of the Canadian Press Association, to be held on February 8th and 9th, Mr. A. F. Rutter, President of the Toronto Employing Printers' Association, will deliver an address on practical subjects, and we have no doubt that it will be beneficial in drawing

closer together the city and the rural printer, and place their relations on a higher plane. Mr. Rutter is keenly alive to the situation of the printing trade in Toronto and elsewhere, and can point out the existing difficulties in the way of reform in a manner which will be instructive.

The benefit will not be to the Ontario printers alone. If the Toronto printers succeed in establishing a scale of prices, and maintain it, it will have a moral effect on the craft throughout Canada. Montreal printers, judging by reports, are not getting too much profit on their work, and several failures have occurred of late. From the more distant cities of the east and west, somewhat similar reports arrive. The printer got his credit too cheaply, and he gave it too cheaply. This is the kernel of the whole matter. Now he intends to get a fair and just price for his work, and why shouldn't he? There is an established price for presses, paper, ink, pressmen's wages, setting type, etc., and why shouldn't the price of his work be established? Employing printers must adopt more and more the methods of the trade union before they can prevent cutting. The Typothetae has had a good effect in Canada: but it is not introduced widely enough. More associations are needed, and, as we have said, these associations should adopt more largely the methods adopted by the too often despised trade union. The Toronto Employing Printers' Association and the Canadian Press Association, for example, might have done double the work they have done if there had been less jealousy, more fellowship, more esprit du corps, and stiffer backbones among the members. The trouble is when men get together they seem to lose, in council, the intense, practical manner of thinking, talking, and acting which characterizes them in the control of their own business. The dawn of better days seems to be at hand: let us hope that it is not a mirage.

Somehow or other one gets an increase of respect for some papers every year. The paper that gets out a special trade or holiday edition will gain respect every time, if the work is well done. In our last issue we referred to a number of papers publishing holiday editions, but hadn't time to mention all. The Athens Reporter did well for the size of its cage. The Brantford Courier's trade edition was mentioned before, but a second mention is not too much for it. The Manitoba Free Press is a big daily in a big town and its Christmas edition corresponded in every way. Nor was the Winnipeg Tribune behind in any respect. The Huntingdon Gleaner issued a 32-page almanac