

is rather high—\$85; but with an increased demand a large reduction could be made, for the estimated cost of construction is only \$50. Judging from the Abbe Vitali's experiments, a blind reporter, provided with the mechanical stenograph, should be able to represent phonetically any language, if distinctly enunciated, whether it were intelligible to him or not. This facility would be useful for the expression of quotations from foreign languages."

SAD SUICIDE OF A PHONOGRAPHER.

WE are called upon to record a sorrowful event,—the suicide of a promising young American phonographer, Mr. Harry P. Comegys, who had been employed in the office of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway, in Topeka, Kansas. For some days before his death, on the 24th of July, he had been quite despondent, though the cause of his depression could not be ascertained. On Friday he consulted a local physician as to the influence of chloroform, asking how much was necessary to produce sleep or death. He was ailing that day, but on Saturday morning was somewhat better. At noon he returned from his office to his lodgings and wrote this note:—

You will find money and other things in my trunk. Telegraph, and ship my body to J. M. Comegys, St. Albans, Vermont.
H. P. COMEGYS.

At half-past four the body was found cold in death, lying on the bed, the face of the unfortunate young man being buried in a pillow saturated with chloroform, and a half-emptied bottle of the drug lying near. The dying request of the deceased was mournfully complied with. After brief funeral services at the house, he remains were borne to the railway depot—the following stenographers of the city acting as pall-bearers: Messrs T. J. Tilley, W. A. Smith, R. A. Henderson, S. M. Gardener, Harry Reighart and E. T. Hall.

Mr. Comegys was 23 years of age, an only son, and well connected. He was a genial friend and a general favorite in society, and he had no enemies. He held a good position, and had just before his death been promoted, and expected to leave the following week for Denver, Colorado. He was one of the most promising members of the phonographic fraternity. It is difficult to understand how the young man should lose hope when every circumstance appeared encouraging. But each heart knows its own bitterness, and no doubt there were ele-

ments of sorrow in the young man's life of which the world was kept in ignorance. We extend to all the friends, and the fraternity in Topeka, heartfelt sympathy in the sad bereavement.

At a meeting of the stenographic fraternity held in the office of Mr. J. F. Goddard, G.F.A., A. T. & S. F. R. R., July 26th, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Man has his appointed time in life to labor; in youth, the springtime of life, to prepare himself for the great battle of his future; in manhood, to discharge the various duties devolving upon him honorably and well; and finally, to prepare himself for the call of our Heavenly Father; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of profound regret that we are called upon to record the untimely death of one of our craft just entering upon the active labors of manhood, surrounded by a large circle of warm, sympathizing friends, and

WHEREAS, We had in our brief acquaintance with our beloved companion, Harry P. Comegys, learned to appreciate his true worth and many estimable qualities, knowing the great sacrifices and the unwearied labor and zeal necessary to success in his profession in which he bid fair to occupy a prominent part, and

WHEREAS, He was held in high esteem by all who knew him, but esteemed the most by those who knew him best, and will be sadly missed by his many friends and fellow craftsmen wherever known; and it being the desire of the Stenographic Fraternity to give expression to its sorrow at this sudden loss, be it

Resolved, That in the death of our companion, the fraternity has lost a true and worthy member, one whom it was always a pleasure to meet in the social circle, or in the stenographic field; society a most estimable young man, and his many friends a most affectionate, social and generous companion.

Resolved, That it is with oppressed and broken spirits that we here express our sorrow and grief at this sudden loss of our companion so early in life, thus depriving the Stenographic Fraternity of one of its most promising lights.

Resolved, That while we mourn his loss, it is nevertheless a sad consolation to know that he has only preceded us by a few years in joining that innumerable host which has gone on before, to commence the great journey upon the eternal track of time.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved family and other relatives of our deceased companion our kindest sympathies in this, their hour of affliction, and may He who holds the destiny of us all in the hollow of His hand, give to them that consolation which we cannot.

Resolved, That the President and Secretary furnish a copy of these proceedings to his family, and also to *Bronson's Phonographic Monthly*, New York City, the *CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER*, Toronto, Canada, and the daily papers of this city, for publication.

T. J. TILLEY,

E. T. HALL,

HARRY REIGHART,

} Com.

R. A. HENDERSON, President,

W. S. JORDAN, Sec'y of meeting.

Our Bureau Drawer,

Our Shorthand Employment Bureau is now thoroughly organized. Our anticipations in regard to the usefulness of this Bureau have been verified thus far, even beyond our anticipations. A few days after the August number of the *WRITER* was issued we received several applications. The success of the Bureau will depend chiefly upon the character and ability of those for whom we seek to secure positions. As we

stated in the announcement of the Bureau, the field for Phonographers is unlimited. There is hardly a single legal firm in this city whose business is not sufficiently varied and extensive to justify the employment of a Shorthand Clerk. When it is remembered that there are 150 of such firms in Toronto, and that three years ago there were only one-third of that number, it will be readily seen that in this department