

THE WINDER COMPOSING SYSTEM.

IN this "System" his machines are used. A Composer and a Distributor both invented by Col. Winder, and manufactured at Dolton, Eng. The cost of the Composer is £20, and it is claimed that with it one man can set up 1,500 ems an hour. We are informed that it requires no power to run the Composer, and there is neither broken type nor pi. They are adapted for every font of type, and not, like other machines, confined to one particular face or body. The Distributor casts £82 10s., and will distribute accurately 5,000 ems an hour, one man being able to keep three Composers busily employed. Part of the system is a Nickins Machine, which nicks the type to make it workable in the other machines. The Nicker is lent to purchasers of the Composer and Distributor. Col. Winder referring to these machines, says:—"I deem it a *sine que non* that any composer to succeed in producing composition economically must be able to be sold on an exceedingly cheap rate, that is, so that on Friday night, when the cost of the composition is reckoned, it may be placed at the lowest rate possible."

The Distributor occupies a space of two square feet, and is driven by very little power. This machine distributes the type into metal tubes, and works automatically. When the tubes are filled they are taken to the Composer, in front of which is stationed the operator, who is enabled to withdraw but one letter at a time. The stick, which is practically the ordinary printer's stick with an added attachment, is so arranged that the operator can use both hands in extracting type from the tubes, and readily put the letters in the stick. In the distribution the letters are so placed in the tubes that it is unnecessary for the operator to turn them, as there is no danger of a letter coming out the wrong way. A number of English publishers speak well of the Winder machines, but they think the output of the Composer ought to be increased. As in all type setting and type casting machines the product depends on the expertness of the operator.

BAD DEBTS

MR. H. G. BISHOP contributes to the *American Bookmaker* an article on the above subject, from which the following is taken:—

"Bad debts are often due to bad habits in the matter of collections. Printers often allow bills to run too long before making application for payment. Perhaps some may smile at this, and say that too often printers are so poor that they need the money before it is due, and are not likely to forget to call on time. With some this may be true, and yet they are the very persons who, should they not actually need the money, would be most likely to let things

run until they did. What is needed is a systematic collection on certain dates, whether the money may be needed or not. Many a collection which might have been made on delivery, or thirty days afterward, has never been made at all, because the printer did not happen to feel poor, and when he did want the money he found that the customer could not or would not pay, or that he had failed or died, and the account had to be classed with 'bad debts.'

"Then there are the habitually dishonest customers to guard against: men who get all of the credit they can from one printer and then go to another and still another, until having exhausted their resources in that locality they will change their address to some other city and begin the same thing over again. Such a case was mentioned to the writer not long ago, the victim being a New York printer who did about \$500 worth of work for a person whose present address he would be glad to find.

"Here is a field of usefulness for the United Typothetæ. Let that organization have a record of all such cases kept and contributed to by its members from all parts of the country, and many of these bad debts might be prevented.

"A 'black list' could be circulated from time to time at a very slight cost, and every member of the organization would have an interest in helping such a movement along. Something of this kind does exist in one or two cities, but in order to be thoroughly effective the list should cover the whole country."

Canadian printers, especially those doing business in the cities, should make a move to minimize losses brought about by "habitually dishonest customers" as Mr. Bishop terms them, for they are ever with us. A little trouble, and comparative small expense, would either drive the dead beats into some other line of business or compel them to meet their liabilities.

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN CANADA.

SPEAKING of the early days of newspaper telegraphy in this city that veteran operator and manager, Mr. Robert Eason, of the Great Northwestern Company, in the *Monetary Times* says:

"To the Toronto *Globe* belongs the honor of being the first newspaper in Canada to receive special reports from 'Our own Correspondent.' At first these specials came from Montreal only. The late Thomas Sellars, elder brother of Robert Sellars, now the influential editor of the Huntingdon *Gleaner*, was, at the time of which I write, the Montreal correspondent of the *Globe*. Thomas Sellars, familiarly known as 'Tom Sellars,' who also published the Montreal *Echo*, was a clever and popular newspaper man. The special despatches were very brief at first, containing perhaps fifty or seventy-five words, but they