

Printing in Montreal and Toronto.

A COMPARISON.

FOR PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.

THE difference in the wage scale between Montreal and Toronto has been the subject of a good deal of comment by employing printers in both cities.

The conditions of the trade in these two places are in many things very different. The French portion of the journeymen printers in Montreal will work for less wages and get along on less than the English. In the majority of cases they are steadier workers and apply themselves much more closely to their duty. It is more difficult for the English-speaking printers to obtain an advance in the scale than it would be in Toronto. There are really two unions, French and English, and they do not always cooperate. The French printers have an advantage in being able to set English, while the others are, in the great majority of cases, unable to set French.

The work of the compositors has greatly improved during the past two or three years, due, we are told, to the bringing into the city of a number of first-class men from other parts of Canada. These men were paid the same wages as in their former place, and their good work had its influence upon Montreal compositors, as well as leading to better results in presswork.

The scale per 1,000 ems in Montreal is now 27 to 33¢, and in Toronto, where there is really no sliding scale, 34¢. Per week, compositors receive \$10 to \$12 in Montreal and \$12 in Toronto.

A gentleman who has had experience in the trade in both cities says that the pressmen of Montreal don't, as a whole, produce results equal to those of Toronto. This he thought may be partly accounted for by the fact that in the former place a large number of women and girl feeders are employed on cylinder presses, while there are scarcely half-a-dozen in the city of Toronto. The girl feeders will not

do the dirty work, and much of the straightening of sheets is done in the bindery instead of by the feeders. As a result of having to do part of the feeders' work, the pressmen hurry through their own.

This, of course, does not apply to the leading Montreal printers, but the average is lowered by inferior work. As before stated, there has been a great improvement in both composition and presswork, and some of the Montreal offices are now sending out work that would do credit to any locality. With the improved work, however, the scale has not been raised and pressmen are paid \$10 to \$12 per week, girl feeders \$4 to \$6 and boy feeders \$5 to \$7, while, in Toronto, pressmen receive \$13.50, and feeders (men or boys) \$7.

The sliding scale in Montreal enables employes to pay some of their best men a much higher price than others. In some offices there are men drawing as high as \$14 or \$15 per week, both pressmen and compositors. The really good man is paid about the same in both cities, though, on the whole, and considering the fact of the cost of living being greater in Montreal, Toronto employes are given much better wages. The hours, too, in the metropolis are longer, being 56 to 59 hours per week, and in Toronto 54 hours per week. N.

A TYPE MEASURE APPRECIATED.

Mr. Fred Campbell, of the Canada Paper Company, has received many letters of appreciation on account of the new type measure sent out by the company and mentioned in last PRINTER AND PUBLISHER. McComb Bros., St. Catharines, say: "Among several already in our possession it is quite the best we have, and you may rest assured it will be put to good use." Mr. Dingman, of The Stratford Herald, writes: "We thank you for the type measuring rule just received, which will be a highly useful as well as prettily-made article, serving as a pleasant reminder of your excellent house." Mr. H. P. Moore, Acton Free Press, says: "It will form one of the most useful adjuncts to my desk, and is much appreciated." Mr. MacLaren, of The Barrie Examiner, writes: "A very useful article, perfectly straight and square, like the firm which sent it out."



Henry Dalby.

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Publisher of The Toronto World and Conservative Canada in East York.
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