

active and social. That at social meetings only questions of general character be discussed, and that matters concerning the personal interests of the craft be left to the closer meetings of the Typothetae. Delegates to our convention from bodies mentioned above are chosen from the list of actual printers, but the list of alternates is largely made up of those who are not engaged in the printing business. In the absence of delegates, the alternates are called upon to vote. Some plan should be provided by which alternates who are not printers should not be required to vote in the convention. This matter has been brought to my attention several times, and I do not feel at liberty to ignore it in my report.

Expressions of disappointment at the result of the national and international copyright law are frequently expressed, especially on account of the reproduction of the Simmons bill by the British provinces. I make no recommendations on this subject, not feeling sufficiently informed to do so; but knowing that several gentlemen would like to be heard upon this question, I mention it in my report.

I call for the reading of papers on the subjects of technical importance to the trade. These papers have invariably attracted much attention in our Journal of Proceedings. I hope that delegates who have prepared papers, will present them at an early hour.

The National Editorial convention was held in Chicago in May last. I regret that our organization was not represented officially, owing to the fact that I was not informed of the occasion until the session was nearly over. A number of our members were in attendance at the meeting, which, I understand, was largely attended and very interesting. Fraternal delegates from that body have been selected to attend our present convention, and I shall take pleasure in calling them to the front in due time.

The New York Typothetae, as intimated by my predecessor, has promulgated a form of trade usages which should be in the hands of every master printer. With a proper modification as to prevailing scale of wages and fixed charges, this document can be made eminently useful in any location. The discussions upon the practical workings of the business in this body and among the local typothetae, have doubtless resulted in much good, and we have fallen short in reaping their full benefits in proportion as we disregard the deductions made. Ours is emphatically a laborious occupation, involving a world of detail and expense, and should net a fair return for capital invested. A practical application of these deductions, in the line of economic business methods, and demanding remunerative returns for our output, is the golden way to success in our honorable craft, and adhered to faithfully, would soon refute the oft-repeated taunt that the printer has no capital beyond a lot of half-worn presses and material that would not yield under the hammer more than a tithe at cost.

During the year several local associations have taken up the question of insurance on property belonging to the customers while in the custody of the printer. A misunderstanding seems to exist on this question, and this body is asked to make an expression upon it, to establish what should be the usage or practice of the trade. Delegates who are most desirous of such action upon this subject are those who have met losses by fire, and with them it is more than a mere matter of theory. I trust this question will receive the careful attention it deserves.

We begin our labors as a convention of business men under peculiar circumstances, and with still more peculiar surround-

ings. The great Columbian Exposition which celebrates the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the Western Hemisphere, is spread before us, housed and grouped in a degree of splendor and magnificence that surpasses the wildest dream of the most enthusiastic artist. All honor to our noble hostess, the imperial city of Chicago. Lavishly has she fulfilled every promise made to the nations of the world when she undertook this stupendous enterprise. Amid this assemblage of arts and sciences, and surrounded by the highest achievements of the century, we meet to discuss the homely but imperative questions thrust upon us by the commercial depression of our common country. I am not inclined to take a pessimistic view of the situation. The worst is past, the future shows unmistakable signs of improvement; confidence, the key note of commercial success, is rapidly becoming re-established, and in a few months we shall emerge from the gloom of depression into a smooth and fair business condition. For a more definite review of the condition of our organization, and for many valuable suggestions, I refer you to the able report of your executive committee.

PERSONAL MENTION.

THE Week says:—"Mr. J. Castell Hopkins, the able advocate of Imperial Federation, and for some time past a member of the editorial staff of *The Empire*, has, we understand, made other arrangements, by which he will, no doubt, be free to enter more largely into independent work along the line in which he has shown ability and attained success. We wish Mr. Hopkins continued success in his new departure. If he decide to adhere to journalism as well, we feel confident that his energy, probity and wide knowledge of public affairs will win for him still greater prominence and usefulness in Canadian journalism than he has yet attained."

J. E. B. McCready, for some years editor of the *St. John (N.B.) Telegraph*, has retired from that position and is succeeded by James Hanney, who has been editorial writer on the paper for some time. Mr. McCready has no other position at present. Other changes are in contemplation.

J. S. Howell, a well-known member of the *Toronto Mail* advertising staff, died last week.

T. H. Preston of Brantford was paid a high compliment when he was offered the position of editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, which has since been accepted by Molyneux St. John. Mr. Preston was at one time connected with the *Toronto Globe*, and afterwards went to Winnipeg, where he still engaged in newspaper work. He then purchased the *Brantford Expositor*, of which he is now editor and sole proprietor. Mr. Preston has the reputation for editing an excellent sheet, and as a writer is strong, clear and forcible. To be offered so important a position as head editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press* is a rare compliment and one which comes but seldom. That Mr. Preston has seen fit to remain in his present position, would intimate that with careful management the *Brantford Expositor* has been a financial success. Mr. Preston's numerous friends will be much pleased to hear that his merits have been recognized, and if he does not hold a position on one of the leading city dailies it is because he prefers the child of his own creation.

The *Mail* is now ferreting, by means of its agents, each Canadian town for portraits of the "beauties" of that town. Great scheme.