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**TYPOTHETÆ AND NINE HOURS**

**AT** the Convention held in Cincinnati, in October, 1891, a resolution was passed as follows:—

"Resolved, that the Executive Committee correspond with the local Typothetæ and employing printers not members of the Typothetæ in places having a population of five thousand or more, requesting an expression of opinion upon the advisability and practicality of reducing the hours of labor to nine per day, and report to our next annual Convention."

A large number of circulars have since been sent out, and over three hundred answers received. Only sixty of these thought the nine-hour day advisable and practicable. At the recent Convention in this city, the Typothetæ decided that the nine-hour day is not practicable at present.

It will thus be seen that there has been no shirking of the question by this organization. They have studied the question thoroughly, as far as it was possible for them to do. They have studied its probable effects on their own business, and find that common sense and experience prove that a shorter working day would be disastrous to them, and to the public generally, in raising the prices of the manufactured work. They have seen how great a loss they would sustain on account of the great lessening of production for the same amount of invested capital. They went energetically to work to see what effect it would have on wages, on the health of the employee, and how the latter would be affected socially and intellectually. All the available evidence points out, that the men would not be benefited by

such a change, and almost unanimously they decided that ten hours must remain the normal day's work in printing houses.

True, Toronto and Detroit have a Saturday half-holiday during the summer months, but this has been granted on other grounds than those on which is based the agitation for a nine-hour day. A fifty-four hour or fifty-six hour week, with a Saturday half-holiday, is not equal to a nine-hour day. On five days in the week the men work ten hours a day, and if they can work ten hours on five days, it is reasonable to presume that they can do it on six days.

The discussion on the question was very impartial, and all seemed desirous of doing what they could to help their employees; but they were agreed that such exorbitant demands as this should be met with a firm denial. The decision to carry the case of the Pittsburgh obstructionists to the highest court of the United States was a good one, and if decided against union obstruction, will materially strengthen the position of the Typothetæ, if a struggle should take place between the U.T.A. and the I.T.U.

The resolution brought in by the committee on labor which proposed to leave the question of the hours of labor to the local Typothetæ to settle was a good one, but is hardly consistent with the proposal of another committee that the National Typothetæ should aid the Pittsburgh local Typothetæ in every possible way, especially in the matter of funds. If the I.T.U. makes the nine-hour day a national or international movement, then the United Typothetæ of America must oppose it as a body, as in such a union alone, is there strength. If the I.T.U. leaves the matter to the local unions, then the local typothetæ will be the proper one to deal with the question; but if, as stated, the I.T.U. makes it an international affair, then it will be necessarily the U.T.A. vs. the I.T.U. That such trouble should occur would be unfortunate for both sides.

**TORONTO AND THE CONVENTION**

**THE** well planned and generous hospitality of the Toronto Employing Printers will give this city a good name wherever a delegate, who has been here, may go. They upheld the credit and reputation of Toronto in a worthy manner. The arrangements were carried out perfectly, and no discord marred the harmony of the march of business and pleasure. No little detail had been neglected, and the printers may feel proud of their success. Canada, too, has been benefited, because the enterprise and business independence of her citizens has been shown. It has been demonstrated that Canada is a nation. That her people are live, level-headed, and prosperous; that in Canada are the materials of a great State—in the noblest sense of that term.