

a spirit of resignation and of pride in having been privileged to occupy this post of honor in connection with one of the most influential bodies in the Dominion.

On motion of Mr. Robert Holmes, M.P., seconded by Mr. H. P. Moore, the address was referred to the committee on resolutions, in accordance with the usual practice.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.

The nomination of officers being called for, the following were nominated, and no other candidates being named, they were elected by acclamation :

For President—John S. Willison, The Globe, Toronto.

For 1st Vice-President—A. G. F. Macdonald, The News, Alexandria.

For 2nd Vice-President—D. McGillicuddy, The Signal, Goderich.

For Secretary-Treasurer—John A. Cooper, The Canadian Magazine, Toronto.

For Assistant Secretary—A. W. Law, The Monetary Times, Toronto.

For Auditors—H. T. Blackstone, Orillia Times ; A. E. Bradwin, Blyth Standard.

The nomination of Mr. Willison for President was accompanied by references to the advantage accruing to the association in having so distinguished a member of the press for its head. The Secretary, Mr. Cooper, who had privately expressed his wish to retire from the position, was again nominated in order that the association might have the benefit of his executive capacity and energetic services for another year. The following were then nominated for the executive committee :

A. H. U. Colquhoun, C. W. Young, C. H. Mortimer, H. J. Pettypiece, Smeaton White, F. H. Dobbin, A. McNee, Geo. E. Scroggie, C. B. Keenleyside, A. S. Forster, L. J. Tarte, J. T. Clark, J. F. MacKay, W. Ireland.

The next item of the programme was "Newspapermen in Politics." Several of those appointed to speak were unable to be present. Mr. R. Holmes, M.P., explained that he was not present because his name was down in the programme, but, because, having been unavoidably absent last year, he made a point of coming this year. He considered the election of a newspaperman to the House of Commons as much an honor to the House as to the newspaperman. The newspaperman could think quicker, act more promptly and come to a conclusion more logically than the average member of the House of Commons. He was at home wherever he went, and kept in touch with all public questions. His advice to all members of the newspaper profession was, if possible, to get into the House of Commons or the Legislature, and those bodies would be the better for it.

Mr. H. J. Pettypiece, M.P.P., Forest, regarded the absence of some of those who were to speak on this subject as due to their being expected to tell something about their political lives. (Laughter.) He did not see why Mr. McGillicuddy's name was not on the programme, as he was the only man there in politics who had really profited thereby. (Renewed laughter.) He believed that if the members at the present meeting exchanged places with the members of the Legislature the country would be the gainer.

Mr. T. H. Preston, M.P.P., who said he was too young in politics to speak in that connection, then read, by request, a paper on Sheldon's ideal newspaper :

SHELDON'S IDEAL.

BY T. H. PRESTON.

In presenting to you a few thoughts, under the above caption, I ask you to lose sight of the writer, and also of the newspaper whose columns he controls. In neither will be found a Sheldon ideal.

It is well to recognize at the outset that Mr. Sheldon's conception of what a newspaper ought to be is human, and, therefore, fallible. True, he takes a Divine exemplar, and would solve all moral questions with the great solvent, "What would Jesus do?" but when it comes to putting oneself in the Master's place it is found that individual conscience, moulded largely by heredity, environment, mental training and perhaps inclination, comes into play. No two men, applying the test suggested by Mr. Sheldon to half a dozen moral problems, would arrive in all instances at the same solution.

Mr. Sheldon's interpretation of the Divine mind must be accepted with reserve, but his conclusions are, nevertheless, useful in that they are calculated to stimulate thought. There are few right-minded journalists to whose minds such questions as the following have not been presented :

Have we no higher mission than satisfying the public appetite, if depraved, with that for which it seems to crave ?

Is there no other standard of policy in conducting a newspaper than, "Will it pay ?"

Is there no limit to the demands which political parties may make upon us for moral support ?

How many of us are conscious that we have answered these questions in a manner that will square with our own ideals, let alone those of Mr. Sheldon ?

Interest in this subject is intensified by the fact that Mr. Sheldon is to have an opportunity for one week, beginning the 13th prox., of conducting every department of The Daily Capital, published in his own city, Topeka, Kansas, according to the lines laid down in his now famous work, "In His Steps." Unfortunately, the experiment will be too limited to be conclusive, save, perhaps, in one respect. Mr. Sheldon will speedily discover, if he is not already aware of it, that his "ideal" will not be unreservedly accepted, even by those who are in general sympathy with it, and many flaws will be detected by captious critics. Indeed, he is already being asked, in view of his announced determination to increase the selling price of the newspaper in question for the week in which he is to have charge, from 10 cents to 25 cents per copy, if Jesus would be guilty of such a worldly act as putting up a "corner?" In other respects the trial will be inconclusive. An "ideal" newspaper cannot be created or exemplified in six days. What is wanted is not an abnormal production, but a type of newspaper that will stand the wear and tear of time and of competition. Nor will a six days' trial throw any light upon the very important problem as to whether a newspaper conducted a la Sheldon can be made self-sustaining. For that matter, Mr. Sheldon himself does not seem to be at all sanguine as to the financial outlook, because, towards the close of his book, Editor Norman is described, "by means of the money given him by Virginia, creating a force in journalism that in time came to be recognized as one of the real factors of the nation, * * * a daily illustration of the might of a Christian press, and the first of a series of such papers begun