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Current Notes.

THE question has been raised why there is not a Canadian typothetæ to look after the interests of employing printers in all parts of the Dominion, and to provide an opportunity for Canadian printers to meet together and exchange views upon matters pertaining solely to the printing trade in Canada, instead of having to meet at the conventions of the U. T. A., where the questions discussed, in the great majority of cases, arise from wholly different conditions, and have but little interest for printers on this side of the line.

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According to one of the leading job printers in Canada, the greatest obstacle is that it is next to impossible to get the printers to "stick together." In cities where there are already organized employing printers' associations the difficulty is not so great, but in most of our cities there are no such organizations, and to get the printers of these places to enter a national union and abide by its rules would be very difficult. There would also be trouble in regard to the cheap French-Canadian labor at different points in Quebec.

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Other employing printers take a much brighter view of the possibilities of a Canadian typothetæ. The advantages to be derived from an organized body of master printers throughout Canada might be lessened by some such conditions as mentioned in the previous paragraph but even the mere existence of such a union would give strength to the employing printers, as it would have to be recognized and dealt with by the Allied Printing Trades Council, which now has the advantage of dealing with the different local unions separately.

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To insure a more successful result from the organization of such an association, one of the first steps should be to see to the formation of local master printers' clubs all over the Dominion. A circular sent out to the different places showing the benefits which have accrued to the employing printers of Toronto from their association and the friendly feeling that it has given to the members for each other would be one very great inducement to printers

in other centres to organize themselves into like unions. With a number of master printers' unions in the country, it would not be long before a national association, comprising all the unions, could be organized. Such an association could certainly not do any harm, even if all its ideals should not be realized, and even in the meeting together and discussion of the various subjects of interest to Canadian printers, there is much to be learned regarding the conditions of the trade at different points, business methods, etc., that would be of advantage to employing printers.

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The country printer is apt to envy the city printer and to imagine that all is peace and prosperity within the walls of the producer of fine printing in a large city. He has perhaps looked into two or three city printeries, and noted a long line of cylinders, and a room full of jobbers, and gone to figuring what a lot of money must be made in running so many presses. The city printer, too often tired of having his notes extended, and scrambling every week to get money to meet a large pay-roll, sighs with envy when he stumbles into a rural printing office and observes the easy-going character of proprietor, compositor and devil. "How happy they must be with nothing to worry them," he thinks, and dreams not that he is himself an object of envy to his country brother. Let the rural printer who is making a living take comfort in the thought that his rather eventless business saves him many worries; and let the metropolitan printer rejoice in the idea that some day he may get a chance to sell out, on the flood tide of business, and retire to the country, where it is no crime to shut up shop on a hot day and go fishing.—American Printer.

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The allowance by the Government to returning officers for the printing of the ballots in the recent election was so inadequate that printers reserved the right to charge more for the work. The price allowed was \$3 for the first 1,000 ballots and \$1 for each subsequent 1,000. The printers demand \$3 for the first and \$2 for each subsequent 1,000. This is certainly no more than a fair price, especially in constituencies where there are only 6,000 or 7,000 ballots. In larger constituencies it is a better price. The Govern-