

Canadian Press Association.

The Thirty-sixth annual convention of the Canadian Press Association was held on the 8th inst., at the Board of Trade Building, Toronto, with Mr. A. F. Pirie, President, as chairman. About eighty press men attended the meeting, including many prominent journalists of Ontario. We regret that want of space prevents our publishing the President's address in extenso, as the matter contained in it was of vital importance to those interested. Among other questions dealt with was the distribution of government advertising, the complaint being that the government did not deal directly with the publishers, but through a middleman who gobbled up 75 per cent. of the proceeds, this being a direct tribute to the middleman himself, as the government did not make a cent out of the transaction.

Mr. Pirie also advocated the changing of the name of the association to one of a more provincial character and the formation of a Dominion association composed of representatives of the various provincial bodies, thus ensuring a more influential standing of the profession in the country at large.

John King, Q. C., and W. F. McLean, of the Toronto World, spoke of the evils of the present libel law and recommended action of the association with a view to effecting several important amendments thereto.

OPEN SESSION.

A very agreeable and unique departure from the established custom of the Press Association this year was the holding of an open session instead of the annual banquet. This meeting was held in St. George's Hall, on the evening of Thursday, the 8th inst., and was presided over by Mr. A. F. Pirie. The hall was comfortably filled with a select and appreciative audience, among whom were many ladies. The first item on the programme was, of course, the Chairman's address, and Mr. Pirie, whose opening remark was that the Chairman's address was Dundas, in his usual felicitous manner, stated the aims and objects of the Association, and extended a cordial welcome to the visitors present, expressing the hope that the open session would become an established feature of future conventions.

Among those who not being members of the Association, contributed papers, were Mr. G. M. Oxley, of Ottawa, whose subject was "The Cultivation of a National Sentiment," and Prof. Alfred Baker, of Toronto University, who treated of "The Newspaper as Related to Education." Mr. Sam Hunter, the World's

cartoonist, was especially at home on "Newspaper Illustrations." The Rev. Dr. Dewart admirably handled the subject of "The True Sphere of the Newspaper" and Mr. Arthur Wallace, of the Mail, read an essay on "Journalism as a Profession." This last paper fairly sparkled with humorous and trite allusions, and readers of the Mail could not fail to recognize the scholarly diction which characterizes some of the editorials of that paper.

Interspersed with the more serious items on the programme were recitations by Miss Jessie Alexander and songs by Miss Jardine Thompson and Miss Lili Kleiser. The evening's entertainment was brought to a close by Mr. Pattullo, the critic of the Association, who, like most critics, waxed just a little caustic in his references to one or two of the papers which had been read, notably that of Mr. Oxley, who must have grievously offended Bro. Pattullo by portraying the villain in some of his stories.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The final session was held Friday morning, the 9th inst., in the Board of Trade building.

The committee on the libel law reported in favor of the proposition made by Mr. W. F. Maclean that permanent counsel be retained to defend blackmailing libel suits. The carrying out of the idea was left with the Executive Committee.

Mr. C. H. Mortimer read a paper on "Electrical versus Steam Power." His ideas were eminently practical and demonstrated the adaptability of the new power to the needs of the printing trade.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Executive Committee: Messrs. J. S. Willison, Globe, Toronto; R. Holmes, Era, Clinton; W. S. Dingman, Herald, Stratford; C. W. Young, Freeholder, Cornwall; Andrew Laidlaw, Reformer, Galt.

The Committee on Resolutions brought in their report, recommending changes in the libel law: establishing a boycott against wholesalers in printers supplies who solicit orders for printing in connection with their other business; urging upon the Association the payment in advance system for subscriptions; the advisability of calling upon the Dominion Government to pass an equitable copyright law and to reduce the duties on boiler plate matter and printers' supplies; declaring against the establishment of a Provincial printing bureau, and recommending that on the expiration of the present contract, the printing of school books be thrown open to general competition. Most of these resolutions were referred to