

more popular, and ladies who don't use short hand, as well as shorthand writers, should learn to operate the machine.

Canadian business men are rather conservative, and it will probably be some years before they will think of employing female shorthand writers. A few of the more adventurous of the fair sex have, however, undertaken the study of the art, in spite of the prejudice, and one of them has been rewarded to some extent. Miss Georgina A. Fraser, who studied under Mr. R. Fielder, of Montreal, has now a place in our office as shorthand correspondent. She writes Isaac Pitman's system. The other day a notebook containing the notes of a case we reported several weeks ago was handed to her for transcription, no explanation being given as to the nature of the case or the names of the parties, and she produced an accurate transcription with but a few omissions where abbreviations had been used or technical words had occurred. Perhaps this is not a very marvellous feat, but we submit to Canadian business men, that it is as remarkable as any ordinary young man could have accomplished, with similar advantages,—for Miss Fraser does not profess to be able to write more than 100 words per minute.

Mr. Thomas Pinkney is perfecting a very useful invention which will do away with reporters' note books in the ordinary sense, and will substitute therefor a continuous roll of paper, after the fashion of the "web" printing presses. Speakers will then spin out eloquence by the yard, lecture-lovers will buy wisdom at so much per foot, and the vocabulary of the reportorial room will undergo a complete change. The junior reporter, who has just returned from the lecture hall with half a dozen rolls of paper containing phonographic characters, will be told by the city editor: "You will have to cut that down, Jones; we cannot take more than ten yards of that stuff." Reporting contracts will have to be made on a new basis when these books come into use. Instead of a *per diem* allowance, an arrangement will be made to charge so much per *mile*, and the ingenious inventor will doubtless simplify the operation of measuring by some simple device. But however we may joke about this matter, Pinkney evidently means business. He is as mum about the new contrivance as Darius Green was about his new "flying machine." We hope and believe the invention will be more reliable and useful than that marvellous complication.

AMERICAN.

Mr. Eugene P. Newhall, the first shorthand writer who obtained a position by means of our Bureau, is now in Chicago, as private secretary to Mr. James W. Scott, publisher of the *Chicago Herald*. He recently had the honor of reporting the River Convention, held in St. Joe, Missouri, being the only shorthand writer present.

The demand for shorthand writers in the United States is large, and rapidly increasing.

In railway, manufacturing and insurance offices in Chicago, shorthand writers are paid from \$60 to \$85 per month. Newspapers pay their stenographers \$100 or more, per month. Type-writing machines are so generally in use there that the capability of operating them is now considered a necessary part of a stenographer's business. They are not so generally employed in railway offices as in insurance, etc., but the principal roads have them. Where a man is employed in both capacities he receives \$10 or \$15 a month extra; salary in this case usually amounting to \$70 or \$80 a month.

Mr. Fred W. Craig, late of Peterboro', called on us last month and asked us whether we had anything to offer in the city. We applied in the affirmative, and accompanied him to a law office, in which we had been asked to fill a vacancy. As none of the principals happened to be in, we left, intending to call again, but on the way Mr. Craig stated that he would prefer Chicago, and asked if we had anything there to offer him. We again replied in the affirmative, and on the strength of our brief acquaintances gave him an introduction to our Chicago agents, by means of which he was placed in a few days with the Pullman Palace Car Company at a salary of \$60 per month, and left for St. Louis that night. His merits were immediately recognized, and an increase of salary to \$75 per month was promised, and has since been granted. Mr. Craig's previous engagement was on the Midland Railway. He writes a beautiful longhand, has a good shorthand speed, is a teetotaler, and has qualifications which fit him for taking a high position. We predict unusual success for him and wish him all the good that he can possibly enjoy. It is a pleasure to place such young men in lucrative and honorable positions.

FOREIGN.

A. Gentile, of Leipsig, has taken out a patent for an "Automatic Rapid-writing Apparatus." By means of it he claims to be able to register the movements of the vocal organs so that the words appear legibly on paper at the same rapid rate as spoken, without any further action on the part of the speaker.

OUR BUREAU DRAWER.

One of the greatest difficulties we find in filling positions in the mercantile world is in regard to penmanship. For several weeks continuously we were on the look-out for a shorthand writer with a bold, plain hand, to whom the salary of \$1,200 was promised at the start. We admit that the principal in this case was rather exacting; but as a general rule shorthand writers pay too little attention to their style of writing. The light-and-heavy-stroke styles, particularly those with flourishes, as taught in the commercial colleges, are practically useless in business, and the sooner the teachers and pupils know this the better. What is needed more generally is a "civil service" hand—the style of writing which can be read without dif-