

occasion of a "re-union" of journalists of a past generation with the journalists of the one that is now passing. Conspicuous among the more venerable ex-journalists were Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Mr. Goldwin Smith, and Mr. Charles Lindsey. The Premier of Canada was once, as Mr. Davin facetiously said, "a printer's mephistopheles," and he rose through all the gradations of his calling till he became proprietor, publisher, and editor of a still live and influential journal, the *Belleville Intelligencer*. It speaks well for both Sir Mackenzie and his country that a printer's apprentice has reached, by no unworthy arts or even a chapter of lucky accidents, the highest political position that she has to bestow. Mr. Smith, in his very admirable address at the Press banquet, mentioned the interesting fact that he and two others are the only survivors of the original staff of the *Saturday Review*; the other survivors, singular to say, are the Marquis of Salisbury and Sir William Harcourt. Mr. Charles Lindsey was for many years the chief editor of the now extinct, but once prominent *Toronto Leader*, and as son-in-law of William Lyon Mackenzie, who was in his day a vigorous publicist, he bridges over in a very special way the interval between the journalism of to-day and that of more than half a century ago. As might be expected from the nature of their calling, the journalists made the banquet as much of a feast of reason and a flow of soul as such functions ever become. It was at all events an occasion long to be remembered by those who were fortunate enough to be present.

Canadian Copyright.

The subject of copyright was discussed at the recent meeting of the Canadian Press Association in this city. It was dealt with by J. D. Edgar, M.P., from the political standpoint, by Mr. Rutter, from the standpoint of the publishers, and by Mr. Lancefield from that of the reading public. It was made quite clear that the present condition of things is intolerable, that Canadian publishers are crushed between the upper and nether millstones of British and United States interests, and that the reading public gain nothing by this hampering of an important industry. The political grievance caused by the interference with the right of the Canadian Parliament to legislate in a purely domestic matter may be less practical than the other, but is certainly no less irritating. It seems not unlikely that the dispute between the Imperial and Canadian Governments over this question may shortly become acute, if not serious. The Act passed by the Canadian Parliament five years ago, and reserved for Her Majesty's assent, has, of course, never been put in force. To enforce it requires a proclamation by the Governor-General, and it is doubtful whether he would issue such a proclamation on the advice of Canadian Ministers. Just now it looks as though the British copyright holders were imperiling the good relations between Great Britain and her most important colony by insisting on the retention of a privilege to which they may have a legal, but certainly have no equitable claim. Copyright must be placed as completely within the jurisdiction of the Canadian Parliament as patent right is admitted to be.

University Matriculation.

At a late meeting of the Senate of Queen's University there was adopted a report on matriculation which deserves more than a mere mention. Queen's has, wisely for itself and in the interest of secondary education, accepted the matriculation curriculum recently prepared and promulgated by the Senate of the University of Toronto, and as this is accepted also by other universities and by the Education Department for the Junior Leaving High School Examination, the secondary schools are able to organize with the minimum of that

peculiarly irritating kind of difficulty which results from undue multiplication of classes. The special point to be noted in the Queen's report is the expression of regret that when the Senate of the Provincial University raised its pass percentage from 25 to 33, it did not raise it to 50, or, at least, 40. The reason assigned for this view is one well worthy of consideration by educationists everywhere. The desideratum is "papers of a more elementary character" than have been set in the past, and a higher pass minimum on those papers, the opinion being expressed that this policy would "compel pupils to remain a year longer at the High Schools, and tend to foster a higher ideal of exact scholarship amongst those seeking admission to the universities." It is frequently remarked that boys and girls enter the higher seats of learning at too early an age in Ontario, and that they present themselves for admission before they have so mastered the elementary work that they can pursue their advanced studies with the maximum of advantage to themselves. There is, undoubtedly, a good deal of force in the contention, and there is some reason to believe that the raising of the percentage for pass would have a beneficial effect. The suggestion, at all events, is well worthy of serious consideration, and it will, no doubt, receive at the hands of the Toronto University Senate the attention it deserves.

University Government.

Among the many proposals for the establishment of a *modus vivendi*, as between the Council and the students of the University of Toronto, one made by Prof. Wrong in a published letter deserves most careful consideration. He suggests that a committee be appointed to ascertain what the practice is elsewhere in the administration of such institutions, and that the students be represented on the committee. Whether this proposal commends itself to the faculty of the University as a whole or not, it is worth something to have it emanating from a member of that body, rather than from outside parties, or even from the students. It may be assumed that all are desirous of maintaining the efficiency of the University, and it will speak little for the good sense of all concerned if some solution of the difficulty is not speedily found, either in the way suggested by Prof. Wrong, or in some other way as likely to prove effectual.

Newfoundland and Ocean Travel.

Mr. Thomas Swinyard, a well-known rail way and telegraph authority, has contributed to the daily papers an interesting suggestion in connection with the now much-talked-of annexation of Newfoundland to Canada. The Allan steamers, in summer, sail through the ten-mile-wide Strait of Belle Isle between Labrador and Newfoundland, and though they are not fast sailors they make the voyage from the Strait to Ireland in four to four-and-a-half days. Mr. Swinyard suggests the construction of a railway across the island from St. John's to Belle Isle, terminating at some good and permanently accessible harbour. Why from St. John's, may be asked. Perhaps Mr. Swinyard may be able to answer. From this end of the transatlantic route it would seem good policy to select some suitable harbour on the west shore as the terminus of a short voyage across the Gulf of St. Lawrence, thus breaking the long sea voyage by the intervention of a short run across Newfoundland by rail. Mr. Swinyard's suggestion is valuable chiefly as calling public attention to a phase of the question which has not yet been allowed as much prominence in the discussion as it deserves.

The Struggle in Philadelphia.

The attention of the friends of reform in civic administration, which was a little time ago centred upon the struggle in New York and Brooklyn, is now being drawn in large measure to