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Institute of Shorthand Writers.

BENGOUGH'S  
COSMOPOLITAN  
SHORTHAND WRITER.

Conducted by THOMAS BENGOUGH, Official Reporter, York County Courts.

VOL. III.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1882.

No. 5.

THE CANADIAN SHORTHAND  
WRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

The organization of the Canadian Shorthand Society lends additional interest to the history of the old association under the above title. As its composition and plan are not familiar to many of the younger members of the fraternity we have thought it would be interesting to give a brief sketch of that organization. Unfortunately for us the minute book of the association is in the hands of Mr. Albert Horton, now of Winnipeg, and hence our sketch must be written from memory.

The C. S. W. A. was purely professional in its constitution, composition and objects. It comprised the following among its members:—Messrs Richardson, Bradley, Eyvel, E. E. Horton, A. Horton, Tyson, Bengough, Boyle, G. C. Holland, A. Holland, Burges, Kinlock and a few others. It was organized in 1874 or 1875. Meetings were seldom held, except when the question of the introduction of Phonography in the Law Courts of this Province was taken up.

The following report of the Committee appointed to confer with the Benchers of the Law Society will indicate the nature of the work done by the Committee from the C. W. S. A. As to the quantity and quality of that work there can be no question. The Committee was a most energetic and efficient one, and the archives of the Attorney-General bear evidence of their diligent and valuable pains-taking labor.

The Committee appointed to confer with the Committee of the Benchers of the Law Society of Ontario have to report:—

I.—That they took means to secure information on the subject of law reporting in the United States and Lower Canada, and were able to submit to the Committee of the Benchers a large number of important documents relating thereto.

II.—That they met the Committee of Benchers at Osgoode Hall by invitation and discussed

the subject with them at some length, suggesting to them, *inter alia*,

1. That the salaries to be paid to the law reporters should be not less than \$1500 per annum.

2. That the proposed fyling of notebooks at the Hall would be found highly inconvenient, if not wholly impracticable.

3. That the reporters should be supplied with stationery and should have their travelling and hotel expenses paid in addition to their salary.

4. That for transcripts of notes the person requiring a copy should pay 10 cents per folio to the reporter.

5. That a certain sum, say \$3, should be levied on the litigants in each case, to be made costs in the cause.

III.—That the Benchers appeared to be favorable to all these suggestions except the second, in regard to which they appeared to consider the fyling of notebooks essential in order to provide against loss and also against the contingency of the reporter leaving before the notes were transcribed, or the notes being altered.

IV.—That the intention of the Committee appeared to be to appoint about 10 reporters, one of whom should accompany each judge on circuit and at Chancery Sittings, each reporter, as far as possible, to be permanently attached to a particular judge.

V.—That your Committee gathered from the remarks of the Committee of Benchers that the time during which each reporter would be engaged would average seven months in the course of each year, leaving about five months during which he might be employed in other ways.

VI.—That your Committee pointed out, however, that this would not be likely to result in materially increasing the emoluments of the reporters, as the time when they would be at leisure would be a period when outside work was very scarce.

VII.—That your Committee have reason to believe that the Law Society are very earnest in their desire to establish a complete system of shorthand reporting in the Courts of Law and Equity, and that the probability is that the Government will soon be induced to grant the

necessary fund, and that the system will before long be in active operation.

The whole respectfully submitted.

THOS. JNO. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman.

The accomplishment of the objects aimed at in the appointment of this Committee was the crowning work of the Association. The recommendations made in the report have been practically adopted. Clause 4 was adopted, but was afterwards modified by a reduction to five cents per folio for copies of evidence. Clause 5 was not adopted. Five reporters, instead of ten, were at first appointed, but four junior reporters have since been added, and hence the condition urged by the Committee of the Association has been practically carried out. In this connection Mr. Crawford's paper, read at the Convention, will be interesting and profitable, as giving details of the working out of the plan thus outlined by the Committee.

The Constitution of the old Association required either a professional record or professional test, which practically barred out all who were not thoroughly competent to perform first-class work. The Association having been organized, as we have said, for professional purposes alone, the question of the admission of junior members was never discussed.

A tariff was framed upon the organization of the Association, and for some time it was adhered to, but the introduction of shorthand into the Courts affected this tariff seriously; for when the official reporters were called upon to do work outside their court duties it was found difficult to make the distinction between their work as such officials and their standing as outside stenographers. Many employers, especially members of the legal fraternity, carried away the impression that the low rates fixed by the Legislature for the court transcripts should prevail in regard to outside contracts. The fact that the officials received a salary for their Court work was used by these employers as an argument against an increased rate, for, they contended, the salary being a sufficient remuneration for a year's labor, any work beyond that defined by the Courts was extra, and the remuneration, therefore, would be a "perquisite." The official reporters decidedly demurred to this view, in the general interests of the profession, referring to the unfairness of making the Court charge, which was merely nominal, refer to those who were not fortunate enough to be official re-

porters, and clinching their arguments by showing that the salary fixed by the Legislature was simply a "retainer" and in itself constituted the strongest argument in their favor. Reckoning the number of days actually employed, and calculating the per diem allowance which the court salary would amount to, it was found that the tariff rate (\$20 per day) for contract work was in keeping with the ideas of the Legislature. To this day a difficulty is experienced in regard to the nominal charge made for copies of evidence in court, and wisdom and tact will be required in dealing with this feature of the new tariff.

While the tariff of the old Association was framed with an eye to the best interests of the profession of that day, it is, as a whole, unworkable now, owing to several new elements which have been introduced into professional life, and the tariff of the new Society will have to be radically different in some important respects.

#### THE CONGRESS FOR CANADA.

Our friend D. L. Scott-Browne, of New York, the publisher of the "only means of international communication in shorthand matters," ought to be some authority on international affairs, but his strong advance protest, published in his August number, against the 1883 session of the International Congress being held in Canada has had no effect whatever. This is a rather unpleasant pill for the editor of the "only professional" to swallow, but he will have to gulp it down somehow. We shall wait with interest for his *post facto* statements and arguments; meantime, as representative of the Canadian fraternity, we think the protest of the *Monthly* deserves notice and comment.

Here are the arguments used by D. L. S.-B.: "Don't go to Canada. While our Canadian brethren should be shown some consideration and should not be neglected, it should not be forgotten that they have had their share of consideration for the present in being leading promoters in the organization of the association at Chicago last year. And while two cities of Canada only, namely, Toronto and Ottawa, represent the whole country, stenographically speaking, the United States have at least ten cities, each one of which has upon an average as many stenographers as all Canada. The International Association cannot afford, except at the risk of its own life, to go here, or go there, to favor particular parties. It should go where its

greatest interests are concerned, and that certainly cannot be in Canada next year. The different States have demonstrated their desire and ability to organize and maintain stenographic associations: all Canada has failed to organize a stenographic association with breath enough in it to live a single year, and she is so poverty poor in material as to be unable even to sustain a single local association in any of her cities, and so is not entitled to consideration in the matter of having the International Association meet there as early as next year. Let Canada fit herself for a stenographic government by throwing her efforts whole-souled into the International Association, and then she may be worth the courtesy and credit it will be to her to have such a meeting held in Toronto, at the proper time."

This is a very good specimen of the *Monthly* editor's vigorous style of denunciation, of which he is master. It may be quite safely said that he is nothing if not critical. But what about the logic? Let us examine it a little—though it were cruelty to analyse it too closely.

While it is admitted that Canadians were "leading promoters" in the organization of the International Association, this fact as stated is a reason why the fraternity they represent should not be further considered. A strange way of showing a compliment to the Canadian brethren, truly! If the International Association was organized largely by Canadians, surely our American brethren should not monopolize it. The difference in numbers in the United States as compared with Canada may be admitted without in the least weakening our claim for a meeting of the Association to be held here; for if "the United States have at least ten cities, each one of which has, upon an average, as many stenographers as all Canada," it must be remembered that the total of the general population of the United States bears exactly the same proportion to that of Canada. It is a great credit to us if we have maintained the proportion of one Canadian stenographer to ten Columbians. If the *Monthly* refers to this as a belittlement of Canada, we would reply that if the stenographers of Canada are small in numbers, they are a clear-headed, sure-footed, large-hearted, keen-eyed, whole-souled band of brothers, who will make their Columbian visitors so thoroughly welcome that they will forget that they have crossed the lines. Besides, a very large proportion of the best stenographers in the United States are Canadians, and in coming to the

Congress here they will be simply taking a trip home to "see their folks." But if this comparison as to size is instituted by the *Monthly* with the idea of showing that Toronto is an awkward place to reach—and this, we take it, is the point of the argument, if it have any—we should like to ask the editor of the *Monthly*, who has had an extensive and varied experience as a traveller, if he knows or can imagine any place within the Dominion of the Eagle—which, by the way, is considerably smaller than the Dominion of the Beaver—so cheaply and pleasantly reached from all quarters of the globe as this metropolitan city of Toronto—this intellectual "hub" of the Canadian universe? Let the editor go into the statistics of this subject, and he will rise from the study convinced and converted.

It is intimated that the invitation to visit Canada would be accepted by the International Association—if accepted at all—to favor "particular parties." As a matter of fact, we believe that the suggestion to visit Canada next year originated with Columbians, and not Canadians less; and the hearty invitation was given by the whole body of Canadian stenographers assembled in convention. The editor of the *Monthly* hinted at some mysterious "particular parties" who influenced the Congress in deciding upon Cincinnati. It has never yet appeared who those parties were. Friend Browne has kept their names profoundly secret. Let us hear who are the particular parties who have been advocating Canada, if there are any. So far from the Congress risking its life by crossing the line, we venture to predict that its delegates will go back to their large and magnificent cities more thoroughly "enthused" than if the meetings were held on the hot side of the lakes.

The argument of lack of Canadian associations has lost all force, now that the "Canadian Shorthand Society" is a fact. But apart from this organization, the argument would not be forceful; for though, technically speaking, the old "Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association" has not been a "live" one for some years, it did actually live for considerably more than a year, and did as much in the brief period while it was alive as the average State Stenographic Associations across the line. But the mettle and material of the old association are all here yet, and re-moulded in to more modern fashion, ready to do more work and better work than ever. We don't desire to be boastful of what Canadians can accomplish in the way of organization, but

lest the editor of the *Monthly* and some other of our American brethren should not have time or disposition to carefully and critically read the constitution of our "Canadian Shorthand Society," which is printed in this number, we express in one sentence our emphatic belief that this society has a better, more lasting, more comprehensive and workable constitution than any society now in existence. We may be disappointed in its out-workings; but the experiences thus far fully warrant these assertions. When, therefore, the comparison is made between the State Association and our Dominion Association, we feel inclined to challenge the editor of the *Monthly*, after thoroughly mastering the constitution of our society, to name any single state association that is so comprehensive in its scope. Where, for instance, is there a state association which combines the influence, the ability, the talent of the professionals and amateurs? Where is there an amateur association in the whole of the United States? Yet the Canadian Shorthand Society is both a professional or stenographic association and an amateur shorthand society. In this regard our society is really more comprehensive than the Congress itself, and we should not be surprised if our Columbian friends who meet the Canadians in Congress should be so enamored of our society as to adopt this distinctive plank uniting both classes of members.

We are not at all so "poverty poor" in stenographic material as friend Browne would have his readers believe. The fact that at the first associated meeting that was ever convened in Canada—and that upon comparatively short notice—we had over sixty shorthand writers present, and letters and telegrams from some 25 others from all parts of the Dominion, who were unable to be present, is evidence that we are not altogether lacking in material, and that if it be not great in quantity it is rich in quality. We dare not venture to go into figures as to how numerous the phonographic host in Canada really is, lest the *Monthly* overwhelm us with figures as to the enormous army in the United States. We remember that when the *Monthly* was first started it had a circulation of 10,000—so the editor stated in a conspicuous place on the title page of one of the first numbers. If this were so—and we do not pretend to dispute, for D. L. S.-B. said it—how many stenographers are there in the United States now? When we consider the "developing" power of the

*Monthly* itself, of the college connected therewith, and of the numerous institutes and schools for the promotion of the art among the Yankee boys and girls, we are bewildered in the endeavor to estimate the present force. Reasoning on the groundwork of the circulation of the *Monthly* seven years ago, there ought to be at least 500,000, or perhaps a million! And perhaps if the same method of calculation were employed in estimating the Canadian forces we could muster somewhere near half a million, or perhaps a quarter, or maybe 50,000, or, well, say 25,000 anyway!

But whether we be few or many, let the Congress come, and they will receive such a welcome that they will want to pass a special constitutional amendment on the spot, so that they may cross over this way again in 1884. And we do hope friend Browne will be present, so that he may have the cobwebs cleared away from his beclouded vision.

#### CANADIAN CONVENTION NOTES.

Mr. Mark H. Irish, of the Rossin House, deserves well of the society, for whom he set apart one of the pleasantest, cosiest rooms in the immense hotel which he so well manages. Every person about the establishment was very kind and considerate of the interests of the delegates.

The suggestion that the delegates should "write up" the interests of the Society in the newspapers with which they have connection, was acted upon in several cases, and we re-publish the correspondence. Each article is stamped with an individuality which makes it valuable as a contribution to the literature of the subject.

Mr. W. S. Battin, deputy manager of the G. N. W. Telegraph Co., generously "franked" all the messages which delegates desired to send. Mr. Battin received the thanks of the Convention for the privilege thus extended. This is but another instance of the truth of the adage: "One touch of pencil makes the whole (shorthand) world kin."

The invitation sent by the Convention Committee to the Women's Literary and Social Progress Club, of this city, to attend the evening session, has borne good fruit. Mrs. Curzon, the associate editor of the *Citizen*, who ably represents the interests of the women in the columns of that lively sheet, gave expression to her pleasure in

the extract quoted elsewhere. In the same issue is an article on "Phonetics," written in her vigorous style, commenting favorably on Mr. Houston's paper.

The official report of the proceedings of the Convention is in preparation. It is intended to issue a neat pamphlet at 30 cents per copy. At this price there should be a lively and steady demand for a publication which will be of great value to every shorthand writer. We are only able to publish in the WRITER the briefest summary of the proceedings, but are satisfied that those who read our abridged report will want to know more about the Society and its meetings. Orders for the proceedings may be sent to us. The book will be ready, it is expected, during October.

To our brethren of the press the society is indebted for liberality in advance announcements of the Convention and committee meetings, and in full reports of the society's sessions. The reports in the *Globe* and *Mail* of the first day's proceeding each occupied over a column and a half, while the smaller sheets gave in proportion of their space. All these notices have added volume and velocity to the shorthand "boom." We trust that the newspaper reporters will receive some compensation in the general "rise" which is about to take place in the profession.

The *Kingston News*, referring to the Society, says:—"This society bids fair to be in every way successful, the President being chief of the Hansard staff, and the Secretary-Treasurer an official court reporter. Members must pass an examination for admission, a fair test being provided. The shorthand writers of this country need organization, owing to the unbusiness-like way some members of the profession were acting. There seems hardly room for doubt of the society's success." We should add that it was rather with a view of preventing "unbusiness-like" conduct on the part of stenographers, than on account of such in the past, that the society was organized.

The daily newspaper reports, which were very full in other respects, lacked in this important feature: the constitution of the society was despatched with the briefest summary. As the main object of the meeting was to organize, it seems to us that the chief feature of the report should be the plan of organization, to be found only in the constitution. But as the rep-

resentatives of the press were stenographers, it is easy to understand that the instincts of their second-nature would lead them to dismiss the weightier matters in order to enjoy the more pleasurable portions of the programme. The presence of the ladies, too, may have proved an element of disturbance!

The fact that the council, composed of first-class stenographers who, by the nature of their standing, reputation, prospects, and past history, must, perforce, take a lively interest in giving the profession as good a standing as possible in the community—the fact that such a council will, according to the constitution of the new society, meet frequently for a discussion of professional matters, is no doubt a promise of better times for the stenographic profession in Canada. Scarcely any such meetings have ever been held in the past. The first meeting of the council, held on the Friday following the meeting of the Convention, was an enthusiastic and hearty one.

Already the beneficial results of organization are evident. The secretary has been officially referred to, in two cases, as to the rate to be charged for certain work so that a "cut" might be avoided and the standard of the profession upheld. One of these requests came from a member who had been asked to give an estimate upon a convention report; the other from an amanuensis who was in negotiation for a position. The temporary absence of a tariff necessitated these inquiries, but the fact that they were made is ample proof that when the tariff is formulated it will be honorably adhered to, and that in matters not contemplated by the tariff the members of both classes will act conscientiously in the best interests of the profession. It is very satisfactory to note these evidences of the success of the organization, coming as they do so soon after its inception.

The clause in the constitution relating to the general government of the society was passed before the question came up in the Convention as to the election of juniors or associates to act in consort with the council in matters affecting their interests. A liberal construction of the clause would therefore allow the juniors to meet with the seniors at all meetings when general matters are to be discussed; but as the constitution states broadly that "the general government of the society shall

be in the hands of a council composed of all the senior members," it was thought well to introduce a by-law, by the said juniors, represented by Mr. Wickham, and notice of this has been given. The effect of the by-law will be to allow junior associates to meet and discuss with the council all matters relating to matters that did not exclusively concern seniors—such, for instance, as the arrangements for an annual meeting, etc.

Alderman John Taylor, one of the old-time phonographers, whose name is more familiar than that of any other of our civic representatives, except that of Alderman Hallam, to the reading public of Toronto and Canada, rendered most valuable service to the Convention in its early stages. Owing largely to his persistent efforts in advocacy of the Free Library scheme, the citizens of Toronto are now in possession of legislation which enables them to establish free libraries in the various towns, villages, and cities of the province. We have heard of a case in which this scheme is being adopted in a town in preference to the Mechanics' Institute, which seems to have had its day in many localities. Mr. Taylor's modesty forbade the bestowal on him of any very active office, but we are satisfied that his position as honorary-president will not be altogether what the term implies. As a mark of honor it was well deserved, but as a figure-head he is too active to be a success. His real title should be honorary-active-president, for he will show, as he has shown, that the word "honorary" does not imply ease in his case.

While we cannot expect that the establishment of a new idea which involves the interest of so many persons in diverse positions would be unattended by a certain degree of friction, it is extremely satisfactory to note that good humor and consideration were displayed at every stage of progress connected with the organization, and the prospects are that in a very brief period the machinery will be running smoothly and perfectly. There is the greatest possible variety in the physical and mental characteristics of the members, and in the council there exists such a variation of temperament, ideas and talents as will tend to enliven the proceedings. There will doubtless be warm discussions, for, in addition to individual eccentricities and idiosyncrasies, each has a sufficient amount of confidence in his own opinion to express and impress

it with arguments. All this, however, is reason for rejoicing rather than regret, and will be in the interests of the society generally, for it is safe to predict that every shade of opinion existing among the membership will be represented on the council, and the deliberations and determinations of the governing body will therefore be equitable while it is hoped the effect of their decisions will be equitable.

We have been actually surprised to hear the enthusiastic expressions of approval of the public programme from outside persons who, prior to the evening of the open session, knew nothing about shorthand except in the most general way. We are quite satisfied that shorthand can be made as interesting—even as fascinating—to popular audiences as music or any other subject. The interest excited in this art-science has the threefold feature of pleasure, profit and permanence. To provide healthful *pleasure* to an intelligent audience of nearly three hundred persons is certainly a worthy aim; but we should not rest content with this. Professional interests should—as doubtless they will in this instance—*profit* from the revival of interest in shorthand. We have no fear of the *permanence* of the good impression already made as to the many practical advantages of our art in the various walks of life; while to those of our number—and we believe they are not few—who are interested also in philology, we feel safe in expressing the belief that one practical and permanent result of our Convention will be the organization of a Canadian Philological Association, to work in connection with those of England and the United States in rendering more philosophic and available the orthography of our own language.

The etiquette of the legal, medical, dental and other professions is pretty well settled. Time and organization have done the work of establishing the code of ethics which, though unwritten, is as well defined as though written in black and white, and, we may add, as honorably observed. Time has had little chance, and organization none, to settle the question of stenographic etiquette in Canada; but we may expect now that the ethics of the profession will be rapidly defined. When the Canadian Shorthand Convention was proposed, a stenographer to whom the project was mentioned remarked, in a half-jocular, half-satirical vein, that the street-cleaners were also going to meet in convention.

Well, there are worse people than street-cleaners, and, indeed, we may learn useful lessons from those whom we are prone to look down upon as belonging to the lower order of society. The cabmen of London, even, have a code of ethics in their guild which evinces a high idea of honor. A "cabby" was recently fined seven shillings and costs at the Lambeth police court for having refused to take a "fare," because he stood third on the "rank," or cab-stand, while the rule in the "profession" is that the first man on the rank shall take the first fare that offers. There are many members of pretentious professions who would not be willing to stand a fine for the honor of the thing!

The society is particularly fortunate in its President. He possesses all the qualifications requisite for successfully conducting the affairs of the society. One of the oldest reporters now in Canada, his extensive experience as a journalist and stenographer gives great weight to his opinions upon all matters connected with the profession. His official position as chief of the Hansard staff of reporters in the Canadian House of Commons is as high as it is possible for any stenographer to attain in the Dominion as at present constituted. He is more versatile than he was thought to be until tested at the meetings of the Convention. It is not usual that to the faculty for newspaper writing and stenographic work is added facility for public speech-making, but Mr. Bradley is choice in his language, apt in expression, and remarkably cool and collected in debate. The discussions during the afternoon of the first day of the Convention were by no means tame, and the judicial bearing and tact of the President were put to the severest test. He accomplished his difficult task to the satisfaction of all parties. His address gave the key note to the Convention, and the fraternal spirit manifested in his remarks towards the "juniors" placed all classes and creeds in sympathy with each other and with the objects of the meeting. Mr. Bradley must perforce, spend about one-third of his term of office at the capital in Ottawa, where during the session the large proportion of seniors will be assembled. He will therefore have opportunities for discussion with the various members of the council who reside too far east of Toronto to be present at the council meetings here, and no doubt during the session there will be at least one meeting of the council, when the op-

portunity will be afforded for the fullest discussions upon matters past, present, and prospective. We should have no sectionalism in the society. The cosmopolitan position of our President will avoid any display of such a spirit during the trial term of the society; and when the first year of its existence is completed it will have outlived all the ills incident to infant shorthand societies.

It is a poor cause that will not stand criticism. Having confidence in the right motives and foresight of the advocates of the Canadian Shorthand Society, we publish as an off-set to the commendatory expressions of the press generally, the strong article in opposition from the *Globe*. The *Globe* is well known in Canada as an organ of free trade pure and simple, and an advocate of unlicensed medical, dental, and legal practitioners to pursue their avocations without let or hindrance. In view of this fact it will not surprise our readers to find that that journal is opposed to the legal standing of the Shorthand Society. We trust and believe that the woful prophecies of the *Globe* will fail of fulfilment. That there may be dissatisfaction in individual cases because of classification, is only to be expected—indeed, it would be surprising if there were not some applicants for admission into the first class who, while they possess sufficient confidence in themselves, believing that they have a right to that position, might still fail to pass the necessary test which is to be the safeguard of the society. But we do not for a moment believe that such dissatisfaction will be at all general, for no shorthand writer who appreciates properly the privileges of membership in the Society will desire, either in the interests of the profession generally, or in his own interests, that he should be admitted except upon his own merits. It is admitted by all that the rate of 150 words per minute for five consecutive minutes is a "reasonably low" standard—rather below than above the mark—hence there has not been much cause for "heart-burnings" in the decision of the Convention on this point. When the council comes to apply the test it will, we doubt not, be influenced by the determination, upon one hand, to prevent the admission of any who should not be classed as seniors; and on the other to secure the admission of such as have a proper claim to enrolment in that class. Hence the nature of the tests may be altered to suit individual cases,—the arbitrary rule as to speed, however, being applicable in all, for, as Mr. Murphy of Washington

pointed out, there must be an arbitrary standard as to speed. The *Globe's* arguments in one or two points lose their force on account of the decision of the Convention. For instance, there are to be two classes only, not three as suggested; and it is not proposed to issue certificates to the "Juniors" that they were found "not to be first-class men." We think that the policy outlined by the *Globe* in the conclusion of its article would be endorsed by every member of the council, and certainly the steps thus far taken point in the direction of an organization "as comprehensive and elastic as possible," and one which will "take every means to make the public interests coincident with their own." We thank the *Globe* for its paternal interest in the infant society, and trust that its professional advice tendered from time to time may aid in developing a healthy child.

#### CANADIAN SHORTHAND CONVENTION.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING—SUCCESSFUL IN EVERY RESPECT—ORGANIZATION OF THE CANADIAN SHORTHAND SOCIETY—INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

During the past two months, informal meetings have been held from time to time for the discussion and perfecting of plans for a representative meeting of Canadian shorthand writers. At these meetings there was manifest an interest and enthusiasm which gave promise of success, and it was a notable feature that at each successive meeting new blood was introduced, so that every system, every branch of the profession, and every stage of proficiency was represented.

The series of inaugural meetings, which commenced in the Rossin House on the forenoon of Tuesday, Aug. 29, exceeded in attendance, enthusiasm, and profit, the most sanguine expectations of the many sanguine promoters of the movement.

The following registered their names as in attendance at the day sessions:—*Toronto*: Alderman John Taylor, Geo. B. Bradley (Chief of Hansard), A. H. Crawford, Robt. Tyson, Thos. Bengough and N. R. Butcher (Official Reporters), John Bruce (Shorthand Special Examiner), E. R. Parkhurst (*Mail*), H. Burrows (*Globe*), Frank Yeigh, F. L. A. Sims, T. W. Gibson, W. H. Orr, S. T. Bastedo, Wm. Thompson, Hy. Wickham, A. Andrews, J. J. Pritchard, Fred. Balmer, Geo. F. Clark,

R. J. Gould, R. Richardson, G. T. B. Gurnett, S. Dee, A. McLachlan, D. McMillan, Thos. Pinkney, Wm. S. Jones, R. G. Clare, S. Cradock, R. Lewis, J. G. Lewis, Thos. Jamieson, C. H. Black, Miss G. A. Fraser, Miss Alice Heaton. *Hamilton*: F. W. Wodell (*Spectator*), G. H. Taylor (*Tribune*), Ed. Morrison. *Brantford*: Miss Grace E. Heaton. *Guelph*: Rev. Robt. Torrance. *Belleville*: P. P. Lynch, H. E. Beasley, Miss A. M. Ashley. *Kingston*: E. P. Newhall (*News*). *London*: S. Greenwood. *St. Catharines*: W. Thompson. *Napanee*: F. W. Pringle. *Acton*: Fred. Bryers. *Pickering*: W. H. Huston, M. A. Whitby: D. Cator, A. Decker. *Oshawa*: W. H. Fickard. *Peterboro'*: A. F. Read. *Ottawa*: E. G. Hopkirk. *Erin*: John McLachlan. *Wroxeter*: F. V. Dickson (Official Reporter). *Brampton*: Jas. Malcolm. *Princeton*: A. Laughlin. *Yorkville*: E. Hartt. *Niagara*: A. Andrews. In addition to these delegates, numbering over sixty, the following visitors were present:—*Washington, D. C.*: E. V. Murphy and J. K. Edwards, Congressional Reporters. *Buffalo, N. Y.*: Geo. H. Thornton (*Modern Stenographic Journal*).

Letters and telegrams were read by the Secretary, Thos. Bengough, from nearly fifty members of the fraternity in Canada and in the United States, regretting inability to attend, and wishing success to the Convention.

#### THE OPENING SESSION.

Upon the call to order, the genial Chairman, Ald. Taylor, briefly addressed the meeting. He said it was indeed a pleasure to welcome, on behalf of the shorthand writers of this city, so many knights and ladies of the pencil from other points in Canada as well as across the lakes. From the time that Memory Woodfall produced such quaint and full reports from his sly corner in the British House of Commons, to the triumphs of the later systems, was but a brief space, yet it had been marked by nothing more wonderful and enduring than the embalming of the sayings and doings of the world. As he understood the objects of this Convention it did not seek to praise style, but was conglomerate as well as cosmopolitan. They had the very widest platform and welcomed all who wished to occupy a position thereon, from the professional to the amateur. It was from the ranks of the latter that they must fill the vacancies in the former. It was by these determined students of the art that positions in commerce and law, where shorthand was becoming daily more indis-

pensable, were filled. He would remind the struggling student that there was always room at the top.

The following Committee was appointed on Organization:—

The Chairman, Messrs. Bradley, Bengough, Bruce, Butcher, Crawford, Eyvel, Gibson, Hopkirk, Orr, Pickard, Sims, Thompson, Tyson, Wickham, Yeigh.

Brief addresses were delivered by Messrs. Murphy, G. H. Taylor, Wodell, Lynch, Torrance and Orr, expressing pleasurable anticipations regarding the meeting.

During the adjournment which now ensued, the Organization Committee met and drafted the Constitution and list of officers.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Ald. Taylor took the chair at 2 p.m. The draft Constitution was read, and on motion of Rev. Mr. Torrance, discussed clause by clause. It was adopted with a few amendments proposed during a somewhat lengthy and lively debate, in which Messrs. Wodell, G. H. Taylor, Butcher, Wickham, Bruce, Tyson, and the Secretary, were chief participators. The "Juniors" claimed the reasonable right of representation on the Council of the Society, and their request in this regard was complied with by inserting a clause allowing them to elect five of their number as associate-councillors. [See text of Constitution.]

The following officers were then proposed by the Committee and adopted by the Convention:—*Hon. President*: Ald. John Taylor; *President*: Geo. B. Bradley; *Vice Presidents*: E. E. Horton, Toronto; Geo. C. Holland, Ottawa; Albert Horton, Winnipeg, Man.; Clarence W. Treadwell, St. John, N.B.; *Secretary-Treasurer*: Thos. Bengough; *Solicitor*: John Bruce. These officers and the following Senior members form the *Council*:—A. H. Crawford, R. Tyson, A. J. Henderson, N. R. Butcher, — Monaghan, Wallace Maclean, Geo. Eyvel, Wm. F. Maclean, T. W. Gibson, A. C. Campbell, Arthur Wallis, Wm. A. Sims, F. L. A. Sims, H. M. Mathewson, E. R. Parkhurst, Toronto; F. V. Dickson, Wroxeter; J. H. Lumsden, F. W. Wodell, Hamilton; Andrew Holland, A. M. Burgess, Ottawa; Geo. Duggan, — Abbott, Montreal. This list of Seniors was proposed by the Committee simply as a nucleus, and must be so considered. It will be subject to constant enlargement, as all who pass the first-class test become members of the Council. [The Juniors elected the following as their

representative associates on the Council: Messrs. Orr and Wickham and Miss Fraser, Toronto; E. P. Newhall, Kingston; W. Thompson, St. Catharines.]

Upon the election of Officers. Ald. Taylor retired from the chair, and the President-Elect took his place, and received a most enthusiastic welcome. After acknowledgment of the honor conferred by the election, he referred to the question as to the admission of so-called Juniors, expressing his own opinion that it is always desirable to introduce new blood into all organizations. He did not at all agree with the idea of some people that we have nothing to learn. Shorthand in Canada is just in its initial stage now, and all the new men we see around us are working up according to the times. In the old Association, in the formation of which he took part, he did not think they were able to enrol more than about a dozen names of first-class men. The old Association had got into a sort of moribund condition. At Ottawa time after time they had failed to hold meetings, owing to the small numerical strength of the organization. It was with the view of bringing new strength and new blood into the organization that he had much pleasure in joining this society. He had no doubt the old men and the new could work together without the slightest trouble. It is our mutual interest to work together. It is not the interest of the old men to shut out the new. We have only to look in the newspaper offices and in the gallery at Ottawa to find that those who were young men a few years ago are now at the front. It is absurd to attempt to make such a close corporation of any shorthand society as to shut out men who, by their capacity and on test, show themselves to be first-class men. He was satisfied as to the future success of this organization. He trusted the Junior members would bear with the Seniors if they appeared to be somewhat harsh and mayhap somewhat dictatorial. He trusted they would not be so; but if they seemed to be so it was to further the general and joint interests of the profession as a whole. The profession in Canada has a grand future before it. Its position has been recognized on every hand. The official reporting system in Ottawa, which was opposed when first proposed, is now a recognized part of the parliamentary proceedings. Last session both parties had nothing but good words to say of it. The sister provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia would, he

believed, soon move in the matter of official court reporting, and there are openings all over the Dominion for shorthand talent. He urged the young men to qualify themselves, not only in shorthand, but in special knowledge, so that they may turn out their work in first-class style.

The President, having thus struck the key-note of the Convention, and "enthused" the assembly by his hopeful remarks, was applauded to the echo on resuming his seat.

The work of organization of the Canadian Shorthand Society having been thus completed, the purely pleasurable part of the program was proceeded with.

The following papers were read and discussed, each reader receiving the thanks of the assembly:

"The Legal Status of the Stenographic Profession in Canada," by Mr. John Bruce, the Society's legal adviser. He showed the defects of the present statutes relating to Election Trials, Extradition Cases, Coroner's Inquests, and Police Courts; touched upon the advisability of introducing the study into the schools; and urged the necessity of the Society seeking incorporation similar to that granted the other learned professions.

"Shorthand Writing, and Efficient Women to Write it," by Miss A. M. Ashley, of Belleville. She showed conclusively, amid the applause of all, even enemies, if there were any present—which is doubtful—that a girl is as good as a boy, and has the prospect of becoming as efficient in the art of shorthand writing.

"The Ontario Official Reporting System," by Mr. A. H. Crawford, Chief of Staff of Reporters of the High Court of Justice, was a historical sketch of the rise, development, and present position of the shorthand reporting system now in vogue in this Province. This system gives the greatest security and satisfaction to litigants and the legal profession. Our American friends who are discussing "official systems" should see the full text of this paper.

"The Use and Abuse of Phonography," a volunteer paper by Mr. F. W. Wodell, of Hamilton, elicited a warm discussion, the advocates of Phonography in the schools, who were numerous, warmly criticizing Mr. W.'s arguments.

"Phonography in Schools," by Mr. W. H. Huston, M.A., of Pickering, dealt in an elaborate and exhaustive manner with this topic. The views enunciated in this paper were directly antagonistic to those ex-

pressed by Mr. Wodell, and, had time permitted, a most interesting discussion would have ensued.

It being now six o'clock, an adjournment was moved, the papers on "Fonetiks without New Letters," by Dr. Hamilton, of Por Hope, on "Gymnastics for Brainworkers," by Mr. Alex. Cuthbertson, Toronto and on the "Duties of a Shorthand Amanuensis," by Mr. Thos. Pinkney, being necessarily omitted.

#### OPEN EVENING SESSION.

The City Council having granted the use of their magnificent chamber, the Exhibition Committee had transformed it into a museum of phonographic curiosities, typewriters, calligraphs, stenograph, automatic folio register, typo-litho-transfer stone, typograph, phonographic photographs, specimens of various systems in one frame, books and magazines representing all known and many unknown Shorthand systems, many "quaint and curious volumes of forgotten lore," the whole forming an exhibit of surpassing interest even to the uninitiated. Expert operators deftly manipulated the machines, and obliging committee men explained the ancient manuscripts.

When the hour for the literary program arrived, the spacious apartment was fully crowded to the doors, and a large number occupied the gallery. There were not fewer than three hundred persons present, the literature and wealth as well as the youth and beauty of the Queen City being well represented. The program was carried out with one change, viz., the substitution of Prof. Goldwin Smith for that of Major McMurrich, in connection with the address of welcome. We have not space for even a summary of the many admirable addresses.

#### SECOND DAY.

More than half the delegates remained till Wednesday, when a brief session was held. Mr. J. K. Edwards, of Washington, D.C., was introduced, and gave some interesting reminiscences of the olden times when he was on the staff of the *Toronto Globe*. Messrs. Bengough, Butcher & Wodell were delegated to represent our interests at the International Congress, with full power to annex the United States.

The following honorary members were elected:—Isaac Pitman, Benn Pitman, A. J. Graham, J. E. Munson, Dr. Ziebig, Rev. Dr. Wild, Rev. Robt. Torrance. After the election of Junior associate councillors the company took their places in the

carriages in waiting, and drove through the city, commencing with the "Zoo," the management of which had sent a complimentary invitation. Viewed from every aspect, the gathering was most successful, and we are sure the fortunate ones who were present mentally said :

When the next Convention's held,  
May we be there to see!

### THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

The International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada held their second annual meeting at Melodeon Hall, Cincinnati, on the 31st Aug. and 1st Sept.

The attendance was not quite as large as had been anticipated, but it was chiefly owing to the lateness of the season, many reporters not being able to be present as their duties commenced with the first of the month. Taking everything into consideration, there was a good representative gathering, and the convention was a decided success.

President J. L. Bennett of Chicago, at the opening of the session, introduced Judge J. B. Foraker, who delivered an address of welcome to the fraternity. He spoke in the highest terms of the profession, and wished that every success would attend the deliberations of a body whose assistance was invaluable to the court as well as to mercantile and other classes. This very kind address by so eminent a gentleman was very much appreciated.

Mr. Geo. H. Thornton of Buffalo, President of the New York State Stenographers' Association, ably responded to the remarks of the judge. He said the relation of the stenographers to the bench had always been of the most pleasant character, and he hoped the high position they held with respect to the bench would be maintained.

An address by President J. L. Bennett of Chicago followed, in which he urged unity of action on the part of stenographers. He referred to official law reporting, and requested that the association discuss the question of official laws.

The report of the secretary was then read, and showed a membership of ninety-seven at the end of the first year. Receipts, \$212.00; expenses, \$97.55; balance on hand \$114.45.

On the list of members elected since the last meeting were to be found the names of Isaac Pitman, Thomas Allan Reed, and a number of the leading reporters of the English Parliamentary staff.

At the opening of the afternoon session

Nelson R. Butcher of Toronto, Canadian Vice-President, addressed the meeting on the subject, "Benefits of Association and Organization." Mrs. M. V. Longley of Cincinnati followed with a paper on "Writing Machines, the Type-Writer particularly."

In the absence of Mr T. C. Rose of Ithica, N. Y., Vice-President for the United States, a paper prepared by him on official reporting was read by Mr. Geo. H. Thornton. In it he favored the official system. This was followed by Mr. James Abbott of Chicago, who spoke strongly against having official laws, and a warm discussion took place which occupied the greater part of the afternoon. The official reporters favored official laws, and the non-officials were against them. The discussion will likely be resumed at the next meeting, when a lively time may be expected.

A paper entitled "Shorthand, its Use and Abuse," prepared by Mr. Wodell of Hamilton, in his absence was read by the President.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, S. C. Rodgers of Troy, N. Y.; Vice-Presidents for the United States, H. C. Demming of Harrisburg, Penn., and A. J. Barnes of St. Louis; Vice-President for Canada, Thomas Bengough, Toronto.

The constitution and by-laws were slightly amended, the United States now having two Vice-Presidents instead of one. To be eligible for membership it is necessary to be able to write 150 words per minute for five minutes, or to have been employed for three years continuously as a shorthand writer. Membership fee is still \$2 per annum. Application in Canada can be made to either Thomas Bengough, Toronto, Vice-President, or Nelson R. Butcher, Toronto, member of the executive committee.

The next meeting will be held in Toronto on the 16th and 17th of August, 1883, and there is every reason to believe that the attendance will be very large. Toronto is easily reached from most of the States, and the time will suit the convenience of the majority.

In consequence of the length of some of the papers read, a resolution was passed denouncing long articles, and requesting that contributors in future curtail.

The afternoon of the second day was spent in viewing the city, and in the evening those who were able to remain enjoyed themselves at a banquet held at the Gibson House.

## THE SHORTHAND WRITERS' CONVENTION.

(Toronto Globe, August 29th.)

The main object with which the stenographers meet together in Toronto this week is to form an Association, the object of which will be to improve the condition of shorthand men. It is proposed, we understand, that the Association shall attempt the classification of its members into first, second, and third-class men, and shall settle a scale of payment which scale members shall bind themselves to observe. While our sympathies go with this attempt to use associated strength for the bettering of their condition, we suggest that the stenographers should pause ere they do anything which might have the appearance of an effort to create a close corporation. The attempt at classification will surely cause heartburnings; probably libel suits. It would be almost impossible to define the exact place where first-class stenographic talent ended and second class began. A substantial injury would be done to any men who were put in the second class when there was no practical difference between them and those elected for the first class. A jury would almost certainly side with the aggrieved party especially if the party could show, as they probably could if pushed to it, that some member of the examining authority had been heard to express a light opinion of the examinees personally. It is very likely too that, in practice, the Stenographers' Association would be found to consist of only one class; for any shrewd man would rather be clear of the Association altogether than be in possession of a solemn certificate to the effect that he had been carefully examined and found *not* to be a first-class man. In the interests of peace it is to be suggested that the shorthand men put their standard reasonably low and attempt no grading within its own ranks. If this advice is not followed, it is pretty certain that the Association will be short-lived; for, having to live up to its constitution, by-laws, and table of fees, its members would find themselves unable to compete with free lances. Of course the stenographers do not harbor the idea of constituting their business a preserve similar to that which lawyers and doctors enjoy. We are free to admit that as strong a case could be made out in favor of prohibiting unlicensed persons from writing shorthand or butchering a beef as can be made out in favor of the monopoly of re-

commending this, that, or the other pill. Nevertheless, we doubt whether the shorthand men could get a monopoly, or whether, if obtained, it would be of any service to them. Their true policy, and the same holds good of every other trade association, is to make their organization as comprehensive and elastic as possible, and to take every means to make the public interests coincident with their own.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE CANADIAN SHORTHAND SOCIETY.

### ARTICLE I.—NAME.

The name of this organization shall be the CANADIAN SHORTHAND SOCIETY.

### ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

The objects shall be to promote and protect the interests of the shorthand profession in Canada.

### ARTICLE III.—MEANS AND METHODS.

This organization aims to promote professional interests by bringing before the notice of business men, the legal profession, educators, judges, legislators, and the public generally, the value of shorthand as a method of saving time and securing accuracy and expedition in the recording of discussions, the reporting of public statements and the despatch of correspondence; and by affording opportunities for intercourse among shorthand writers of different systems and various degrees of proficiency.

(a).—The protection of professional interests shall be secured by making the initiatory test for admission into the senior branch of the membership of such a character as that none but those who are thoroughly competent can be admitted: also by the existence of a council composed of all the senior members, whose duty it shall be to establish a tariff and deal with any infraction thereof in such a way as to promote the highest interests of the profession.

### ARTICLE IV.—MEMBERSHIP.

There shall be two classes of active members, namely, senior and junior, as well as honorary members.

Section 1.—*Honorary Members.*—These must in all cases be shorthand writers, but they shall be subject to no test. Residents of other countries may be elected in recognition of conspicuous service in the profession. The names of honorary members shall be first proposed to the membership committee in session at the annual meeting and through them submitted to the society. Upon a three-fourths vote they shall be declared elected. They shall be entitled to all the privileges of the society except the power of voting. By invitation of the council they may participate in its deliberations. They shall not be liable to fees or assessments.

Section 2.—*Senior Members.*—The test for

admission into this class shall be such as the council may determine, provided always that it shall include the ability to write at least 150 words per minute for five consecutive minutes, and legibly and accurately transcribe the same to the satisfaction of the council.

(a).—Immediately upon the election of a senior member, the secretary shall prepare and sign with the president a certificate certifying to the proficiency of such member and to the fact of his membership in the society. Upon receipt of such certificate each member shall forward to the secretary with the acknowledgement of the receipt of same the sum of \$2.

(b).—The annual fee for senior membership shall be \$2, payable on election and each anniversary thereof.

(c).—Any senior member contracting for shorthand work contemplated by the tariff, at less than tariff rates, shall be reported through the secretary to the council, who shall deal with the case.

Section 3.—*Junior Members*.—The test for admission into this class shall be the ability to write at least 100 words per minute for five consecutive minutes, and legibly and accurately transcribe the same.

(a).—The fee for junior membership shall be \$1.00, payable on election and each anniversary thereof.

Section 4.—Applications for admission to the membership may be made at any time to the secretary for submission to the council.

Section 5.—The secretary shall prepare and publish at the close of each annual meeting a properly classified list of all the members of the society, together with the names of the officers elected at such annual meeting, and the constitution and by-laws as then decided. This printed list shall be furnished to each member of the society, and may be distributed to the public in whatever manner is deemed best by the council.

#### ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

The officers of the society shall be elected by the members present at the annual meeting, and shall comprise the following: Honorary President, President, (who must be a senior,) four Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Solicitor. All the officers shall be *ex-officio* members of the council.

Section 1.—The general government of the society shall be in the hands of a council composed of all the first class members.

(a).—The council shall from time to time frame and revise the tariff of rates which shall govern senior members, and may make such regulations for the government of the junior members as may be considered prudent and necessary, provided that in the discussion and decision of such matters as affect only the junior class, five junior associate councillors shall be present or give their consent in writing.

(b).—Five junior associate councillors shall be

selected at the annual meeting for seats on the council as provided in the last sub-section. Only juniors shall be allowed to vote for the selection of these associates.

(c).—The council shall decide the places, persons, times and methods for applying the tests to the various classes of applicants, shall make provision for the examination of such, and shall decide upon the results of such tests, having power to make necessary provision in special cases. It shall have jurisdiction in all matters of legislation, and authority to deal on behalf of the society in the interim between annual meetings thereof. It shall also be empowered to take such steps towards affiliation with other societies, or the securing of special privileges, as may be deemed wise. The minutes of the council shall be kept by a secretary to be appointed from among themselves. The proceedings shall be deemed confidential and shall be kept secret except so far as written or printed reports may be officially made to the society. The council may meet as frequently as circumstances require. Five members shall form a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business. Questions relating to the tariff cannot be decided without the consent in writing or otherwise of at least fifteen senior members. At each annual meeting of the society the council shall make a written report of its work during the year.

Section 2.—The president, or, in his absence, one of the vice-presidents, shall preside at the annual meeting of the society and at all meetings of the council; shall countersign all vouchers for payment of sums of money, and all certificates; and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office.

Section 3.—The secretary, treasurer, and solicitor shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their offices.

Section 4.—A member of the council resident in each of the Canadian provinces shall be named as corresponding secretary, his duty being to report at least four times per year to the council as to the progress of the profession in his province, noting any causes of complaint and making such suggestions as will improve the status of the profession in his locality.

Section 5.—Should any office, except that of president, become vacant before the close of the term of office it shall be filled by appointment of the council.

#### ARTICLE VI.—GRIEVANCES.

Section 1.—The council as a whole, or a committee to be named by them, shall consider all complaints reported by any member against any other member for any unprofessional conduct in his relations to the society or any member thereof, provided the same be in writing, plainly and specifically stating the matter complained of, and subscribed by the complainant. This committee shall also hear any specific complaint affecting the interests of the stenographic pro-

profession, or the practice of shorthand, whether made officially by the corresponding secretaries, or by any individual member, or the secretary, or coming through the medium of the press, or report from outside parties, and may report thereon to the society such recommendations as they may deem advisable.

#### ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENT.

This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the society by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

### LADIES TO THE FORE.

(*Mrs. Curzon, in Toronto Citizen.*)

The spectacle of so many ladies at the late Shorthand Convention was one of those desirable signs of the times to which we are becoming accustomed. And the fact that these ladies were not merely witnesses but were actual participators in the work of the Convention is more to the point. Miss Fraser, special amanuensis to Mr. Thomas Bengough, of the Shorthand Bureau, Miss Ashley, Belleville, and Miss Heaton, Brantford, were each present in the character of an expositor: and we were happy to hear from the replies to communications sent to gentlemen in official, professional, and commercial circles, by the Committee of Inquiry to the Convention, not only that the benefits of shorthand as applied to business were highly appreciated, but that a way was open for a more general employment of ladies, and that the few offices they already occupy are filled to the entire satisfaction of their employers. Shorthand, then, is open to the sex, and as it combines mental and moral qualities in a high degree, a social position equal to any, and a proper amount of remuneration, it should commend itself with strong effect to the young ladies who are of too sensible a turn of mind to consent to be left helpless or dependent merely as a sacrifice to a foolish pride which after all has no real pride in it.

### THE CANADIAN SHORTHAND SOCIETY.

(*Hamilton Spectator, August 31st.*)

The convention of Canadian shorthand writers held this week at Toronto was in many respects the most notable gathering of the kind which ever assembled in this country. The profession of shorthand writing was there represented by some of the ablest men in the world, and side by side with them at the sessions of the convention sat a number of amateurs who have yet to make their name and fame as shorthand writers. The best of good feeling prevailed throughout, although the proceedings were by no means tame, the discussions at times being of a most animated nature. The final result of the work of the convention was the organization of the Canadian Shorthand Society, which embraces in its mem-

bership shorthand writers of two classes: the first comprising those who can write shorthand at a speed of 150 words a minute and over, and the second those who can write shorthand at a rate exceeding 100 words per minute. The objects of the society, stated briefly, are: To secure protection for the interests of the Canadian shorthand writers, and to elevate the profession and bring it more prominently before the business and general public than has yet been done. Ald. Taylor, of Toronto, was elected honorary president, and Mr. G. B. Bradley, of the Hansard staff, was chosen president; Mr. T. Bengough, of Toronto, being elected secretary-treasurer, a post he is well qualified to fill. The governing council, in which the juniors have a representation, is composed of first-class men in whose hands the interests of the shorthand writers of Canada will be perfectly safe, and there is no doubt that these gentlemen will be able to do a great deal in their official capacity, and as representing the association, to further the objects for which it was formed. There has been in the minds of young shorthand writers throughout the country a feeling that the professionals who hold the great majority of the positions of trust and emolument were inclined to look with coldness and hauteur upon the young aspirants for shorthand fame and wealth, but it was evident from the remarks of the president of the society, made at the first session of the convention, that he at least entertained the most kindly feelings toward the pushing young writers who, as he truly observed, are in the not very distant future to take the places of the older gentlemen who now do the professional shorthand work in this country. And there is good reason to believe that Mr. Bradley's sentiments are shared by a great many of the older members of the profession. The presence of ladies at the convention, who were practical shorthand writers and able to take an intelligent part in the proceedings, added an element of great interest to the sessions. And when at the public meeting held in the city council chamber at which Prof. Goldwin Smith delivered an address of welcome, a large number of the most cultivated ladies of the city of Toronto were seen taking the greatest interest in the proceedings, the idea was suggested that in professional shorthand writing woman has a field in which she is eminently fitted by nature to excel. The fact that the debates of the convention were officially reported by a lady adds strength to the argument. There are in this city perhaps one hundred young men and women learning shorthand at this time. It will interest them to learn that at this Convention, as at others held in the United States, not one word was said by any delegate at any time with regard to the merits of different systems of shorthand. In his opening address the chairman remarked that as he understood it the object of the Convention was not to praise style. It was not only cosmopolitan but conglomerate, and any system that could stand the practical test of utility had the claim to consideration. In union is strength for shorthand writers as for other

men, and in order to secure and maintain this union writers must sink their differences of opinion as to system into oblivion. Intelligent, persevering study and nothing else will enable a man to become a good stenographer, the merits of his system having comparatively little to do with his success.

### A SHORTHAND WRITERS' CONVENTION.

(Quebec Morning Chronicle, August 22.)

It is surprising to note the strides which the science of shorthand writing has made in Canada during the last ten or fifteen years. It is becoming more of a popular science with our people, every year, and it is being put to all sorts of practical uses. Soon it will be taught in the public schools, and made to form one of the regular branches of study in the curricula of all first-class institutions of learning. Viewed as a study it is fascinating and interesting, and as regards its usefulness, there can be no question as to its value. The only weakness about the art lies in the multiplicity of the systems in vogue, but time and experience will, without doubt, reconcile these difficulties. We know the advantages of shorthand, and the parliamentary debates, our courts of law, and the mercantile offices of our large business firms daily attest its importance as a prominent factor in the life and activity of the community. No single art that we know of has made such rapid headway in England and the United States, and we are inclined to think, from present indications, that its growth and extension in Canada will be equally as satisfactory and promising. The Canadian shorthand writers, led by Mr. Thomas Bengough, one of the ablest stenographers in the Dominion, and widely known as the editor of *The Shorthand Writer*, published in Toronto, intend holding a convention on the 29th of August, at the "Rossin House," Toronto. This congress will attract a great deal of attention, and the proceedings are to be of the utmost interest. Several valuable papers will be read at the meetings, discussion will follow, and many matters of real value to the profession will find publicity. These assemblies, too, will afford a pleasant means of bringing shorthand writers from all parts of the Province together and induce an exchange of sentiment and thought, which cannot but prove useful. They will serve also to keep up that *esprit du corps* which is always a great help towards success. Members will become better acquainted with each other, and in many ways the convention is calculated to do a world of good.

### CANADIAN SHORTHAND SOCIETY.

ITS FORMATION IN TORONTO—EMINENT REPORTERS PRESENT.

(Toronto Special Correspondence Kingston News.)

Judging by the commotion caused in journalistic and reporting circles here, I suppose that some of the wavelets occasioned by the launch-

ing of our new shorthand society have reached your remote shores.

The Shorthand Convention held here on the 29th and 30th ult. was a tremendous success, being attended by a good representation in point of numbers, and exciting the most vivid interest. The attendance at the evening session, held in the City Council Chamber, was a surprise even to the promoters. Among those testifying by their presence their approval and sympathy with the profession were ladies and gentlemen of well known literary and social eminence.

One of the objects of the Convention was the promotion of a society aiming at the furtherance and protection of shorthand interests. Shorthand, as you are perhaps aware, is the study of the age among mercantile men. Its growth within the last year has been marvellous. Every one is already learning, or is on the point of learning it. In another year, instead of being the accomplishment of the few, it will be the requisite, in fact, like a knowledge of book-keeping, the ordinary attainment of every young man entering a business life. The interest evinced in the Convention not merely by shorthand writers, but by the outside world, must have been very gratifying to the enthusiastic leaders in the movement. This very furor, however, has rendered such a movement indispensably necessary to prevent the ambitious but ill-advised attempts of half-educated young men and women from casting a reflection on the better informed and more competent members of the profession. Some protection is needed against the young man who writes: "I am anxious to get a situation. Have studied shorthand about a year. Write 150 words per minute. Reply soon and oblige." This young man, we will suppose, is picked up by some deluded person, struggles for a fortnight with unreadable notes—pleading nervousness as an excuse for these—wretched penmanship and worse spelling, and leaves in disgrace at the end of that time upon his irate master discovering that his dictation of yesterday ordering the works of Locke and Bacon has, in some unexplained manner, resulted in the delivery of a supply of hardware and half a side of Berkshire. Perhaps some of your readers may think this far-fetched. They have no idea of the ignorance and arrogance of some people. To know shorthand is not the one thing necessary to be a shorthand writer. Shorthand is the centre of a sort of triumvirate, its supporters being literature and language.

This lack of general knowledge, so essential to satisfactory work, has been provided against by the constitution of the society: "The protection of professional interests will be secured by making the initiatory test for admission into the professional branch of the membership of such a character as that none but those who are thoroughly competent can be admitted." The test for admission into the senior class shall be such as the Council may determine, provided always that it shall include the ability to write at least 150 words per minute for five consecu-

tive minutes and legibly and accurately transcribe the same to the satisfaction of the Council. In the junior class the test for admission shall be the ability to write at least one hundred words per minute for five consecutive minutes and legibly and accurately transcribe the same.

The financial interests of the fraternity have also been taken in hand, only senior members being permitted to contract for first-class work, such as Parliamentary work, medical conferences, science societies, etc. Thus the reporter who has toiled for years to fit himself for this position may safely demand adequate compensation, as contemplated by the tariff of the society, without having the ground taken from beneath his feet by an incompetent. He can make a stand for his rights and say, "Pay me at a rate which has been judged by my fellows only fair and reasonable, or do without a report." The result will be first-class pay for first-class work, and mutual satisfaction to employer and employee. Junior shorthand writers, or those writing less than one hundred and fifty, will find they cannot afford to remain outside the society.

Some antagonism was expected from members of the dying or dead Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association, but instead, warm sympathy with the objects of the new-born society have been expressed. Doubtless members of the first-named realize the fact that the C. S. S., which has risen, Phoenix-like, from the ashes of that which belongs to the past, has the necessary elements of new life, new ambition, and better auspices to carry it toward success. For years they have hedged themselves in, looking jealously on all interlopers, determinedly endeavoring to sleep the sleep of the just, until the question has arisen, whether only members of the Hansard, only court reporters, are first-class men; or whether, from an employer's standpoint in a railway or mercantile house such men would be justified in calling themselves first-class. Or would even Hansard men feel quite equal to reporting a medical debate where such words as pneumonia, diphtheria, cerebral, etc., are among the simplest that would occur, without a previous training; and how many of them would feel anything but shaky over such a report as the following:—

"The red coloration by potash was visible only when the felspar contained of this element more than four per cent., and consequently visible only in orthoclase, the flogiacluses always containing less than four per cent. of potassium. The experiments were made in two parts of the flame in a height of five millimetres, at a lower temperature in the highest part of the flame. The professor then showed that for the purpose of peography it is enough to make the following distinctions: Orthoclase, for the potash felspar; oligoclase and arnocrine, for the soda felspar; labradorite; arnathue, with the intermediate biteronite. His experiments were worked while he explained them."

The C. S. S. aims to remind shorthand writers that if it takes nine tailors to make a man, there are coat makers and pant makers, metaphori-

cally speaking, required to make up the perfect shorthand inner man, as well as material being; and also to promote good-feeling "among shorthand writers of different systems and various degrees of proficiency."

Four ladies represented female shorthand interests at the Convention; not a bad representation, and one which promises to be considerably increased by next year, when the International Congress of the United States and Canada meets here.

In fact there does not seem to be a cloud in the sky to mar the prosperity of the new society, smiled upon as it is by the general public, forwarded by its able president, Mr. Bradley, chief of the Hansard and of the editorial staff of the *Mail*, and Mr. Thomas Bengough, an official city reporter, as Secretary-Treasurer; taken by the hand by such able representatives of shorthand in the United States as Messrs. Murphy and Edwards, Congressional reporters, and Mr. Thornton, ex-President of the N. Y. State Association; and last, but not least, under the patronage of His Excellency, the Marquis of Lorne.

#### INSTITUTE OF SHORTHAND WRITERS.

The Institute of Shorthand Writers practicing in the London, Eng., Courts of Law is now fairly established in Chancery Lane. It includes amongst its numbers all who were *bona-fide* in practice at the time of the formation of the Institute, and special facilities will be given for the admission of those who had commenced their articles at that time. Other members will only be admitted after having served a period of not less than five years as an articulated pupil or assistant to a member. They will also be required to furnish proof of having received a good general education. The certificates recognized for this purpose will be those of the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations; the matriculation of the University of London, the first or second class certificates of the College of Preceptors, "or any other which the Council may deem to be of equivalent value as an educational test." The Institute numbers already nearly one hundred members. It will not be an easy matter for incompetent men to obtain membership in such a society: its barriers to incompetence are what they should be. The *Reporters' Magazine* would like to see the whole profession hedged around in a similar manner: there would not then it thinks be so many parasites as there are now accepting work at a price that a copying clerk would reject.

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