

American and Foreign Notes.



CANADIAN newspapers—as already mentioned—are to be called upon to furnish their quota to the revenue by paying postage. The privilege of free mail will be continued to the end of the present year, and anticipation of the new change is already causing considerable overhauling of newspaper establishments in order to effect economies where possible. Many papers have issued notices to subscribers that the “pay in advance” rule will be strictly adhered to, whilst those already in arrears are receiving urgent reminders of their indebtedness. The publishers' lists of most papers will be cut down seriously, for doubtful subscribers and deadheads are sure to be cast overboard when it comes to a question of paying postage. At the same time, the closer scrutiny of lists which is sure to follow cannot but exert a beneficial influence, whilst tending to avoid any great diminution in the publishers' profits.

It is reported that a new and strong company has been organised to build and sell typesetting machines in the United States. *Newspaperdom* states that the Unitype Company, as it is called, has leased the factory of the Thorne Typesetting Machine Company, at Hartford, Conn., and removed to a large manufacturing plant at Manchester, Conn. It has also obtained exclusive licenses from the Thorne Typesetting Machine Company and the Cox Typesetting Machine Company covering all the American and Canadian patents of these companies. This company will manufacture the present Thorne typesetting machine and the present Cox typesetting machine. An interesting feature is that a new machine is being built by the Thorne Typesetting Machine Company, which is to be operated by one person, and is to consolidate the best features of both the Thorne and the Cox machines, including the Cox justifier. It is claimed that this consolidation of typesetting machine interests will undoubtedly result in bringing upon the market before many months a machine far in advance of any other machine heretofore devised for setting movable type.

JOB printers all over the States are now exercising their ingenuity in designing patriotic stationery, and it begins to look as if each hero of the war will receive recognition from the stationer before Congress can vote him a medal. Dewey, Hobson, Shafter, Schley, and Sampson now figure on letter paper, and all sorts of patriotic designs are used to decorate envelopes. The designs shew the Stars and Stripes interlined with the lone star of “Cuba Libre.” American flags with a battle ship in vignette, surmounted by the American Eagle; the Union Jack of England and the Stars and Stripes intertwined. This design has been popular in Canada ever since the war was declared, and it has been utilised on Canadian postal cards.

To the list of remarkable and novel enterprises undertaken by the American press during the war with Spain, must be added a startling new departure by the proprietor of *The New York Journal*. This is no less than publishing an American newspaper on Cuban soil, and being the first in the field for that purpose. Towards the end of June last a large steamer bearing a complete newspaper outfit made its way to Santiago, and it is confidently expected that in a very short space of time a Cuban edition of the *Journal* with news “red hot” from the very heart of the war-torn country will be served up for friend and foe alike.

EXPORTS of American printing machinery have increased considerably within the last three years. The last returns issued by the Government shew that the exports of printing presses and parts thereof in the fiscal years ending June 30th, 1895, 1896, and 1897, amount in value to £32,000, £69,600, and £129,900 respectively, while for the eight months ending in February last the amount was £121,740, with every prospect that the ensuing four months of the fiscal year will bring the total up to a sum far in advance of the returns for the year ending in June, 1897. American press manufacturers have abundant cause for congratulation in the figures. These and other statistics published by the Government shew that American printing machinery finds a market abroad, mainly in England, Canada, and Mexico. Linotypes have been exported recently to Cape Colony and Natal.

THERE seems to be a demand for a harder slug than that usually produced by the machine. It is frequently desired to secure from 25,000 impressions upwards, from machine-set matter, but the metal becomes worn and does not hold its clear-cut face long enough to complete a large run. Electrotyping is too expensive, and stereotyping is but a little improvement over the slugs. The managers of plants have been looking around for some means by which a hard face could be put on slugs to enable them to stand extra long runs, or to be held from year to year, as in library catalogue work. A process for treating the slugs so as to secure on them a light or heavy copper face has been in use for some months by New York electrotypers, who have been very careful to guard their secret well and reap the benefit from prices far in excess of a reasonable profit.

THERE are now no less than 4,200 linotypes in use in American newspaper offices, only 1,300 of which are on rental. The usual terms of the Mergenthaler Company are £600 cash for ordinary machines, and £650 with duplex attachment. At rental the ordinary machine pays £100 per annum, and the duplex £120, the contract allowing of purchase at the end of one year if desired. The new book machines now going out seem to be greatly in demand, and it is anticipated that they will be utilised even more extensively than the news machines, the field being almost unlimited.

JOB printing offices making a speciality of setting advertisements for magazines are no longer a novelty in New York City. Very few first-class magazines set their own advertisements now, but send the copy to some job offices making a speciality of the work. Job offices prepared for this sort of work can do it much better and more cheaply than can the magazine office. An enormous amount of job type, cuts, ornaments, borders, etc., is, however, naturally required, and, what is of even more importance, men with taste to know how few of these should be selected for use and when they should be used.

THE efforts to foster the paper and pulp trade between Canada and Great Britain are meeting with much success, close attention being paid to the varied demands of users and the most suitable form of goods; as a result, exports are steadily increasing. The same tendency is shewn by the influx of British capital towards newer ventures in pulp and paper, general confidence being expressed in the future of the great industry.