

PART IX.—THE PRESS.*

The desirability of including in this chapter of the Year Book an article dealing with the role of the press in the economic and social development of Canada has been under consideration for several years. The compilation of such a survey in the space that can be spared is not an easy task, owing to the great breadth of the subject and the complexity of the interrelationships of the modern press. Indeed, it would be impossible in such an article to trace throughout their history the relationships of the many newspapers existing to-day. However, it is felt that a useful purpose may still be served by emphasizing major trends and tendencies, that have influenced the development of the press as a whole, against a historical background that shows the beginnings of journalism in each section of the country.

The purpose of the following article, then, is to trace from the small but important individual pioneer efforts the growth of the huge interrelated modern organization of to-day, and incidentally to try to point to the direction in which present tendencies are leading.

This Part has therefore been planned in two sections along the following lines:—

Section 1, where the development of the press in Canada is treated, such treatment having been arranged under the following subdivisions:—

(1) A short introduction.

(2) A review of the beginnings of journalism in each section of the country, tracing such beginnings down to about the middle of the nineteenth century, from which time the modern press may be said to date.

(3) The transition period leading to the evolution of the modern newspaper press.

(4) The development of co-operation.

(5) The influences that have affected the development of the modern press, and present-day tendencies.

(In subdivisions 3, 4, and 5, the modern press is treated, not so much as a number of individual papers and journals, although this angle is not forgotten nor lost, but more from the standpoint of the organized machinery that has developed to unify and co-ordinate the individual units.)

Section 2 gives detailed statistics of the daily papers, weekly papers, magazines, and miscellaneous publications, followed by a series of general comparative tables all of which are designed to show the present statistical picture and the growth of the modern press.

Section 1.—The Development of the Press in Canada.

Introduction.

The press of all lands has, of course, from the first, been a very important factor in carrying information to the people and in crystallizing and expressing public opinion on current questions, but in no period of history has it been so important an influence as it is to-day. Its power in this regard is generally understood to be enormous, but, as is always the case where such potency is concentrated in human institutions, it may be used either constructively or destructively.

History shows how time and again, in many countries, the influence of the press has been perverted to achieve selfish aims. On the other hand, the modern British tradition of "a free press" has proved one of the bulwarks of democracy. Naturally,

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