

the traditional background upon which the press has been developed in Canada is therefore of first importance. It is sometimes forgotten by those who have grown up in modern days that free expression of views in printers' ink was not always possible and that the press has had to fight bitterly and long for the rights which are regarded as commonplace to-day.

True, the basic British tradition of a free press had been established in Great Britain prior to the rise of journalism in Canada and the progress thus made passed in due course into the fabric of tradition. But, notwithstanding this, Canadian publishers had their own battles to fight, their own problems to solve, and their own set of traditions to build on that foundation. In doing this they have been influenced profoundly by two forces: on the one hand, the conservative qualities and literary standards of British newspapers of the better type to which they were traditionally sympathetic; and on the other, the strong tendencies of the new-world press to sensational journalism and a catering to popular taste in order to build up circulation and financial independence. The present-day Canadian newspaper is, on the whole, a creditable product in which both influences have played their parts.

From its beginnings the Canadian press has developed along individualistic lines, although to-day, because of vast changes in modern journalistic methods, strong personalities are not associated so directly with their publications or projected so forcibly into the public eye as was the case in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

According to *McKim's Directory* for 1939, the Dominion, in 1938, supported 1,804 newspapers and periodicals, of which 112 are issued daily. Ontario had 660, or 36 p.c. of the total. Quebec with 387 does not seem to occupy the place the population of the province warrants, but one French paper, *La Presse*, boasts the third largest circulation of any paper in Canada and the *Montreal Star* ranks fourth in this respect among the English papers of the Dominion. However, circulation figures of French-Canadian periodicals (daily, weekly, or monthly) do not provide an absolute yardstick for measuring the reading habits of the French-Canadian population for the following reasons:—

(1) French-Canadians are, on the whole, more bilingual in their reading habits than English-speaking Canadians. A large number of French-Canadian families in Montreal, Quebec, or Ottawa do not limit themselves to French papers exclusively. The average French-Canadian business man will buy at least two French and one or two English local papers every day. In Ottawa, for example, many French readers get all three of the local daily papers, of which only one is French.

(2) In nearly every family of the more literary class is to be found one or two publications from Paris.

(3) As in the case of the English-speaking population, the French-Canadian reading public are not immune from the attraction of the large American periodicals and the most popular of these are to be found even in remote villages.

The Beginnings of Journalism in Canada.

NEWSPAPERS.

The art of printing from movable type invented by Gutenberg of Mainz swept over the countries of western Europe in the 20's of the fifteenth century with the force of a renaissance, but was naturally much later in penetrating the pioneer colonies of North America. By the middle of the eighteenth century, however, it had become well established in the New England colonies. The art had become deeply rooted in Massachusetts especially, and it was from Boston that, in 1751, Bartholomew Green, Jr., brought the first printing press to what is now Canada. At