

the mature age of fifty years he began his life anew in Halifax, and, although he was destined to live for but a few weeks after his arrival, this event gave Canada the inestimable benefits of type-printing and for this reason alone is of historic importance. It was Green's immediate successor, one John Bushell, an associate, also from Boston, who laid the foundations of Canadian journalism, for it was due to his enterprise that the Halifax *Gazette* was established in 1752.

To appreciate the background of early Canadian journalism, the reader must understand something of the conditions under which the early pioneer journalists worked.

The editors and publishers of Canada's early papers were outstanding local leaders; journalism was a strong formative social force in local centres and guided community development. In such times newspaper publication, though a small business, was a tremendously important influence. Nevertheless, circulation was definitely restricted by the difficulties of communication and transportation, the limitations of pioneer life, the isolation of the communities served, the expense of publication, and the relatively low average standard of literacy. The editor in this period was often the actual news-gatherer as well as writer of much of the material which found its place in the columns of his paper, for news from the outside world was difficult to get; he was frequently compositor, proof-reader, printer, and distribution agency all in one—a strong individualist by temperament, he was inclined to be a reformer or radical in politics.

The expense of printing by the tedious processes then in vogue and the limited revenues obtainable from subscriptions and advertising, restricted early publications to weekly or, at best, semi-weekly editions. Indeed, the passage from the weekly to the daily paper was a very gradual process in Canada and was made possible only by the growth of large urban centres. Because of these difficulties, early papers were, generally speaking, dependent on outside assistance to a substantial degree, although there were several examples of papers which fought through without any such aid. It was well for Canadian journalism generally that able men sponsored early efforts and sought the widening influence of the press to express their views.

In these circumstances, it is a matter of note that the early press in the Maritimes and in Lower and Upper Canada retained so much of rugged individualism and willingness to fight, even at the expense of survival, for its independence and rights whenever these were challenged, for in the upheavals of Canada's early history writers of skill and great journalistic ability rose and fell with the tides of political unrest. These early journalists have left their impress on the scroll of Canada's history and many of them in their later days became outstanding political figures, for journalism naturally opened the gateway to politics.

A few of the galaxy of outstanding journalistic figures up to the middle of the nineteenth century were:—

*The Maritimes*—Joseph Howe (later the Hon.); John Sparrow Thompson (father of a Canadian Prime Minister); G. E. Fenety; H. D. Blackader; William Annand (later the Hon.); and Jonathan McCully (later the Hon. and one of the Fathers of Confederation). *Lower Canada*—Fleury de Mesplet; the Hon. Pierre Bédard; Etienne Parent; Jean Baptiste Eric Dorion (with whom were associated Papin, Daoust, Blanchet, and others); John Melton; John Lowe (later Deputy Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa); and B. Chamberlin (later Queen's Printer at Ottawa). *Upper Canada*—William Lyon Mackenzie; Thomas Dalton; Hagarty