

**The Growth of Co-operation between Canadian Newspapers for News-Gathering and -Distribution.**—While association between Canadian newspapers for interests connected with the business and social end of newspaper work antedates Confederation, this relationship did not include the function of news-gathering and -distribution—the most fundamental and important part of newspaper work, yet one in which co-operation was most difficult in a country of Canada's dimensions and sparse population. The extensive organization and world-wide connections required for the proper performance of this function, and the fact that the daily press alone was mainly concerned, gave rise eventually to the organization of separate machinery.

Yet the first step in co-operative news-gathering and -distribution in Canada did not come until 1907. Previous to that year the small town dailies and many of the larger papers had to be satisfied with news services from commercial sources, supplemented by occasional and spasmodic telegraph bulletins. Control was, up to that time, vested in the railways—the Canada Pacific Railway, and the Great North Western Telegraph Company, an affiliate of the Grand Trunk Railway. The services provided were cheap enough but poor, and papers had to be satisfied with what they provided.

Opposition to this system first manifested itself in the West, but there was general agreement among publishers throughout the country that it was unsatisfactory. In 1907 the Western Associated Press, organized as a co-operative news-gathering association, came into being at Winnipeg. Arising from small beginnings, it gathered support in the Prairies, even though it was in direct competition with the Canadian Pacific Telegraphs. Its members were content for several years to put up with service inferior even to that supplied commercially (although this placed them at a disadvantage with their non-member competitors) in defence of the principle at stake. The Western Associated Press later gained the support of the established dailies of Vancouver and Victoria and grew in strength and importance.

The ultimate success of the Western Associated Press experiment in co-operation was due primarily to the efficiency of the services rendered by the late Wallace Dafoc, one of the great newspaper correspondents of that day, and the skill of the late J. F.B. Livesay, as well as to subsequent cheapening of telegraph costs. The Western Associated Press became a model for the later Canadian Press.

In 1909 the Eastern Press Association was organized in the Maritime Provinces. Ontario and Quebec each established its own organization two years later, so that there were four independent news-gathering bodies covering different sections of the Dominion. The year 1910 marked a turning-point in the fight of the co-operative press associations. In that year the Western Associated Press appealed to the Railway Commission against the exorbitant and inequitable rates charged to its members for use of the Canadian Pacific telegraphic facilities as compared with the rates charged for its own news service. Eastern and western co-operative associations all combined on the issue, which was eventually won. The principle was recognized that the railways had no business in the news-agency field and the Canadian Pacific Railway voluntarily surrendered to the Canadian papers the Canadian rights to the Associated Press, the great co-operative association of