

six easternmost provinces gained from a 50-year pre-hardening process under the semi-pioneering conditions of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New York. As England wrested control of the northeastern part of the Continent from the French and as pioneer settlements appeared as isolated pockets in the surrounding wilderness, the first news organs were set up. Thus Halifax gained its first newspaper a scant three years after the Honourable Edward Cornwallis started the seaport town on the rocky soil of Chebucto. Saint John's press arrived with United Empire Loyalists who established the centre, and Quebec's first press venture was launched only a year after the Treaty of Paris gave control of New France to the British. Under the primitive conditions of the day the early printer-editor worked along with the joiner, the blacksmith, the attorney, the linen draper, the tallow candler, the cabinet maker and the soapmaker in serving his small community.

SOME EARLY NEWSPAPERS

The first paper established in the Canada-to-be was the *Halifax Gazette*. Bartholomew Green Jr. established the first printing office in Halifax with a press brought from Boston, but died before he could produce a newspaper; it fell to the lot of his colleague, John Bushell, to launch Canada's pioneer press venture with his issue of the *Halifax Gazette* on Mar. 23, 1752. This event inaugurated a journalistic period that may be considered, only a little arbitrarily, to have lasted until 1807. It was during that 55-year interval that all six of Canada's easternmost provinces made their press beginnings. Quebec's pioneer paper was the *Quebec Gazette*, started by William Brown and Thomas Gilmore in Quebec City in 1764. It survives today as part of the *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*, which makes the valid claim that it is the oldest continuing newspaper in North America. John Ryan and William Lewis set up the *Royal St. John Gazette* in Saint John in 1783, a year before the county of Sunbury was detached from Nova Scotia to form the Province of New Brunswick. Prince Edward Island had its journalistic start in 1787 when James Robertson founded the *Royal American Gazette and Weekly Intelligencer* at Charlottetown. The *Upper Canada Gazette*, launched by Louis Roy at Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) in 1793, was the pioneer paper for what later became the Province of Ontario. Newfoundland gained its first news-organ when John Ryan, the New Brunswick press pioneer, set up the *Newfoundland Gazette* in 1807.

The longevity of these early news-sheets was directly related to the support they got. The *Halifax Gazette* under Anthony Henry lasted until 1766 when it was suspended for criticizing the Stamp Act, and was replaced by the *Nova Scotia Gazette*, edited by Robert Fletcher. In 1769, Anthony Henry began the *Nova Scotia Chronicle and Weekly Advertiser*, which absorbed the Fletcher paper the following year, and Henry became, without being so titled, King's Printer again. His renamed paper, the *Nova Scotia Gazette and Weekly Chronicle*, has since been turned into a provincial government gazette. The Henry news-organ was joined in Halifax by John Howe's *Halifax Journal* in 1781 and William Minns' *Weekly Chronicle* in 1786, by which time the latter title had been dropped from the *Gazette*. At the end of the eighteenth century the three Halifax papers enjoyed a tranquil Nova Scotia journalistic monopoly. Alike as three peas in a pod, they amiably shared in the printing patronage being given by the Halifax-centred government. Howe's paper lasted until 1870, while the *Chronicle* perished in 1837.

Meanwhile the only other press ventures in Nova Scotia had not been so successful. At Shelburne, the *Royal American Gazette* of James and Alexander Robertson and Nathaniel Mills, the *Port Roseway Gazetteer and Shelburne Advertiser* of James Robertson Jr. and Thomas and James Swords, and the *Nova Scotia Packet and General Advertiser* of James Humphreys had appeared after the founding of the Loyalist town in 1783. But when the British Government withdrew its financial aid to the centre in 1787, the town collapsed and the papers soon perished.

The second newspaper in New Brunswick was the *Royal Gazette and General Advertiser*, begun in 1785 by Christopher Sower III, who was made King's Printer of the new Province. When Sower left for the United States in 1799, John Ryan succeeded him in his government-appointed office, and the paper, which underwent more than one change of name, became