

NUMERICAL INCREASE

The economic basis for the accelerated newspaper growth of the first half of the nineteenth century was furnished by the great gains made in population and wealth. The suddenly rising activity of the timber trade, which was the first primary industry to provide a return-cargo situation favourable to immigration, the shipbuilding boom in New Brunswick, depressed conditions in Europe, and the postwar attraction of Americans to British North America after 1815, caused new settlers to flock into the young, developing country. They flowed into the seaport towns of Nova Scotia, the river valleys of New Brunswick, and the lakeshores and forests of Upper Canada. The latter province alone increased in population from 213,000 at the start of the influx of the 1820's to 430,000 after 1830. In the decade of the 1840's the combined provinces of Canada gained 677,000. Particularly in Canada West there was a growing specialization in primitive manufacturing, involving a transfer from the home to the local shop. Grist millers, tanners, wagon makers, whisky distillers, brewers, cobblers, weavers and blacksmiths began to establish themselves in the new centres to serve the surrounding community. The enterprising editor found a ready welcome in the group, and as towns sprang up new journals were established.

The mortality rate among such newspapers was high, but where one news-organ died two sprang up to take its place. The result was a steady increase from fewer than 20 news-sheets in 1813 to 291 in 1857. No records have been left to show the year-by-year increase in each province, but some figures from Upper and Lower Canada indicate the trend. In 1813, when many journals were casualties of the war with the United States, there were five newspapers in Lower and one in Upper Canada. In 1824 there were 12 in the former and seven in the latter province. By 1827 the combined total had dropped to 17 but by 1829 the number had grown to 27, by 1831 to 37, and by 1836 to 50. Of the latter, 30 were in Upper Canada. By 1853 Canada West boasted 114 news-organs; by 1857 it had 159. Canada East supported 54 in the latter year.

SOME IMPORTANT NEWSPAPERS OF THE PERIOD

It would be impossible even to list all the newspapers that came into existence during the first half of the nineteenth century. It is perhaps sufficient to mention only the most important. These were notable for their longevity or for their role in the political and social movements of the time or because they were pioneers in their local communities. Upper Canada newspapers boasting a continuous existence (some with name changes) right down to the present day are the *Kingston Gazette*, established by Stephen Miles in 1810, the *Brockville Recorder* (Chauncey Beach, 1820), the *Christian Guardian* (Egerton Ryerson, 1829), the *Belleville Intelligencer* (George Benjamin, 1834), the *Bytown Packet* (William Harris, 1844), the *Toronto Globe* (George Brown, 1844), the *Hamilton Spectator* (Robert Smiley, 1846), and the *London Free Press* (William Sutherland, 1849). Of these the *Christian Guardian* has become *The United Church Observer*, the *Bytown Packet* is now the *Ottawa Citizen*, and the *Globe* is now the *Globe and Mail*. Two other papers important in their day were the *Colonial Advocate* (1824-1834, William Lyon Mackenzie, founder and editor) and the *Toronto Leader* (1852-1878, James Beaty).

A significant Lower Canada paper still publishing is *Le Courrier de St. Hyacinthe* (J. P. Guité and A. De Grandpré, 1853). The *Montreal Herald* (founded by William Gray, 1811) was absorbed by the *Montreal Star* in 1957. *La Minerve*, founded by Ludger Duvernay in 1826, lasted until 1899, and the *Irish Vindicator* (Dr. Daniel Tracey, 1828) perished in 1837. In Nova Scotia the *Novascotian* (George Young, 1824) disappeared as a separate entity in 1926 when it became part of the still flourishing *Chronicle-Herald* of Halifax, while the *Yarmouth Herald* (Alexander Lawson, 1833) has retained both its name and identity. The *Acadian Recorder* (Anthony Holland, 1813) went out of existence in 1930. The New Brunswick paper, the *Saint John Courier* (Henry Chubb, 1811) lasted until 1865. The Charlottetown *Examiner* (Edward Whelan, 1847) ceased publishing in 1922. The *Times and General Commercial Gazette* (J. W. McCoubrey, 1832) flourished in St. John's, Newfoundland, until 1895.